

UK SPACE CONFERENCE 2017– LEADING EXPERTS AND KEY INFLUENCERS ANNOUNCED TO SPEAK

Some of the most influential and well-respected figures from across the space community have been confirmed as keynote speakers and panellists at the UK Space Conference 2017, taking place at Manchester Central from Tuesday 30 May – Thursday 1 June.

Held every two years, this flagship event brings together the entire space community, including government, industry, academia, end users, education providers, researchers and the financial community.

This year's programme includes five plenary and 28 parallel sessions which have been carefully designed to inspire, enable and connect the space community.

Jan Woerner, ESA Director General and keynote speaker at the UK Space Conference, said "Market changes, innovative applications, novel space missions for new services, paradigm shifts in business and technology are at the heart of our collective vision for space. I am looking forward to discussing how they will take shape for ESA and its Member States during the conference in Manchester."

Tickets are expected to sell out following the announcement of leading speakers such as, British ESA Astronaut Tim Peake, due to present in the keynote plenary sessions at the UK Space Conference 2017; the most significant event for the UK space sector.

Other esteemed speakers include: Simon Bond, Innovation Director of SETSquared and Andy Green, President of UKspace and co-chair of the Space Leadership Council, who will contribute to an inspiring plenary session on enabling new markets and economic growth by connecting with other sectors. Richard Peckham, Strategy and Business Development Director for the space activities of Airbus Defence & Space will speak in the opening plenary session which includes an update from sector leaders on the latest developments in the UK space sector.

A thought-provoking panel of international partners, discussing collaboration and growth opportunities will feature Khaled Al Hashmi, Director of Space Missions, Science and

Technology at the UAE Space Agency. Khaled spearheads the programme management of the UAE Mars Missions “The Hope” project.

The closing plenary, titled “Inspiring the future through exploration” aims to do just that. Astronaut Tim Peake, one of the most inspirational figures in the UK space sector, will give a keynote on the ISS, Mars and Beyond, using his experiences in space to delve into the future of spaceflight and exploration.

Sessions will cover new technologies, applications, launchers, policy and human spaceflight to name a few. There will also be a variety of open sessions that will create a platform for interaction and collaboration, inspiring new business.

Elizabeth Seward, Programme Committee Chair of the UK Space Conference 2017, said “The conference is the ideal place to bring the UK space community together and explore our internal and global connections.

“We are also excited by the addition of the Space 101 sessions on the first day that we hope will give new entrants to the space community the chance to learn all the details needed to operate effectively.”

We are delighted to announce the UK Space Agency, European Space Agency and DSTL as the lead supporting organisations for the UK Space Conference 2017. An engaging exhibition is being planned at the heart of the event, with leaders from the commercial space sector having reserved many further packages. The exhibition will feature over 100 leading specialist organisations from industry, government and academia; an opportunity to share products, exchange information, insights and capabilities within the space sector. A handful of sponsorship and exhibition packages remain.

Tickets for UK Space Conference 2017, held at Manchester Central on Tuesday 30 May – Thursday 1 June, are available to purchase online at <http://ukspace2017.co.uk/register>

More details are available from the organisers on +44 (0) 117 906 4573.

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