

International Space University 30th Space Studies Program 2017 To convene in Cork, Ireland

Strasbourg, France – The International Space University (ISU) is proud to announce that the 30th annual Space Studies Program (SSP) session will be hosted by the Cork Institute of Technology in Cork (CIT), Ireland from **19 June – 18 August 2017**. The program includes a one week optional English refresher course.

Cork is Ireland's second largest city and is a hub for entrepreneurial activity from high-tech startups such as Radisens Diagnostics (located within CIT's business incubator and funded through the European Space Agency), to multinational companies in telecommunications and biopharma. The city has strong connections to the space industry, including Ireland's only science center themed on space science at the CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory, and the country's first earth observation ground station founded in 2013 by National Space Center (Ltd) in Midleton and commissioned by a Canadian based company, exactEarth. The city has also been the host of international space related events like the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) incubator innovation program SpaceApps, and the European Space Agency's (ESA) CanSat competition for schools. Irish companies and researchers have distinguished themselves in European Space Agency (ESA) programmes by developing innovative maritime services using satellite derived data in areas as diverse as marine renewables, fisheries protection, aquaculture and tourism.



"ISU maintains a long-standing relation with Ireland and has a considerable number of Irish alumni, also thanks to the support of scholarship grants from Enterprise Ireland. We are pleased to note that the space passion of a number of our alumni and the interest in space activities in Ireland have led to a great proposal to hold for the first time in ISU's history a session in Ireland. We are much looking forward to this opportunity" declared Prof. Walter Peeters, President of ISU.



CIT President, Dr. Brendan J. Murphy stated: *"CIT is delighted to host SSP 2017 and we look forward to an event that will live long in the memory and have a positive impact not only on the participants, but also on our own faculty and students, as well as companies and communities in the region."*

SSP Director John Connolly states: *"International Space University is delighted to bring its flagship Space Studies Program to Ireland for the first time, and we are pleased to partner with the Cork Institute of Technology for what will be a memorable summer of National, International and Interdisciplinary professional development. Participants will be immersed in ISU's world-class brand of space education while surrounded with the culture of the Emerald Isle, the incredible facilities at CIT, and majestic destinations like the Blackrock Castle Observatory."*

Dr. Niall Smith, Head of Research, Cork Institute of Technology points out: *“Space science is a rapidly growing area with significant commercial potential for companies from across a very diverse range of sectors including food and nutrition, healthcare, logistics, ground supports, high precision engineering and even rocket scientists. We look forward to working with ISU faculty in developing a greater awareness amongst Irish companies of these opportunities and how best to access them.”*

The SSP is an intense nine-week program which offers the participants a unique and comprehensive professional development experience covering all aspects of space programs and enterprises. Disciplines highlighted include space physical sciences; space engineering; space policy, economics and law; space management and business; space and the humanities; space applications; and human performance in space. This program targets young and seasoned professionals from all disciplines as well as post-graduate university students. The team projects allow participants to refine the topic as a team, and also produce professional quality reports and final presentations, all in the span of a few weeks. Every summer, the SSP takes place in a different location around the world. Recent sessions have convened in Graz (Austria), the NASA Ames Research Center, Beijing and Melbourne (Florida). This year the SSP will take place in Athens, OHIO, USA, in collaboration with OHIO University.

Further information about the Space Studies Program can be found under:
www.isunet.edu/programs/space-studies-program

About the International Space University - www.isunet.edu

The International Space University (ISU), founded in 1987 in Massachusetts, US and now headquartered in Strasbourg, France, is the world’s premier international space education institution. It is supported by major space agencies and aerospace organizations from around the world. The graduate level programs offered by ISU are dedicated to promoting international, interdisciplinary and intercultural cooperation in space activities. ISU offers the Master of Space Studies program at its Central Campus in Strasbourg. Since the summer of 1988, ISU has also conducted the highly acclaimed Space Studies Program at different host institutions in locations spanning the globe. ISU programs are delivered by over 100 ISU faculty members in concert with invited industry and agency experts from institutions around the world. Since its founding in 1987 on the campus of MIT, with Sir Arthur C. Clarke as its Founding Chancellor, more than 3900 students from over 100 countries have graduated from ISU.

About the Cork Institute of Technology - www.cit.ie

Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) is one of Ireland’s leading research-informed third level institutions with a student population of 17,000 covering all the major discipline areas of science, engineering, business, humanities, art and music. The Institute graduates the largest number of professionally accredited engineers of any institution in Ireland. CIT’s research and innovation income is €20m annually, supporting over 300 researchers of which approximately 200 are research postgraduates. The research community has strong links with industry, with over 130 industry-based projects ongoing at any time. CIT operates one of the largest incubation facilities in the country (www.rubicon.ie), housing 65 startups, several of which are part-funded by the European Space Agency. It is conservatively estimated that the incubator has created over 2500 jobs over the past ten years with an annual turnover exceeding €70m. CIT operates a science center at its Blackrock Castle Observatory facility with over 100,000 site visitors annually, linked to robotic telescopes in California and India (www.bco.ie).