

## Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Saturday, 5 August, 2017

### **Astronautical congress in Adelaide to showcase new ideas**

Future jobs and investment in South Australia hinge on science based-industries including the space sector, Minister for Defence Industries, Trade and Investment Martin Hamilton-Smith says.

Life on Mars, outerspace settlements, solar sailing, space junk search and retrieval missions and South Australia's role in the development of space tugs and space buses will be among the list of demonstrations and presentations at the 68<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC), now just 50 days away.

Some of the just released planned highlights of the IAC September 25 – 29, one of the largest conferences to be held in Adelaide, include a panel comprising some the world's best known astronauts, a rundown of Bill Nye 'the Science Guy's revolutionary solar sailing spacecraft and a presentation from tech billionaire Elon Musk.

The congress will include a NASA-hosted talk on how satellite technology can improve the Great Barrier Reef, along with an overview of next generation satellite servicing and refueling programs.

The **From Up There to Down Here Big Space Data and the Earth's Sustainable Development and Economic Growth** panel will explore how the dramatically expanding 'big space data' sets from satellite-based Earth observations can support global sustainable development and economic growth on Earth and ultimately, beyond it. The same kinds of challenges we face in ensuring sustainable development on Earth will be similar to those ahead as we start to scale-up exploration and development of other planets.

The **Next Generation On-Orbit Satellite Servicing and Refuelling Programs** panel will look at satellite servicing which is creating a paradigm-shift in the space industry. It changes the economics of satellite fleet management by giving commercial satellite operators and government agencies flexibility in the timing of replacement satellites and will lead to a new generation of spacecraft that can be assembled in orbit.

The IAC will feature a series of public exhibitions at the South Australian Museum, including space images from the Hubble Space Telescope, an indigenous perspective of the heavens and a career timeline of South Australian-born astronaut Andy Thomas, while Woomera's space history will be explored at the State Library.

### **Background**

The theme of IAC 2017 is 'Space: Unlocking Imagination, Fostering Innovation and Strengthening Security', with a strong educational focus on promoting science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) career awareness to over 1400 South Australian school children and 600 teachers.

Education programs and STEM sessions will be run by the Department of Education and Child Development, including teacher training workshops and student activities at the State Library and Museum.

**Elon Musk** – Founder and chief executive of Space X and Tesla. He plans to provide delegates with an update on his plans for settling Mars.

**Andy Thomas** - key note address at a networking event to attract 150 guests including heads of space agencies, astronauts, international parliamentarians and senior industry representatives.

**Bill Nye** – The Planetary Society chief executive and one of the world’s leading science educators. He will share the inspiring story of LightSail, a solar sailing spacecraft that became a global phenomenon.

**Andy Thomas** – South Australian-born aerospace engineer and former NASA astronaut. He will make a guest appearance at the South Australia state dinner.

**Sandy Magnus** – Former NASA and ISS astronaut, who currently serves as executive director of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

**Charles Bolden** – Former administrator of NASA, a retired United States Marine Corps Major General and a former NASA astronaut.

For more information, visit: <http://www.iac2017.org/>

#### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith**

Space is a \$323 billion global industry which employs more than 370,000 within the sector and related industries worldwide. In Australia, the sector is worth around \$3 - \$4 billion and employs an estimated 11,500 people. It should be more!

The State Government would welcome a Federal injection of cash from the Federal Automotive Transformation Fund to support manufacturers get into new science-based industry sectors.

All eyes will be on South Australia when in 50 days we host the world’s biggest space conference comes to Adelaide and we must make the most of it. The International Astronautical Congress will put South Australia on a world stage, enabling local start-ups to rub shoulders with international companies and space agencies, and showcase cutting-edge space technology, with South Australia eyeing a larger share of the space economy.

Discussions set to take place here will help shape the exciting thinking and actions in the space sector now and into the future.

South Australia is leading the way in the growth and development of Australia’s space industry and our future jobs will be determined by science, intellectual property and how quickly we can uptake new ideas.

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