

## International Space University 31st Space Studies Program 2018 to convene in the Netherlands

Strasbourg, France – The International Space University (ISU) is proud to announce that the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Space Studies Program (SSP) session will convene in the Netherlands during the summer of 2018.

The program will be hosted by the Netherlands Space Office (NSO), in collaboration with three leading Dutch space organizations: the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Leiden University and ESA's European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESA-ESTEC) in Noordwijk. Combined, these institutes represent the best in European space research, engineering, technology, operations and policy.



The Netherlands offers the world unique space technologies and applications. One good example of Dutch space technology is the Tropomi earth observation instrument that will provide an image of air quality of the entire world every day, due for launch early 2016. Many European space missions would not exist without Dutch space technology. Dutch scientists also play a leading role in international space missions, unlocking the secrets of the universe.

The Netherlands is home to ESA-ESTEC, a flourishing space sector and world leading research institutes and universities, making it a perfect place to gather the world's most promising space professionals for the ISU Space Studies Program in 2018.

Director of NSO, Dr. Ger Nieuwpoort says: *"Space is increasingly important for society worldwide. I think the Netherlands is an excellent place for educating the next generation of space professionals. I am proud that we can host SSP18 and look forward to an inspiring summer of 2018."*

SSP Director John Connolly states: *"ISU is excited to bring its Space Studies Program to The Netherlands in 2018. The historical academic reputations of Delft and Leiden Universities, combined with their excellent modern facilities will provide the academic foundation for SSP. The partnership with ESTEC will further strengthen ISU's ties to ESA, and will offer a venue where the SSP participants can witness today's theories and technologies becoming tomorrow's space missions."*

Prof. Dr. Hester Bijl, Dean of the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering TU Delft comments: *"I think it's great that the summer of 2018 will be a sizzling summer of space here in our region. Bringing together the ISU, the many smart and enthusiastic space professionals participating in the summer school program, and the multidisciplinary community of space scientists, engineers and businesses at TU Delft and our partners, will lead to valuable new knowledge and networks. Together we can show the world how relevant and exciting space technology is."*

Director and Head of ESA-ESTEC Franco Ongaro points out: *"We look forward to working with the space community in the Netherlands in hosting this prestigious ISU program, and to fruitful exchanges with the many international participants. As a founding partner of ISU, we are delighted with the decision to hold the SSP program very close to ESA's major technical center. We value the intercultural and interdisciplinary education delivered by ISU and we see the added value that ISU alumni bring as ESA employees but also throughout the space community worldwide."*

Prof.dr. Huub Röttgering, Scientific Director of the Leiden Observatory says: *"It's wonderful to see how the close collaboration between Leiden, Delft and ESA can produce such an impressive international event. The future top of the space industry can now learn about all the amazing, high-level scientific and technical work that is taking place in the Netherlands"*.

Prof. dr. Rick Lawson, dean of the Leiden University Law School adds: *"Leiden Law School is delighted to host SSP in 2018. The 'Oude Sterrewacht', the oldest university observatory in the world that is still operational, will provide a unique venue for the participants. We will organize, together with the other co-hosts, 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. We look forward to the opportunity to strengthen the ties with colleagues from other disciplines, who share our fascination for space activities."*

The SSP is an intense two month program which offers 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. The program targets young as well as seasoned professionals from all disciplines and coming from all

around the world, as well as post-graduate university students. Team projects allow participants to refine a space-related 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 Beijing, at the NASA Ames Research Center, in Melbourne (Florida), at ETS and HEC in Montreal, and at Ohio University. In 2016 the SSP will take place in Haifa, Israel, in collaboration with Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology. In 2017 the program will be hosted by the Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) in Cork, Ireland.

**Further information about the Space Studies Program can be found under:**

[www.isunet.edu/programs/space-studies-program](http://www.isunet.edu/programs/space-studies-program)

**About the International Space University (ISU) – [www.isunet.edu](http://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 4000 students from over 100 countries have graduated from ISU.

**About the Netherlands Space Office (NSO) – [www.spaceoffice.nl](http://www.spaceoffice.nl)**

The Netherlands Space Office acts as the Dutch agency for space affairs. The Netherlands Space Office (NSO) was established by the Dutch government in order to develop the Netherlands' space program and to bring that program to action. The NSO is the face of the Dutch space community for international space organizations like ESA, NASA and JAXA as well as the central point of contact for the space community within the Netherlands. The NSO also works to innovatively and openly bring the story of spaceflight science, usage and exploration to teachers, students and the general public.

**About the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) – [www.tudelft.nl](http://www.tudelft.nl)**

Delft University of Technology, founded in 1842, is a modern university with a rich tradition. It is the oldest and largest university of technology in the Netherlands. The eight faculties belong to the top echelons of technological research and promote the advancement of science for the benefit of society. In the Delft Space Institute researchers and students from 8 different faculties work together on ground-breaking and cutting-edge space research, focusing on 'sensing from space', 'distributed space systems' and 'space robotics'. Currently TU Delft ranks 19th on the 2014-2015 THES World University rankings on engineering and technology.

**About Leiden University – [www.leiden.edu](http://www.leiden.edu)**

Leiden University, founded in 1575, is one of Europe's foremost international research universities. The University has approximately 24,500 students from 110 countries, and 5,500 staff members, including the academic staff of the Leiden University Medical Center. The University comprises seven faculties, offering a varied range of 46 bachelor's and 73 master's programmes, highly diverse PhD tracks and various interdisciplinary minors. Leiden University is striving for a leading position in the area of teaching innovation and online higher education. The University's motto is: *Praesidium Libertatis*, Bastion of Liberty.

An integral part of the Leiden Law School of Leiden University, the International Institute of Air and Space Law (IIASL), founded in 1985, is one of the leading international academic research and teaching institutes in the world. It specializes in legal and policy issues regarding aviation and space activities in the broadest sense of the word, in cooperation with several other world-class academic and other institutions worldwide.

**About the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESA-ESTEC) – [www.esa.int](http://www.esa.int)**

The European Space Research and Technology Centre in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, is the largest European Space Agency (ESA) establishment, a test center and hub for European space activities, responsible for the technical preparation and management of ESA space projects and providing technical support to ESA's satellite, space exploration and human spaceflight activities.