



2021 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

10th Annual International Space Station Research and Development Conference

Virtual Technical Sessions

Organized by the American Astronautical Society,
the International Space Station U.S. National Laboratory, and NASA

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: May 2, 2021

Technical Sessions: August 9-18, 2021



Conference Overview

The 2021 International Research and Development Conference (ISSRDC) is being held as an Online Series across several dates in August. The Online Series will include general sessions (August 3-5) as well as focused technical sessions (August 9-18).



Every aspect of the conference is open to domestic and international entrepreneurial, commercial, academic, and government agency attendees—including professionals, students, citizen scientists, and all interested parties. The working language for the conference is English.

This document is specific to the Online Series Technical Sessions. Please check the ISSRDC website (www.issconference.org) often for the latest information on full conference planning.

The presenters and attendees of ISSRDC will be required to register separately for the general sessions, technical sessions, and workshops. This year, there will be no charge to present at or attend the general or technical sessions.

Virtual Technical Session Overview

The Online Series technical sessions will be conducted in two parts and held across the dates of Monday, August 9 through Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

In Part 1, presentations and posters will be available for on-demand viewing via a website starting on August 9. Part 2 commences a week later when presenters will participate in live question and answer (Q&A) sessions scheduled August 16-18. If there are a significant number of selections from Europe/Africa or Asia/Pacific areas, we will consider applicable regional timing when scheduling the Q&A sessions.

Part 1: Presentation Preparation. Authors will create their technical presentations and poster narrations in PowerPoint using the software's recorded narration feature. Duration, format, and upload requirements will be provided to the primary author of the selected presentations and posters in late June.

The recorded presentations and posters will be made available to all registrants for on-demand viewing via a website beginning August 9. This gives the audience flexibility in viewing presentations at their convenience.

Providing a narrated package should not present significant problems. Authors can record the narration within the PowerPoint file. To record and play back sound, your computer must be equipped with a sound card, microphone, and speakers. We recommend you use an external microphone. While recording, disable any other sound-recording applications, such as speech recognition. Adding audio to a slide is not supported in PowerPoint for the web but is supported in the PC and MacOS versions. Microsoft has provided instructions for this:

- For PC, go to <https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/office/record-audio-narration-for-your-powerpointpresentation-232d5fec-fc90-4abb-9332-c469d336d947>.
- For MacOS, go to <https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/office/record-audio-narration-for-your-powerpointpresentation-232d5fec-fc90-4abb-9332-c469d336d947#OfficeVersion=macOS>.

Part 2: Live Q&A Sessions. Authors of posters and presentations will participate in live Q&A sessions during the days of Monday, August 16 through Wednesday, August 18. Current planning is that each presenter will be given a specific time slot on one of those days to interact with the live audience. Presenters will be grouped with several others within a topic area to encourage discussion across multiple presentations. Authors must attend their designated session and allow publication of their presentation and contact information or their presentation will be removed from the proceedings.

Between August 9 and August 13, authors will participate in a scheduled technical check of their readiness to support the Q&A session.

Important Deadlines and Dates	
Sunday, May 2, 2021 (2400 hours U.S. Eastern Time)	Abstract submission deadline There will not be an extension
Monday, May 31, 2021	Invitation notification to authors Authors must accept invitation by the date identified in the notice
Sunday, August 8, 2021	Deadline for load of final presentations and posters into conference management system
Monday, August 9	On demand viewing of presentations and posters opens
Monday, August 16 through Wednesday August 18, 2021	Technical Sessions Question and Answer Periods

Instructions

Abstract submission is open to all nationalities. We encourage submissions from any past, present, or future ISS user, supporter, or operator with an entrepreneurial, commercial, academic, or government background. Submissions are especially encouraged from young professionals and students.

The American Astronautical Society (AAS) ISS Research Technical Committee will evaluate abstracts based on their quality, relevance, innovation, substance merit, and future practical application, as well as for balance and variety in the sessions. Accepted abstracts will be selected for on-demand presentation and live audience Q&A. The Technical Committee reserves the right to place the presentation in the most appropriate topical category and Q&A session.

See page six for abstract topics. Please note, abstract topics are not necessarily the session topics/titles. Sessions will be structured around the accepted abstracts. Scientific papers are not required.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS –THE AAS STUDENT CONTEST

All verified, full-time students (middle school, high school, or college) selected for a presentation will be automatically entered into the American Astronautical Society (<https://astronautical.org/>) student contest. Student presentations will be evaluated for the middle school, secondary school, undergraduate, and Ph. D. student levels. Winning students will have choice of complimentary student registration for one of the 2021/2022 AAS Symposia (Von Braun, Goddard, John Glenn Symposia).

INFORMATION FOR SPEAKERS/AUTHORS OF TECHNICAL SESSION PRESENTATIONS

To view the ISSRDC 2020 technical session program and copies of presentations, please go to: www.xcdsystem.com/ISS/program/lhbk7vw/index.cfm?pgid=3732&RunRemoveSessionFilter=1.

Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts early to allow enough time in case of any submission difficulties. Since 2018, we have received twice as many submissions for technical session presentations as there are available spaces. **There will not be a deadline extension.**

Authors may access the web-based abstract submission system directly at www.xcdsystem.com/ISS/abstract/index.cfm?ID=6hWM8On or by using the link found on the conference website at www.issconference.org.

Using the online submission process, the primary author is expected to provide the following:

- Presentation title and appropriate category/topic from this call for abstracts
- Name, affiliation, postal address, telephone number, and email address of the corresponding/primary author
- Name, affiliation, postal address, telephone number, and email address of the presenter
- Other descriptive and demographic data
- A short abstract of no more than 50 words
- An expanded abstract in Portable Document File (PDF) format of no more than 2 pages that includes the title and authors.

Authors should write the abstract to allow evaluation against the acceptance criteria of quality, relevance, innovation, substance merit, and future practical application.

Authors accepted for presentations will receive an invitation to present via email. Primary authors will have five days to accept or decline the invitation via email. Those not responding to the invitation will be noted as declining participation. Detailed presentation instructions will be sent by email following acceptance.

Electronic copies of presentations and posters for the proceedings and sessions must be submitted by Sunday, August 8, 2021, through the online submission process. Failure to do so will invoke the “no presentation, no podium” rule, and the item will be stricken from the schedule. “Walk on” charts are not supported.

By submitting an abstract or presentation, the author agrees to its inclusion in the program and/or conference proceedings. Copies of the abstracts, bios, contact information and presentations may be made available to all conference registrants in hard copy or electronically.

“Pre-decisional,” “pre-publication,” or “proprietary” information should not be included in abstracts or submitted presentations. Addendum charts containing such material will not be possible.

All authors are required to register for the conference in the same fashion as all other attendees.

Technology Transfer Notice: This is an international conference. If the author’s organization, agency, or government requires export approval of their material for this conference, the author must follow that process on a schedule that allows the author to meet the conference deadlines. Completing export approval is the responsibility of the author, not of the conference organizers.

Questions?

Submit your abstract at

www.xcdsystem.com/ISS/abstract/index.cfm?ID=6hWM8On

Authors may contact ISSTechChair@atdl-inc.com for additional information, submission difficulties, or abstract inquiries.

For the latest news and information on ISSRDC 2021, visit www.issconference.org.

Please send conference attendance inquiries to ISSNLEvents@issnationallab.org.

Presentation Topics

The following presentation topics are not intended to be an exhaustive list of possible subjects and are not meant to limit which topics may be pursued. The list is meant as a set of suggestions to facilitate thought and creativity in bringing presentations to the technical sessions.

Biology and Medicine

Microgravity's effects on physical and biological phenomena are far-ranging and are poised to benefit pharmaceutical research, from target identification to drug discovery, testing, and delivery. Moreover, molecular, and physiological changes in space provide accelerated models of human disease and aging on Earth. Space-based discoveries in biology and medicine not only benefit humans on Earth but also help keep astronauts healthy on long-duration space journeys.

Responsive abstracts should describe the use of the ISS to improve pharmaceuticals or drug delivery systems and to study biology in the context of animal/cell modeling of disease or mechanistic studies in cell culture.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to, cell function; microbial function and other microbiological processes; pharmaceutical development and delivery/diagnostics systems including antibiotic effectiveness, pharmacokinetics/dynamics, macromolecular crystal growth, microfluidic devices, etc.; physiologic impacts of microgravity, such as effects on protein synthesis, the musculoskeletal system, immune response, etc.—including animal modeling and cancer research.

Commercial and Nongovernment Use

The ISS platform is available today as a test bed and a pathfinder for industry to advance the commercialization of low Earth orbit. NASA, the ISS National Lab, and international partners are encouraging and facilitating commercialization opportunities as agencies continue to develop strategic policy on stimulation of a sustainable commercialized low Earth orbit marketplace. The ISS is already supporting commercial ventures, including small satellite deployment, vaccine development, Earth monitoring, and a range of other focused research projects.

Responsive abstracts will address efforts to utilize the ISS for commercial endeavors and may address business or hardware items.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to, the economic opportunity of the ISS/low Earth orbit, funding of privatized research, public-private partnerships, business models involving the ISS, barriers to commercial use of the ISS, industry strategic outlook and cooperation, promising near-term market opportunities in low Earth orbit, and any early lessons learned. Also included is the use of existing, new, or proposed low Earth orbit systems or hardware such as airlocks, docking adapters, observation platforms, and research or manufacturing facilities and capabilities.

Earth and Space Science Using Remote Sensing

The location of the ISS in low Earth orbit affords a unique vantage point for imaging of Earth and space. Many legacy Earth observation satellites face obsolescence as the private sector begins investing in global observing systems. The ISS offers a stable Earth observation platform for use in direct commercial and public-use application. The ISS can also be used as a tended development platform for new sensors and systems.

Responsive abstracts should address the challenges and various solutions for publicly and privately funded use of the ISS for remote sensing or technology advancement to improve Earth science and remote sensing.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to, astrophysics, heliophysics, disaster response, advances in active and passive remote sensing systems (multispectral, hyperspectral, lidar, microwave, etc.), development of optical sensor suites, planetary science investigations, stratospheric aerosol and gas monitoring, right-of-way inspections, urban planning, humanitarian response, energy sustainability, forestry, agriculture, and other resource management remote sensing applications.

Finances

Commercial companies are searching for economical ways to operate businesses in low Earth orbit. Those on the cusp of entering these uncharted areas must learn from those who currently obtain or manage financing for programs, projects, and investigations of new and existing ISS users. Financing, whether internal or external, is a concern of large businesses, small businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers, academia, and financiers. We are looking for inputs from those needing financing, those who have developed financing, and those who provide financing.

Responsive abstracts will describe the challenges of developing and implementing a financing plan for establishing businesses in space, ways to attract tourists and customers, and how to manage these challenges.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to, how to go about looking for financing, attracting financing, soliciting financing, financing models, financing rounds and tranches, managing intake of funds, commitments required, effects upon the company, etc.

Human Health in Space

As we look to establish a robust economy in low Earth orbit and further human space exploration, it is imperative to mitigate the risks that long-duration spaceflight poses for humans. The ISS provides the

operations base to understand the effects of spaceflight on the human body and human performance. The ISS is an ideal platform for research that will clear the path for commerce and exploration.

Responsive abstracts will describe studies on the ISS that meet the above objectives.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to, biomedical research in space, health risks due to radiation and weightlessness (e.g., musculoskeletal effects and sensorimotor adaptation), cardiovascular alterations, intracranial pressure and visual impairment, medical monitoring and investigation capabilities, immune function, physiology, cognition, psychological adaptation, human factors, and onboard countermeasures and plans (including exercise and pharmacology, astronaut participation, and perception, etc.).

Physical Sciences and Materials Development

The lack of convection and sedimentation in microgravity allows for more uniform crystallization and synthesis of some materials (e.g., metals, semiconductors, biomaterials, ceramics, and composites), benefitting studies of material properties and performance, including complex fluids, in various phases. Moreover, the external environment of space is an ideal test bed for materials degradation, providing exposure to extreme conditions (e.g., vacuum, atomic oxygen, UV radiation, and space debris). The limitation of natural convection in microgravity also provides a unique opportunity for combustion studies, experiments in fluid dynamics, and energy transport studies involving heat and mass transfer.

Responsive abstracts should describe the evaluation of physical sciences phenomena or the development of new/improved materials that could be used to sustain industry in space and extended space exploration flights using the above-referenced benefits of the ISS.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to, engineered materials, components, and structures; fluid behavior (including complex fluids), transport processes, and/or advanced structures and materials; energy capture, generation, storage, efficiency, and sustainability; and materials development/in-orbit production processes.

Plant Science

Analyzing the broad range of spaceflight-specific adaptive processes in plants may advance fundamental understanding of plant biology, improve space agriculture capabilities, and inform terrestrial agricultural and commercial applications involving plant growth, behavior, and interactions with other organisms.

Responsive abstracts should seek to leverage the ISS for one or more of the above-referenced purposes.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to, studies of gene expression and plant morphology, biofuel production and protein production related to industrial processes, and symbiotic interactions. They may apply to Earth-based activity, industry in low Earth orbit, or human spaceflight exploration.

STEM Education

A new generation of scientists and explorers need a strong foundation in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to compete in the global economy and to support the goals of Artemis and beyond. The ISS is a proven focal point and platform for promoting and advancing education initiatives. The engineering and scientific capabilities of the ISS and the science and technology advances made onboard the orbiting laboratory provide an opportunity to excite students to pursue careers in STEM fields. Moreover, the broad spectrum of inspiring topics available for educational use allows initiatives to reach a wide student population and engage groups not commonly targeted by STEM education programs.

Responsive abstracts should discuss education programs that capitalize on the ISS research platform.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to, educational outreach, ISS utilization for student experiments and activities, innovative educational outreach programs regarding the ISS, ground-based simulations and demonstrations, and curriculum utilizing or focusing on the ISS.

Technology Development and Demonstration

The ISS is a test bed for technology development and demonstration that will enable commerce in low Earth orbit, improve human spaceflight capabilities, and benefit the quality of life on Earth.

Responsive abstracts should describe use of the ISS as a test bed to demonstrate operational techniques and capabilities for space exploration or to develop and demonstrate technologies and advanced systems that benefit either space-based initiatives or terrestrial commercial applications.

Specific examples include, but are not limited to, autonomy, communications needs and solutions, energy storage and power management and production, external and internal accommodations, hardware capabilities and limitations, inflatable structures, in-space manufacturing (additive technologies, demonstrations, and unique processes), ISS utilization for satellite launches and CubeSat deployments, onboard requirements to sustain life (including closed-loop life support, radiation shielding and monitoring, and environmental control and life support systems), advanced communication and navigation strategies, robotics, and advanced exploration capabilities.

Innovative Solutions

This topic area addresses innovative solutions appropriate for commercialization. Abstracts in this category should clearly demonstrate a strong potential to address a critical need within ISS in-orbit activity or a project that should be developed on the ISS to address Earth-based problems.

Understanding that innovation can be unpredictable, topics that fall in this subject area could include any of the other nine abstract areas.

Responsive abstracts will describe the innovative concept, its level of development, and the commercialization potential as seen by the author. Authors do not need have commercialization funding to submit but must identify their funding requirements. Authors do not need customers at this point but must describe the innovative concept such that an unrecognized customer will realize their need for this “product” or service.

It is fully acceptable for submissions to be solutions in search of a problem. That said, we are not looking for bare ideas and expect that adequate development has already been done to demonstrate the concept and paths to implementation.

Depending upon the number and level of accepted responses, those selected may be presented in a forum separate from the usual technical sessions. This may be through an Expo format, lightning presentations, a dedicated plenary round, or some other mechanism.