



**HUNGARIAN PROPOSAL FOR HOSTING THE
75TH INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS
IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY IN 2024**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



OVERVIEW

The Hungarian Astronautical Society (MANT) in collaboration with HUNGEXPO Budapest Congress and Exhibition Centre and CongressLine Ltd. proposes to host the 75th International Astronautical Congress in Budapest, in October 2024. Our proposal is supported by the Department of Space Research and Activities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Municipality of Budapest and a number of Hungarian stakeholders.

The proposed date for IAC 2024 is September 30 - October 4, 2024, and the proposed venue is the exhibition site of HUNGEXPO in Budapest. There are several hotels nearby, including Expo Congress Hotel on the site itself. For those having accommodation outside of the Congress Site we offer regular, free shuttle buses from the nearest metro station as well as a free public transportation pass for the whole city during the conference week.

We are proud that MANT was the host of the 34th IAF Congress in Budapest in 1983. It would be a great honor to host the 75th IAC in 2024, just a bit more than 40 years after the former one. Our Advisory Board benefits from the support of numerous Hungarian stakeholders, while the President of our Advisory Board – Prof. Iván Almár – has a long and distinguished history with the IAF, as he was the main organizer of the 34th IAF Congress in 1983. Our Local Organizing Committee is full of enthusiastic professionals, and led by Dr. László Bacsárdi, IAF YSL 2017.

WHY IS BUDAPEST THE BEST LOCATION FOR THE IAC 2024?

“Our actions and results clearly show our commitment for Hungary to play its part more than ever before in the peaceful use of outer space. This is not only in our foreign policy, but also in our economic interest.”

Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade



...located in the heart of Central and Eastern Europe...

IAF has few members from the Central and Eastern European region. An IAC in Budapest could offer a great opportunity to initiate new connections with research institutes, space societies, small- and medium-sized enterprises, not only from the host country, but also from the neighboring countries, including Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The IAF could leverage the Budapest event to connect the broader space community with this region, while attracting several potential new local members.

...long tradition with IAF...

"My first activity was to prepare the 1983 Congress in Budapest, Hungary. Fortunately, Dr. Ivan Almar, Vice-President of IAF and President of the Hungarian Astronautical Society made a marvellous job and the organisation during the Congress in Budapest was perfect."

Roger Chevalier, President of IAF (1983-1984) From: IAF: The First 50 Years (International Astronautical Federation 2001, page 121)

MANT is a proud member of the IAF since 1959. In the past 60 plus years, our members actively contributed to the work of the IAF. We hosted the 34th IAF Congress in 1983 in Budapest and participated in the work of many IAF committees. Recently, Dr. László Bacsárdi has been serving as our representatives to the IAF. He is member of IAF SCAN, SEOC, SSC, WD/YPP, IAC IPC, a corresponding member of the IAA, and an alumni member of SGAC.

...the proposal has support from the government...

"I strongly believe that the prestigious International Astronautical Congress will find a superb host country in Hungary. Therefore, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, responsible for space research and space activities, I wholeheartedly endorse the proposal."

Dr. Orsolya Ferencz,
Ministerial Commissioner for Space Activities



"The Municipality of Budapest attaches great importance to having the capital city of Hungary become a well-known and recognized location of the scientific world. It will be a particularly great honor for us to welcome this Congress in our capital."

Gergely Karácsony, *Mayor of Budapest*

The proposal for hosting the International Astronautical Congress is led by the consortium of the Hungarian Astronautical Society (MANT), HUNGEXPO Budapest Congress and Exhibition Centre, and CongressLine Ltd (our Professional Congress organizer or PCO). Our proposal is supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade (the ministry responsible for the space activities), the municipality of Budapest, the HUNSPACE Hungarian Space Cluster, the Hungarian Aerospace Technology Platform, several Hungarian space companies, and different Hungarian universities.



IAC 2024 Budapest
Candidate City

... the proposal has support from the region...

IAC 2024 in Budapest will not be an event for Hungary only but THE space conference for our region. Therefore our proposal is supported by IAF members in Austria, Croatia, Ukraine and Slovakia. Consequently, and in coordination with them, we will offer technical pre/post conference activities in neighboring countries.

...space research is becoming increasingly more important in Hungary...

Beginning with the successful Lunar Radar experiment of Hungarian scientist Zoltan Bay in 1946, the history of space research in Hungary spans 75 years. Today, space activity in Hungary is carried out by several research institutes and university groups, as well as many small and medium sized private sector companies. Our research centers and companies, with hard and dedicated work, have gained a notable international recognition for themselves and for Hungary.

Hungary was the first country who signed an agreement with the European Space Agency (ESA) in the Programme for European Cooperating States (PECS). Hungary had requested to begin the negotiations about the accession to ESA in 2013 and became a full member in November 2015. This new era offers emerging possibilities for Hungarian research institutes and the Hungarian aerospace industry.

In 2020, several significant programs have been launched in Hungary. In cooperation with Roscosmos, the Hungarian–Russian Joint Scientific Committee was established. The planning of the mission of the second Hungarian astronaut has been started precisely on the 40th anniversary of Bertalan Farkas’s spaceflight. He was the first Hungarian cosmonaut, making Hungary the 7th nation to send a human into space.

2020 also brought another long-awaited and significant moment for the Hungarian space sector. With the financial cooperation of private and state investors, CarpathiaSat Co. – the first enterprise aiming to put the first Hungarian telecommunication satellite in orbit – was established. The ambitious investments of Hungarian economic actors in space and telecommunication industry are opening new dimensions for Hungarian research centers, universities and companies to increase their participation in the market segment of space activities.

Hungary will host the annual congress of Association of Space Explorers in 2021 with a financial support from the Hungarian Government of 1,000,000 EUR.

...we have experience in conferences and space conferences...



HUNGARIAN ASTRONAUTICAL SOCIETY (MANT)

MANT organized numerous space conferences over the last years, including the 1st IAA Conference on Impact of Space on Society in Budapest, Hungary, 17–19 March 2005; ESA's 2nd Symposium on Space Educational Activities in April 11–13 2018, the biannual Hungarian Space Forum (since 1972) and six editions of the International Conference on Research, Technology and Education of Space series (H–SPACE 2015, H–SPACE 2016, H–SPACE 2017, H–SPACE 2018, H–SPACE 2019, H–SPACE 2020).



CONGRESSLINE LTD

CongressLine Ltd. is a leading brand on the Hungarian Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) market. The company is a positive, motivated, sophisticated Professional Congress Organizer (PCO), Destination Management Company (DMC) and a creative event specialist agency. Among the more than 400 international and national events organized by the company since its founding in 2007, they worked with both scientific and medical congresses, conferences, corporate meetings can be found as well as various incentive events. CongressLine has a regular clientele of international, regional and national associations, institutions and companies, but also happily offers its services for newcomers. One of the largest convention events, and the largest medical conference in Hungary's history, the 38th Congress of the European Association for Study of Diabetes (EASD) in 2002 with over 11,000 participants was also managed by the company's Staff.



HUNGEXPO BUDAPEST CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION CENTER

HUNGEXPO Budapest Congress and Exhibition Centre is the leading exhibition and conference organizing company in Hungary and the region. The Budapest Congress and Exhibition Centre, member of the French-owned GL Events Group and Hungary's leading event management company, is the ideal venue for all types of large international congresses up to 15,000 participants. Budapest's largest multifunctional event complex is located in the heart of the capital – about 15 km (a 20-minute drive) from the international airport and 4 km from the city center – the venue is located on 36 hectares of landscaped environment, its 8 event halls are totaling 75,000sqm indoor event space. Between 2019 and 2021, HUNGEXPO is getting a EUR 170million refurbishment, co-funded by the government and GL Events Group.

...the location has easy access from all over the world...

Budapest is easily approachable by plane, train, bus and car. Well-known airlines from all around the world (including several low-cost airlines, e.g., Ryanair, WizzAir, EasyJet) have their regular flights to Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport.

Hungary can be reached easily from anywhere on the continent. Direct flights with flight times of less than 2 hours connect Budapest with most main European destinations: you can choose from 147 destinations and 53 airlines, and these numbers are continuously growing. As a member state of both the European Union and the Schengen Area, it is quick and easy to cross its borders for EU and EEA citizens. The airport is located about 20 kilometers far away from the city center which can be accessed by public transport or by a 30-minute taxi ride. Budapest has frequent train and bus connections with neighboring countries as well.

...Hungary is a center of innovation, science, and great minds...

Hungarians have always been famous for their creativity and innovative spirit, many important inventions in the world are attributed to people of Hungarian descent. The country has an exceptional number of Nobel Prize laureates in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, economics and literature. No wonder that Hungarian universities have a great reputation for academic excellence.

...Budapest is location of globally significant events...

Budapest is home to internationally popular marathons and to the Sziget Festival, one of the largest cultural and music festivals in Europe. The Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix is more and more popular, since 1986 this motor race event has been held annually just outside of Budapest. Another great example from the past, the 17th FINA World Aquatics Championships were also held in Budapest in 2017 which has attracted over 10,000 visitors. More international competitions are due to be held here in 2021: amongst others the UEFA European Football Championships. The city will also host several large congresses this year such as the European Stadium & Safety Management Association Summit (ESSMA), the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress and the 41st SICOT Orthopaedic World Congress. In 2021 Budapest will be again the host destination for the World Hunting and Nature Expo where the organizers expect one million visitors.

...Hungary and Budapest offer extensive opportunities for touristic activities, both before and after the IAC, as well as for accompanying family members during the congress...

An outstanding cultural life and magnificent historic spas welcome visitors to Budapest, a true metropolis that offers unforgettable experiences in every season, especially in the fall. The weather is sunny, the Hungarian cities are full with program. Budapest offers unlimited possibilities to spend a couple of days in or around the city. The House of Parliament, the Gellért Hill, the Chain Bridge are just a few of them. Hungarian food deserves to be mentioned among the country's main attractions. As in other cultures, the Hungarian approach to food combines pride in their own traditions with a readiness to accept outside influences. The result is a vibrant restaurant scene where an Asian-Hungarian fusion restaurant may well be of genuine interest. Luckily, prices are significantly below Western Europe's.

...the selected venue has all of the necessary requirements satisfied...

The **main venue** will be the HUNGEXPO Budapest Congress and Exhibition Center. As a result of the revitalization program launched in 2019 and ending in 2021, the Hungarian capital will be enriched with a 21st-century exhibition and conference venue site. HUNGEXPO will be the place for the plenary events, technical sessions, exhibition, committee meetings and side events.

The **finals of IISL Moot Court** is planned to be organized in the main building of the University of Public Service of Hungary (UPS). The UPS was established in 2012 by merging the College of Police, the Academy of Military and the College of Public Administration. The aim of the institution is to train professionals for domestic and international public administration, the Hungarian Defense Forces and law enforcement agencies. UPS has founded in 2020 the Outer Space and Social Sciences Research Center which is the first and only institutional research hub in Hungary focusing on space law and space policy. UPS is the national point of contact of the ESA European Center for Space law.

We identified a potential venue for the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC). The **Space Generation Congress 2024** could be organized at the premises of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, in the same campus where SGAC's 1st European Space Generation Workshop was held in 2016.

The **International Meeting for Members of Parliaments** is planned to be held in the Upper House Chamber of the iconic Hungarian Parliament Building. This elegant room has a seating capacity for 400 persons. Participants will be welcomed by governmental representatives.

The **IAA meetings** and the **IAA Academy Day** could be organized at HUNGEXPO. HUNGEXPO will be the place for the **IAF Host Summit** and for the **IAF/UN Workshop** as well.

CONTACT

Our bidder team is led by Dr. László Bacsárdi (Vice President of the Hungarian Astronautical Society, IAF YSL 2017), his personal contact address is: bacsardi@mant.hu

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Executive summary is available as a presentation:

https://www.mant.hu/documents/IAC2024BudapestBid_ExecutiveSummaryPresentation.pdf

