



Biggest Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program Launched in Adelaide

The Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program (SH-SSP) opened in Adelaide! It is one of the success stories of Australia's involvement in the international space sector.

The program was first staged in January 2011 as a partnership between the International Space University (ISU), the world's leading interdisciplinary space education institution, and the University of South Australia (UniSA) and is being conducted in Adelaide for the seventh time.

SH-SSP has established Australia and Adelaide in particular, as a centre of excellence for professional space education.

In 2018 the five week live-in program has attracted 50 industry, government and defence services personnel, graduate researchers and senior undergraduate students from 15 countries around the world, including

Australia, the United States, China, the United Kingdom, Italy, New Zealand, India and Ireland.

As in all ISU programs the participants have a diversity of backgrounds including engineering, technology applications, business and management, physical sciences, medicine and law.

The Opening Ceremony on 15 January was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, the venue of the highly acclaimed International Astronautical Congress in September 2017.

It was opened by Minister of Defence and Space Industries, Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith, and attended by Professor Walter Peeters, President of the International Space University, senior UniSA representatives, including Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Tanya Monro and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Simon Beecham.

Program Director, Dr Omar Hatamleh says over the next five weeks, teams of space exploration experts will share their knowledge with participants drawn from around the world.

“The SH-SSP is dedicated to educating and training the next generation of world’s space leaders,” Dr Hatamleh says.

“This year 50 participants from 15 different countries will learn and share their knowledge about all aspects of international space activities.”

One of this year’s participants, IT specialist Ben Adams, says the program would give him an opportunity to study something in which he is “truly fascinated” and that will open doors in the future.

“There has never been a better time to be interested in the space industry,” he added.

UniSA Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Simon Beecham credits the South Australian Government through the South Australian Space Industry Centre for providing scholarships to enable five young South Australians to attend the program which will “ensure SA continues to develop its space industry expertise.”

The five scholarships are in addition to scholarship and in-kind support provided by the Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith Fund, the European Space Agency,

the Italian Space Agency and a range of corporate donors, led by Serafino Wines of McLaren Vale in South Australia.

Continuation of this flagship program was confirmed at the International Astronautical Congress in September 2017 for the next **five** years in Adelaide, strengthening the cooperation between both universities and emphasising a stronger entry in the New Space sector in Australia.

The Opening Ceremony can be viewed on ISU's Youtube channel –
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_Zbh-563Rs

More information about the SH-SSP under –
<http://www.isunet.edu/about/southern-hemisphere-program>