

**SPACE
FOR US ALL**

INTERNATIONAL SPACE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (ISDC)

June 4-7, 2026

Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, McLean, Virginia

In the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area



Rising Stars: Collegiate & Early Career Perspectives Track Friday, June 5, 2026 Call for Presentations

INTRODUCTION:

The **National Space Society (NSS) International Space Development Conference (ISDC)** is the world's premier annual gathering for space enthusiasts, advocates, and professionals dedicated to establishing permanent settlements beyond Earth.

NSS is thrilled to announce the second **Rising Stars: Collegiate & Early Career Perspectives**—a special session to be held at **ISDC® 2026**, June 4 to 7, 2026. This exciting initiative is designed to elevate the voices of the next generation of space explorers and innovators by providing a dedicated platform for college students and early-career professionals to showcase their passion for space.

More than just a series of presentations, **Rising Stars** is a dynamic forum where emerging leaders in the space community can share innovative ideas, cutting-edge research, and unique perspectives that will help shape the future of space exploration and development. **Each presentation will be 15 minutes total, with 12 minutes for speaking and 3 minutes for Q&A—a format designed to spark discussion and inspire collaboration.**

By fostering a supportive and engaging environment, NSS is committed to empowering the next generation of space leaders. We invite students and early career professionals to take this opportunity to contribute their insights, connect with industry experts, and help drive the future of space exploration, development, and settlement.













CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS:

Join us in making history at ISDC 2026! We welcome both technical and non-technical presentations—because space settlement isn’t just about rockets and engineering. It’s about business, law, medicine, food, governance, ethics, arts, and every discipline needed to create a thriving spacefaring civilization.

Calling all aspiring astronauts, engineers, scientists, artists, entrepreneurs, lawyers, medical professionals, policymakers, and space enthusiasts! The Rising Stars track is open to students and early career professionals (0-5 years of experience) from all disciplines, backgrounds, and skill levels. In addition to traditionally space-related STEM fields, we especially encourage submissions from those in the humanities, social sciences, and arts, recognizing that a sustainable human presence in space requires diverse expertise and creative thinking.

Whether you are a budding entrepreneur, a curious researcher, or a creative visionary, we invite you to share your passion, ideas, and work with the world. Your voice matters. This track is more than just a platform—it’s a celebration of ingenuity, creativity, and collaboration. **By embracing diverse perspectives, we can unlock the full potential of space exploration and build a future among the stars for all humankind.**

TOPIC AREAS:

Rising Stars: Collegiate and Early Career Perspectives Presentation Topic Areas		
 Space Exploration and Settlement	 Space Science and Technology	 Space Law and Policy
 Space Commerce and Entrepreneurship	 Space and the Arts	 Space and Society
 Space Sustainability	 Space Security and Safety	 Space Communication
 Space Health and Medicine	 Space Public Engagement	 Space Education

Any additional topic areas not already listed above are most welcome.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Enrolled at least part-time in an undergraduate, graduate, or technical trade institution
- Postdoctoral students
- Early career professionals with less than 5 years of work experience

GUIDELINES:

Abstract Proposal Guidelines:

1. Abstracts should be a clear and concise summary of your presentation, outlining its objectives, key points, conclusions, and relevance to space exploration, development, or settlement.
2. 250-500 words
3. [Use this link to submit your abstract](#)

Presentation Guidelines:

1. The Rising Stars session will take place on **Friday June 5 from 2:00-6:00 pm ET**
 - o A possible second session will be held on Saturday, June 6
2. Registration for the ISDC is required. Special student and presenter rates are available.
3. No paper submissions are required. This is a presentation only track.
4. Each presentation is **12 minutes**, followed by **3 minutes of Q&A**.
5. Presentations must be **delivered in person** before a live audience (**no virtual presentations**).
6. Speakers may use any preferred medium, including **PowerPoint, videos, animations, or interactive elements**.

Content & Visual Guidelines:

1. The presentation should include a title slide with the presentation topic name and list all of the contributors and their affiliations and organizations.
2. All references must be **properly cited** in the presentation.
3. **Photos and images** must include their **source** (credit on slides or in an appendix).
4. **Slide design** should be clear and readable:
 - o Use a **minimum font size of 14 pt** (preferably **18 pt or larger** for readability).
 - o Keep text concise—use **bullet points instead of paragraphs** where possible.
 - o Avoid overly cluttered slides; use **high-contrast colors** for clarity.
 - o To assist those with visual impairments, we recommend using a dark background with light text (black or dark blue background with white, light yellow, or light gray text).
 - o Videos or animations should be **short and relevant** to the presentation topic.

Delivery & Engagement:

1. Presenters should **practice their timing** to stay within the 12-minute limit.
2. Keep your presentation **engaging and accessible** to an interdisciplinary audience.
3. Avoid excessive jargon; explain complex concepts **in a way that non-experts can understand**.
4. Encourage audience interaction (**if applicable**) and be prepared for **Q&A responses**.

Rising Stars – Call for Presenters

5. Presenters must submit their **final presentation slides** in advance (May 30, 2026)
6. Bring a **backup copy** of the presentation on a **USB drive** or accessible cloud storage.
7. If using **videos**, ensure they are **embedded** in the presentation or available in a compatible format.
8. A **laptop, projector, and microphone** will be available, but speakers should test their setup before presenting.

Code of Conduct & Professionalism:

1. Content should be **professional, respectful, and relevant** to space exploration, development, or settlement.
2. Avoid inappropriate language, images, or unverified claims.
3. Respect the time limit—**moderators will enforce timing** to keep sessions on schedule.

Guidelines for AI Use in Presentations:

We recognize the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research, content creation, and presentations. Presenters are welcome to use AI tools to assist in the development of their work, provided they adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Transparency & Acknowledgment

- If AI-generated content (e.g., text, images, data analysis) is included in your presentation, please clearly disclose its use.
- AI tools should be cited similarly to other sources (e.g., "Generated with [AI Tool Name]").

2. Accuracy & Verification

- Presenters are responsible for fact-checking and validating AI-generated content.
- AI should not be used to generate speculative or misleading information.

3. Ethical Use

- AI should be used as a supplementary tool to support research, creativity, and communication—not as a replacement for original thought and analysis.
- AI-generated work should align with ethical standards and respect intellectual property rights (e.g., do not present AI-generated artwork as entirely original unless properly attributed).

4. Engagement & Creativity

- AI can be used for data visualization, slide design, speech refinement, or brainstorming, but the presenter must actively engage with the material and demonstrate understanding of their topic.
- AI voice synthesis or fully AI-driven presentations are not permitted; the presenter must deliver the content in person.

By following these guidelines, we aim to encourage responsible and ethical AI use while maintaining the integrity of research and discussion at ISDC 2026.

INCLUSION:

- **Diversity** – Submissions and participation from individuals with nontraditional and historically underserved or underrepresented backgrounds are especially welcome..
- **Accommodations** - Please feel free to contact us directly for special accommodation needs regarding submission and/or presentation.

TEAM SUBMISSIONS ENCOURAGED:

- We recognize that collaboration and teamwork are essential skills in the space industry. Therefore, we welcome submissions from teams and groups working on space-related projects.
- However, due to time constraints, each presentation must be delivered by a single designated presenter. If selected, the team should choose one representative to give the presentation, while all contributors will be acknowledged in the program and presentation materials.

TIMELINE:

Abstract Submission Deadline	March 25, 2026
Abstract Acceptance Notification	April 3, 2026
Speaker Confirmation	April 15, 2026
Online Practice Sessions (Optional)	May 18-22, 2026
Final Presentations Due	May 30, 2026
ISDC 2026	June 4-7, 2026
Rising Stars Track	June 5, 2026

***** FOR MORE INFORMATION *****

<p>Abstract Submittal – https://forms.gle/qmna7S4M99Q7EhAX6</p> <p>ISDC 2026 Website - isdc.nss.org</p> <p>Burt Dicht – Track Co-Chair Burt.dicht@nss.org</p> <p>Robert Katz – Track Co-Chair rsk@win.ngo</p> <p>NSS Office – 321-452-2448</p>
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