



ISDC 2026 Session Schedule

Planetary Defense

As of 5/18/26

Friday, June 5	Statler (lower level)
2:00 pm	Opening Remarks: The ISDC Planetary Defense Program, "Look Up: It's an Asteroid." Nancy C. Wolfson (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)
2:05 pm	Exploring NEO Types, Orbits, and Impacts. Stevan Akerley (National Space Society Space Ambassador)
2:18 pm	Lessons from 2024 YR4: The Role of JWST and Space Telescopes in Planetary Defense. Dr. Andrew Rivkin (Johns Hopkins University)
2:34 pm	Financing Planetary Defense: Legal and Capital Frameworks for Asteroid Risk Mitigation. James Anthony Wolff (Greenspoon Marder LLP)
2:47 pm	Novel Opportunistic Missions for NEO Exploration. Madhu Thangavelu (University of Southern California)
3:00 pm	From Transients to Threats: Leveraging Astrophysical Surveys for Planetary Defense. Dr. Quanzhi Ye (University of Maryland)
3:16 pm	Asteroid Impact Protection Long-term Solution. Michael Helton (Helton Associates)
3:29 pm	Improving Orbit Determination for Planetary Defense. Maryann Benny Fernandes (Duke University)
3:42 pm	Modern Day Space Elevators – New Missions for Planetary Defense. Dr. Peter Swan (International Space Elevator Consortium)
3:55 pm	The International Year of Planetary Defence (IYPD 2029): Navigating the Roles of IAWN, SMPAG, and UN-COPUOS. Nancy C. Wolfson (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)
4:08 pm	NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation
4:23 pm	Disarming Nuclear Inventories and Preventing NEO Impacts. Ayden Frey (Wolfpack CubeSat Development Team)
4:36 pm	Why Post-Quantum Security is Non-Negotiable for Space Systems and Planetary Defense. Dr. Wolfgang Rohde (CyberSpace Security)
4:49 pm	TERP RAPTOR: A "Mass"ive Improvement in Asteroid Mass Measurements for Planetary Defense. Adrienne Rudolph (University of Maryland)
5:02 pm	A Tale of Two Asteroids: Chelyabinsk 2013 and Apophis 2029. Ken Ruffin (Founder, Didymos Consulting LLC)
5:15 pm	Orbital Sunk-Cost Recovery: Converting High Energy Scrap into Comprehensive Planetary Defense Infrastructure. Lev Reznikov (Sagittarius Space)
5:28 pm	Can AI-Driven Autonomous Orbital Debris Capture and Collision Prevention Networks Bolster Planetary Defense? Harsh Verma (Defence Institute of Advanced Technology)
5:41 pm	We're All Going To Die! (The Case for Urgency). Jerry Stone (Spaceflight UK)
5:54 pm	Closing Remarks. Nancy C. Wolfson (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)
6:00 pm	END