ISDC 2026
Session Schedule

Rising Stars

As of 5/12/26

Friday, June 5	**Stevens (lower level)**
2:00 pm	Welcome and Introductions. Burt Dicht (National Space Society) and Robert Katz (World Innovation Network)
	Block 1: Space Policy, Law & Governance
2:10 pm	Regulatory Sandboxes as a Governance Tool for the Emerging Space Economy: Lessons from Energy and FinTech. Dr. Zsófia Bíró (Center for Air and Space Law, University of Mississippi)
2:25 pm	Right of Way Rules: Driving the Future of Orbital Traffic. Ashling Sugarman (Pepperdine Law School)
2:40 pm	Governing Autonomy: Legal and Ethical Frameworks for AI in Space Activities. Margaret O'Brien (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)
	Block 2: Space Science & Technology
2:55 pm	A Bright Idea: Why Astronomy Needs Space-Based Solar Power. Benjamin Calloway (Photon Orbital Solutions)
3:10 pm	The Story of HPSC: How Space Communication Powers NASA's Space Exploration Missions. Jessica Mariane Jelke (NASA and The George Washington University)
3:25 pm	Inspection of Non-Cooperative Resident Space Objects in Low Earth Orbit. Rachel Long (Mars Institute and University of California, Davis)
3:40 pm	US-LACSA: Building a Cooperative Security Architecture for Space Resilience in the Western Hemisphere. Mo Tasrif Khan (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)
	Block 3: Space Exploration & Future Missions
3:55 pm	WolfSat-2: A Sustainable Wooden CubeSat Design for Very Low Earth Orbit. Santiago N. Gollarza (Wolfpack CubeSat Dev team, BLUECUBE Aerospace)
4:10 pm	Preliminary Pressurized Rover Traverse Paths from Clavius Crater to the NASA LCROSS Impact Site in Cabeus Crater Near the Lunar South Pole. Apoorva Somani (United States Air Force Academy)
4:25 pm	Exploring Mars: From Rotorcraft Mission Payloads to Human Exploration Operations. Reef Collins (Mars Institute and University of Central Florida)
4:40 pm	Pathways on Mars: Designing Pressurized Rover Traverse Paths Around the "Noctis Landing" Candidate Human Landing Site. Scarlett Hartzman (Mars Institute and Carnegie Mellon University)
	Block 4: Space Health, Learning and Impact
4:55 pm	From Chernobyl to the Cosmos: Can Fungi Protect Astronauts? Natalie Byrd (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)
5:10 pm	Insulin in Orbit: A Mission Worth Testing. Kennady Ruth (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)
5:25 pm	Astronauts' Cognitive Maps: Evolving Identity through the Chronospatial Frontiers. Ginger Chen (Florida Institute of Technology)
5:40 pm	Final Thoughts and Recognition. Burt Dicht (National Space Society) and Robert Katz (World Innovation Network)
6:00 pm	END