



Interstellar Research Group



2027 Call for Papers

Tenth Interstellar Symposium

12-15 September, 2027 • Atlanta, Georgia

Contact

<https://irg.space>
info-2027@irg.space

*Advancing the science,
technology, and human
dimensions of
interstellar exploration*



Join Us in Atlanta

In September 2027, the Interstellar Research Group (IRG) will convene the 10th Interstellar Symposium, a multi-day gathering that unites experts from diverse, often siloed scientific, technical, social science, and humanities disciplines to address the foundational challenges of achieving sustainable multiplanetary and multi-stellar human habitation.

The symposium will be hosted on the Georgia Tech campus in Atlanta and co-sponsored by the Georgia Tech Space Research Institute. Our goals are fostering connections across fields, enabling new collaborations, communicating scientific advances to broader audiences, and advancing understanding in areas such as astrophysics, planetary science, advanced propulsion, life support, and the societal dimensions of long-duration space exploration.

The 10th Interstellar Symposium will feature plenary lectures, workshops, and dedicated

networking opportunities. By design, the event creates space for serendipitous connections among participants who might not otherwise interact—astrophysicists with ethicists, engineers with historians, and biologists with policy experts.

Our target audience comprises researchers from government laboratories, leading academic institutions, and the private sector. Submissions for both plenary sessions and poster sessions will be reviewed by a program committee of scientists across the entire gamut of IRG's intellectual interests. Given the timescales involved in exploring interstellar research, we have a particular interest in recruiting participation (via attendance or presentations) by young researchers, including undergraduates, graduate students, and junior faculty.

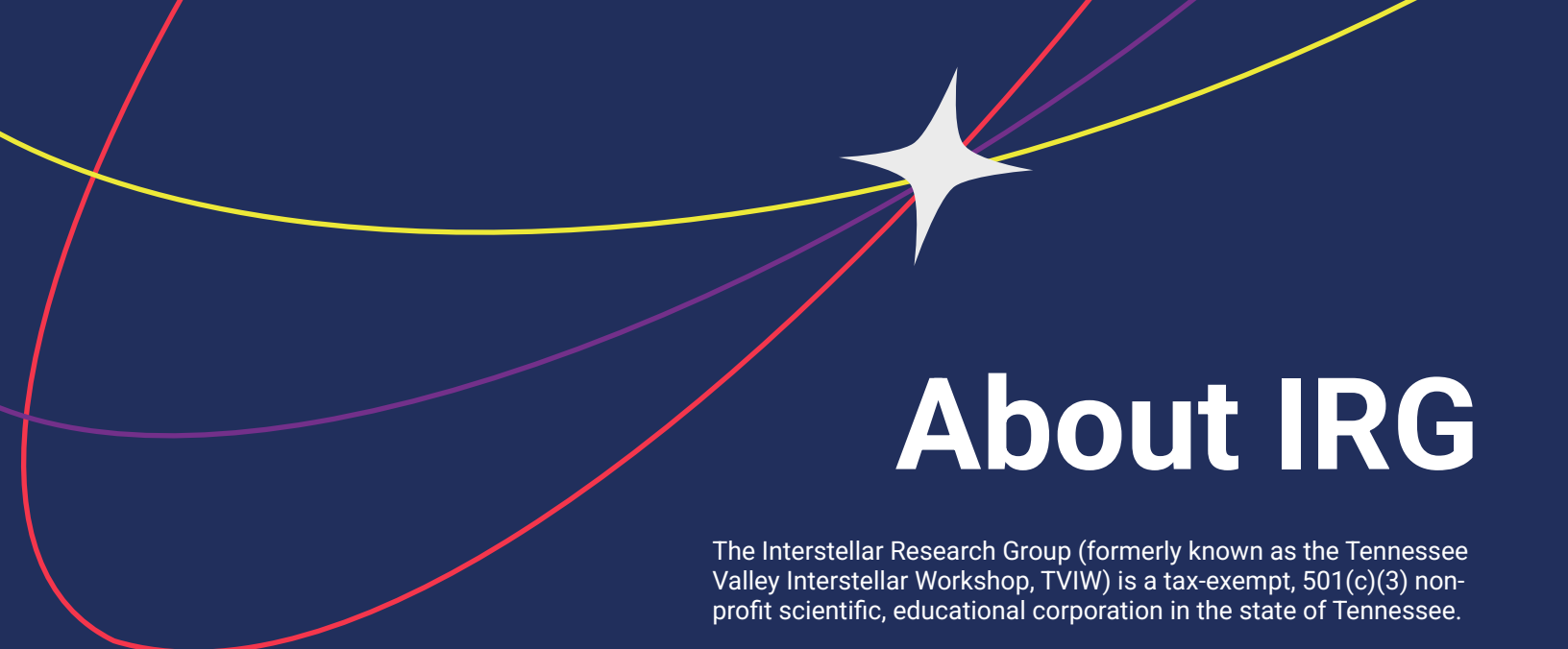
We will be offering free or heavily-discounted admission to active undergraduate and graduate students, and will be particularly targeting science and engineering programs in the Southeast U.S.

Register to attend the 10th Interstellar Symposium and participate in a diverse gathering of scientific disciplines focused on the future of deep-space and interstellar exploration.

For registration details, pricing, event updates, and additional symposium information, scan the QR code or visit the official event webpage.



<https://irg.space/irg-2027/>



About IRG

The Interstellar Research Group (formerly known as the Tennessee Valley Interstellar Workshop, TVIW) is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit scientific, educational corporation in the state of Tennessee.

We are helping get humanity to the stars. Interstellar travel is a challenge that requires massive developments across all aspects of human ingenuity to achieve. It is no small dream to chart a path that would cross the vast gulf between stars and find new horizons in our universe. It requires huge leaps in technology development in everything from energy generation, resource management, cultural evolution, and space environment protection to enable even modest exploration of the universe in our local stellar neighborhood.

The road to space habitation isn't about the success of any one singular technical bottleneck that limits our ability to use space across generations. Rather, it is about the success of many interconnected dependencies that require persistent operation; that challenge requires domain experts to arrange themselves into an intellectual ecosystem. This ecosystem is furthermore dependent on mutual support, and IRG's internal culture promotes a high degree of camaraderie and collaboration.

Interstellar Research Group (IRG) organized because the founders recognized that many of the dreams within the science fiction of the early 20th Century were approaching operational reality, and that techno-optimism is a worthy worldview that requires active stewardship. Interstellar Research Group supports that dream by organizing

technical symposia focused on developments in support of interstellar travel broadly, wherein experts and researchers in propulsion, energy generation, habitat engineering, space law, and many other topical areas can share both successes and challenges in their fields in order to foster a community that will encourage interdisciplinary collaboration.

There have been nine mainline interstellar symposia so far led by IRG, all within North America, with three special symposia held across the world with IRG playing a supporting role in their planning and execution. These symposia have been conducted in conjunction with partners such as NASA, Breakthrough Starshot, International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), Initiative for Interstellar Studies, British Interplanetary Society, and many others. From these meetings, many special issues of *Acta Astronautica* and the *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society* have been published to preserve the record of scientific rigor at these symposia.

Long term, IRG will assist in building a technological, philosophical, and economic infrastructure that advances the goal of establishing outposts throughout the Solar System and, finally, achieving a pathway to the stars.



MISSION

IRG's mission is to facilitate interstellar research and exploration by hosting regular summit meetings, encouraging educational advances, publishing technical and scientific papers, and supporting literature and culture, all in the service of enhancing public understanding and dialogue toward interstellar exploration. IRG will assist in building a technological, philosophical, and economic infrastructure that advances the goal of establishing outposts throughout the Solar System and, finally, achieving a pathway to the stars.

Call for Papers

Important Dates

26 Feb 2027: Abstract Submission Deadline

03 May 2027: Notification of Abstract Acceptance

25 June 2027: Final papers due to conference organizers

The symposium aims to strengthen and motivate the community that looks at the exploration of the universe and with particular attention to the conception of interstellar travel. It follows by two years the event held in Luxembourg, with the aim of promoting

the community interested in these studies in Europe.

Space exploration is a multidisciplinary challenge. For this reason, the symposium is organized with diverse topical sessions:



Astrophysics, objective selection and interstellar medium studies.



Crew health, psychology and physiology.



Extrasolar object observations.



Astrobiology.



Spacecraft engineering, propulsion, communications, sustainability.



Diplomacy, legislation and policy.



Interstellar implications, studies of holistic significance.

All sessions are organized with a keynote and invited speakers as well as contributed talks and posters. Instructions on the format are provided below.

We will also offer optional seminars, which are 3-hour presentations on a single subject, providing an in depth look at that subject. Seminar topics will be announced on the Symposium website



Notice of Video & Archive Use

All symposium events may be captured on video or in still images for use by the organizers and sponsors, in public media. All participants will be asked to complete a Release Form that grants permission for IRG to use this content as described in the release form.



Abstract Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION TOPICS: for the Interstellar Symposium must relate to one or more of the many interstellar mission related topics listed on Page 4 of this document.

PRESENTING AUTHOR(S): Please list ONLY the author(s) who will actually be in attendance and presenting at the conference. (first name, last name, degree –for example, Susan Smith, MD)

ADDITIONAL AUTHORS: List all authors here, including Presenting Author(s) – (first name, last name, degree(s) – for example, Mary Rockford, RN; Susan Smith, MD; John Jones, PhD)

ABBREVIATIONS within the body should be kept to a minimum and must be defined upon first use in the abstract by placing the abbreviation in parentheses after the represented full word or phrase. Proprietary drug names and logos may NOT be used. Non-proprietary (generic) names should be used.

ABSTRACT LENGTH: The entire abstract, (EXCLUDING title, authors, presenting author's institutional affiliation(s), city, state, and text), including any tables or figures should be a maximum of 350 words. It is your responsibility to verify compliance with the length requirement.

ABSTRACT STRUCTURE - abstracts must include the following headings:

- **Title:** the presentation title
- **Subtitle:** state whether the abstract is for an oral presentation or poster
- **Background:** describes the research or initiative context
- **Objective:** describes the research or initiative objective
- **Methods:** describes research methodology used. For initiatives, describes the target population, program or curricular content, and evaluation method
- **Results:** summarizes findings in sufficient detail to support the conclusions
- **Conclusions:** states the conclusions drawn from results, including their applicability.

Submit Abstracts to Registrar@irg.space



Current Partnerships & Patrons



For the 10th Interstellar Symposium, IRG is delighted to partner with Georgia Tech.

The symposium will be hosted on the Georgia Tech campus in Atlanta and co-sponsored by the Georgia Tech Space Research Institute.



Furthermore, IRG is proud to continue our collaboration with the International Academy of Astronautics. IAA is committed to tackling groundbreaking challenges in the peaceful exploration and use of space, which strongly overlaps with the mission and ethos of the IRG.



Sponsorship & Partnership Opportunities

Help Advance the Interstellar Conversation

The 10th Interstellar Symposium offers organizations an opportunity to connect with an international community working across space science, engineering, technology, education, policy, and human exploration.

Become a Sponsor or Partner

Organizations interested in sponsoring, partnering with, or otherwise supporting the symposium should contact:

info-2027@irg.space

Sponsorship and partnership can help support:

- The symposium's scientific and educational program
- Student and early-career participation
- Invited speakers
- Networking and community-building activities
- Meals, receptions, and hospitality
- Seminar and poster facilities
- Public engagement
- Event materials and participant resources



*The journey to another star begins
with the work we undertake today.*

10th Interstellar Symposium Scientific Committee:

Jeff Greason, Founder, Skip-Glide

Joseph Meany, President, Interstellar Research Group

Les Johnson, Infinite Frontiers (Program Chair)

Robert Hampson, Wake Forest School of Medicine

Stephen Fleming, Boostphase (Organizing Chair)

A large, complex space station or orbital structure is shown in a low-orbit perspective, appearing to rise from the horizon of the Earth. The station features multiple modules, large solar panel arrays, and intricate structural elements. The Earth's surface, with visible clouds and landmasses, curves along the bottom of the frame. The background is the deep black of space, filled with distant stars.

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