



Interstellar Research Group



2nd European Interstellar Symposium

2-4 December 2026 | Venice, Italy

Register Now

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www.irg.space/second-european-interstellar-symposium/



Pre-Symposium Seminars: 1 December 2026

Palazzo Franchetti
The Venetian Institute of
Sciences, Letters and Arts
Grand Canal, Venice

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



Join Us in Venice

Hosted by The Venetian Institute of Sciences, Letters and Arts in association with The Interstellar Research Group and The International Academy of Astronautics

The aim is to bring together a multi-disciplinary community dedicated to advancing interstellar travel. Producing symposiums that include Special Sessions, Keynote Lectures, Working Tracks, Seminars, science fiction author engagement and more.

The exploration of other stars and what lies

between them (e.g. interstellar objects) is crucial not only for understanding the formation of stars, planets, galaxies, and the search for extraterrestrial life, but also for ensuring the safety of our planet and the future of humanity.

Our objective is to foster an exchange on various aspects of interstellar travel, including human and robotic exploration, power systems, communications, system reliability, psychology, crew health, anthropology, legal regimes, ethics, propulsion, potential destinations (including exoplanet research), life support systems, and habitats.



Register to attend the 2nd European Interstellar Symposium and participate in an international gathering 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.

www.irg.space/second-european-interstellar-symposium/





About IRG

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

The Tennessee Valley Interstellar Workshop (TVIW) was an outgrowth of the Friday Night Dinner Club (FNDC), which met in Oak Ridge, TN on Friday evenings from 2004 to the present. The attendees were mostly professionals in science and engineering, and conversation typically centered on contemporary research topics, particularly with regard to space missions. Evening discussions resulted in publications of several papers, preparation of proposals for innovative space missions and in 3 papers accepted to the IAA's 7th Biennial Symposium on Realistic Near-Term Scientific Space Missions, held in Aosta, Italy in July, 2011. It was on the patio of a charming little hotel in the ancient city of Aosta in the Italian Alps, that the idea of holding an Interstellar Symposium in the Tennessee Valley was conceived.

The first Symposium proved an opportunity for like-minded people to get together and discuss how to move humanity into space, and to promote interstellar exploration, travel, and communications. Six very successful TVIW Symposia have been held. In August of 2020 the Tennessee Valley Interstellar Workshop reorganized as the Interstellar Research Group (IRG) to better reflect it's current goals and structure, which have expanded beyond being a regional organization in the

United States to become a fully national and international group.

TVIW incorporated with an official founding date of January 18, 2014, and selected the first TVIW Board of Directors from FNDC participants: John Preston, President; Martha Knowles, Sect/Treasurer; Ken Roy; David Fields; and Robert Kennedy. Les Johnson was Advisor. Current IRG Board Members are Joseph Meany, President; Stephen Fleming, Secretary; Lauren Randolph, Treasurer; Jean E. Masterson; David Burke; Doug Loss; and Michael Birchfield.

Though the original IRG concept was explicitly intended to be regional (viz., the American Southeast), it is now, in fact, an internationally recognized organization, with major speakers and attendees coming from all over the world. International participation has grown, for example, with the full involvement and support of the prestigious British Interplanetary Society, as well as the Initiative for Interstellar Studies and the International Space University.

IRG Symposia are opportunities for relaxed sharing of ideas in directions that will stimulate and encourage Interstellar exploration including propulsion, communications, and research.

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

07 Sep 2026 Abstract Submission Deadline

30 Sep 2026 Notification of Abstract Acceptance

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.

On Dec. 1st there will also be a seminar half-day: these 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



Istituto Veneto
di Scienze Lettere
ed Arti

For the 2nd European Interstellar Symposium, IRG is delighted to partner with The Venetian Institute of Sciences, Letters and Arts as co-hosts.



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.



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Sponsorship & Partnership Opportunities

Help Advance the Interstellar Conversation

The 2nd European 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:

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

2eis@Interstellar Research Group





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

**2nd European Interstellar Symposium
Scientific Committee:**

Paolo Villoresi Chair, Univ. of Padua and Venetian Institute of Sci. Lett. and Arts, Italy

Les Johnson, Program Chair, Interstellar Research Group, USA

Patrizia Caraveo Italian Institute of Astrophysics and Venetian Institute of Sci. Lett. and Arts, Italy

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