



BRIEF: EUROPEAN PLANETARY
SCIENCE CONGRESS (EPSC) 2017

Date: 06 July 2017

The European Planetary Science Congress (EPSC) 2017 (www.epsc2017.eu) will take place at the Radisson Blu Latvija in Riga, from Sunday 17 to Friday 22 September 2017. One thousand abstracts have been submitted from more than 800 scientists from Europe and around the world. The one hundred sessions of oral and poster talks will run the five days concurrently.

The EPSC is the major European meeting on planetary science and in 2017 will take place for the first time in Central and Eastern Europe. EPSC participants are planetary scientists and associated mission specialists involved in NASA, ESA, and other space agency missions. They include space instrument builders, mission designers, navigation experts, and scientists and engineers of every type. Europe's planetary science community is as large as its US counterpart.

The programme includes astrobiology, lunar studies, Mars research, comet exploration, asteroid exploration and exploitation, planetary defense, planetary protection, and exoplanet studies. The scientists study solar and extra-solar system bodies from the smallest dust particle to the largest planet.

The theme for EPSC 2017 is 'Widening Participation' and the programme will include sessions, associated events, and keynote talks from well-known Baltic figures to promote the engagement and integration of new Baltic-and-beyond space communities. Selected keynote talks will be streamed and archived by LMT for the Latvian and international public. A free-access interactive educational exhibit for Latvia's youth to learn about the Solar System will be available on the ground floor

Industry will be a strong focus at EPSC 2017. SMEs and companies are invited to showcase their technical capabilities and 25 young space entrepreneurs from Latvia and Estonia will participate in the meeting through the Interreg SpaceTEM project. Human exploration in the new arena of entrepreneurial space will be the topic of the EPSC 2017 Public Event.

To capitalise on the Centenary celebrations of the independence of Latvia, Finland, Estonia and Lithuania, starting in late 2017 and continuing through 2018, there will cultural exhibits and a demonstration of the Baltic singing and dancing, and an opportunity to participate, during the EPSC 2017 mid-week social event.

The European Planetary Science Congress in Riga will highlight economic, educational, political and cultural opportunities for the Baltic region, as well as across the wider European Research Area. Space is the world's fastest growing industry and this meeting will provide a concentrated view of the possibilities for young and old in this exciting sector.

Details of the Congress and a full schedule of EPSC 2017 scientific sessions and events can be found at the official website: <http://www.epsc2017.eu> EPSC 2017 is organised by Europlanet and Copernicus Meetings. The Local Organising Committee is led by Baltics in Space, a not-for-profit organisation, which is supporting more than 25 members centred around nine Baltic space facilities for the conference.