

ASI and ISU partners in Space education ASI supports Italian students to attend the programs of the International Space University

Jerusalem, Israel: At the occasion of the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) event in Jerusalem, the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the International Space University (ISU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Wednesday 14th October to enhance cooperation between both entities. Besides a number of cooperative actions at institutional level, such as exchange of lecturers, one very important element of this memorandum is the support of ASI to promising Italian young space professionals to continue their studies at the ISU Master's program in Strasbourg.

As stated by ASI president, prof. Roberto Battiston *"In addition to good university courses in Italy, we cannot ignore that the space world is becoming more and more global. ISU is providing an excellent environment to prepare future space experts to work in this international environment, today and even more in the future. We therefore are encouraging talented young professionals to enter in the international group of ISU alumni"*.



The MOU has been put in place already and the ASI Board selected Martina Russitano Lanza to attend the Master class 2015-2016 in Strasbourg. Mrs. Lanza holds a master's degree in physics from the University of Palermo, the town where she was born. She is a real internationalist, with internships at ESA in Spain and at the Observatory in Paris. Her excellent knowledge of Italian, French, English and Spanish also make her an excellent participant in the present ISU group.

As stated by ISU president prof. Walter Peeters: *"ISU is now counting over 4000 alumni in over 105 countries worldwide. At this moment, 144 of them are Italian. But ISU is still eager to attract talented students. We are very pleased that ASI shares this objective and are looking forward to steadily grow the number of Italian alumni."*

About the International Space University (ISU) – www.isunet.edu

The International Space University (ISU), founded in 1987 in Massachusetts, US and now headquartered in Strasbourg, France, is the world's premier international space education institution. It is supported by major space agencies and aerospace organizations from around the world. The graduate level programs offered by ISU are dedicated to promoting international, interdisciplinary and intercultural cooperation in space activities. ISU offers the Master of Space Studies program at its Central Campus in Strasbourg. Since the summer of 1988, ISU has also conducted the highly acclaimed Space Studies Program at different host institutions in locations spanning the globe. ISU programs are delivered by over 100 ISU faculty members in concert with invited industry and agency experts from institutions around the world. Since its founding in 1987 on the campus of MIT, with Sir Arthur C. Clarke as its Founding Chancellor, more than 4000 students from over 105 countries have graduated from ISU.

About Italian Space Agency (ASI) – www.asi.it

The Italian Space Agency (Agenzia Spaziale Italiana; ASI) is a government agency established in 1988 to fund, regulate and coordinate space exploration activities in Italy. Operating under the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR), the agency cooperates with numerous national and international entities who are active in aerospace research and technology, and with the Italian President of the Council of Ministers. Nationally, ASI is responsible for both drafting the National Aerospace Plan and ensuring it is carried out. To do this the agency operates as the owner/coordinator of a number of Italian space research agencies and assets such as CIRA as well as organizing the calls and opportunities process for Italian industrial contractors on spaceflight projects. Internationally, the ASI provides Italy's delegation to the Council of the European Space Agency and to its subordinate bodies as well as representing the country's interests in foreign collaborations.