

Impact Insights

76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) Sydney 2025

The 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC), held at ICC Sydney from 29 September to 3 October 2025, brought together global leaders in space science, industry, and policy under the theme of Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth.

Business Events Sydney (BESydney), in collaboration with the University of Technology Sydney, Business School surveyed delegates attending the congress to assess the broader impacts of the event. These include scientific advancement, sector innovation, attracting global talent and trade and investment opportunities that all have the potential to catalyse and contribute to solutions for key issues in their field. The feedback from respondents demonstrates both quantitatively and qualitatively that this was achieved with significant success.

323 survey responses

75% international
25% national

42% academics
30% practitioners
19% exhibitors

Beyond Tourism Impacts

Delegates agreed that the conference enabled/contributed to:



94%

scientific advancement
(new knowledge /
ideas / technology /
collaboration)



94%

industry innovation
(new knowledge /
ideas / technology /
practice)



92%

trade and investment



91%

attraction of global
talent to Sydney



69%

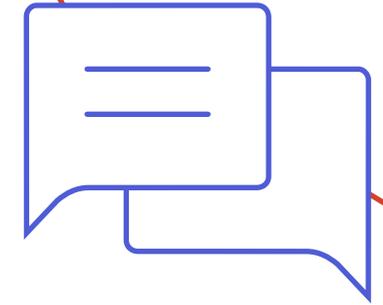
improved social policy



57%

support of vulnerable
communities

Percentage of respondents who rated 3 or more out of 5.



What delegates had to say...

About scientific advancement

“It brought over 10,000 space leaders together in Sydney from all over the world to discuss scientific advancements, updates in the space sector, and define new policies for the future of space both in Australia, and beyond.”

“Scientific advancement made possible through the technical program with quality presentations and opportunities during and after to discuss and share ideas.”

About industry innovation

“2025 IAC provides a stage for start-ups and established players to validate prototypes and drive progress in critical new sectors such as in-orbit servicing, space sustainability, and the commercialisation of space-based data.”

“Significant participation of Australian space industry and academic institutions demonstrated innovative technologies developed and under development in the country.”

About trade and investment

Trade and investment were central themes of the conference, reflecting its role as a global platform for forging partnerships and stimulating economic growth.

55% of exhibitors made sales contacts and 18% of exhibitors immediately increased product sales at the congress, with a further 71% potential still to be realised.

“Our company had meetings with eight companies during this event. Among them, one has led to a signed agreement, and another is currently in follow-up discussions as a potential future client.”

“Trade and investment for local talent and company innovators. The opportunity to share advancement in new science and technologies is always a mutual benefit for those involved.”

“Visibility of this event helps to attract investment and to improve trades overseas.”

“Very strong deals flow from this conference, closely aligned with our goals. This is why we exhibit at tradeshows.”

About attracting global talent

Attracting global talent is critical for sustaining innovation and competitiveness.

57% of respondents from outside of NSW indicated that they would like to live and work/study in Sydney, while 5% indicated that they applied for a position to work/study in Sydney.

“This exposure is a powerful recruitment tool, positioning the city as a premier destination for high-skilled talent seeking to advance their careers in a thriving ecosystem.”

“Attraction of global talent to Sydney was very impressive, with representation from governments, agencies, institutes, companies, etc. from all over the world.”

“Attending the IAC in Sydney exposed me to Australia’s vibrant academic and innovation landscape. The experience inspired me to consider pursuing advanced legal and policy studies there, especially in areas connecting law, technology, and space governance.”

“The city’s welcoming atmosphere, diverse community, and high quality of life make it an ideal destination to continue my journey of learning, innovation, and contribution.”

About improved social policy

“The conference sessions were particularly enlightening, with a strong and interesting focus on the social policy aspects of the space industry, especially within the Australian context.”

“IAC conference has led to many discussions about space policy and International Space Law, which is vital for the consideration of social policy.”

About supporting vulnerable communities

“Outreach programmes and education-focused sessions supported vulnerable communities by promoting STEM engagement and opportunities for youth participation.”

“Space industries have a key role in supporting the environment through monitoring and disaster recovery, so developing these technologies and partnerships naturally has a role in supporting vulnerable communities around the globe.”



Tourism Impacts



Top 3 flight booking leadtimes*

30% 3-6 months

40% 1-3 months

21% < 1 month prior to event



Top 4 types of accommodation used*

31% 4 star

17% 5 star

16% 3 star

13% Airbnb



Top 3 booking channels used*

23% Booking engine

21% Hotel website

14% Travel agent

^19% unknown - booked by someone else



Did you duty free shop at Sydney airport?

49% Yes

51% No



Did you buy carbon offsets for your flight?

8% Yes

92% No



Happy with the Australian visa application process

93%

Rated 4 or 5 out of 5



Percentage of delegates visiting top 5 tourist attractions*

36% Zoo visit

16% Art Gallery visit

35% Harbour cruise

15% Opera House performance

27% Museum visit



Percentage of international delegates visiting top 5 areas outside Sydney

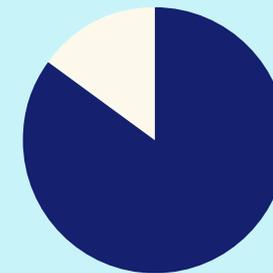
22% Regional NSW

3% Gold Coast

7% Far North QLD

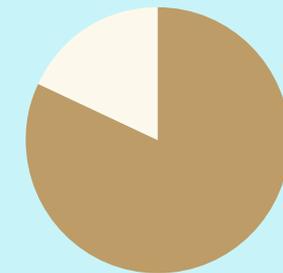
2% Perth / Uluru

6% Melbourne



85%

think they will visit Sydney again in the future



82%

would highly recommend Sydney as both a conference destination and tourist destination

*Includes responses from interstate delegates as well as international delegates.

Source: Hergesell, A. & Foley, C. (2025) 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) Sydney 2025. University of Technology Sydney. Report prepared for Business Events Sydney