

73rd INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS

PARIS, FRANCE, 18 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

Space for @ll

A Report on Participation at the 73rd International Astronautical Congress

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Overview

During five days, from September 18 (Sun.) to 22 (Thu.), 2022, the 73rd International Astronautical Congress (IAC) was held in Paris, France. Last year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of participants on site was very limited, and many visitors participated online, but this year, the event saw a lot of in-person visitors as we move into a "with COVID" reality. Also, in the previous week, Euroconsult hosted World Satellite Business Week, with many people doing business trips over these two weeks back to back, and the IAC saw many Japanese government officials, people from JAXA, and people from the private sector in attendance.

Overall impression and analysis

The IAC features a wide range of discussions on policy, with technical presentations, but this year was slated to be held in Paris because its centrally located in Europe and because a European ministerial conference was slated to be held in November, making the timing good opportunity to learn more about the situation in Europe overall. Meanwhile, in Japan, the Russian invasion of Ukraine seems like an event so far away in scope, but it is still evident that Europe needs to review its strategy of cooperating with Russia in terms of space development. Meanwhile, at various lectures and conferences, European officials have often been speaking of the need to ensure autonomy. In the past, phrasings such as "international cooperation" were common, but they are refraining from using such words these days.

As another trend, commercialization was also a topic.

While the United States is taking a big step toward commercialization based on funds from the private sector, Europe has been seen as lagging behind. Going forward, when it's known that things can't move forward unless effort is put into commercialization, what will happen if European countries take the lead in terms of commercialization, where governments and the private sector are working together? Would they be aiming for something similar to the situation with Airbus in the aviation industry? Would they be trying to focus on developing small business? Against this backdrop, these types of possibilities are being watched closely.

Main presentations and discussions

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Regarding the exhibition/venue

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