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ICC WALES TO HOST UK SPACE CONFERENCE 2019

The UK Space Agency has confirmed the new International Convention Centre Wales (ICC Wales) as the host venue for its 2019 UK Space Conference. This is the largest event so far secured for ICC Wales with more than 1,200 delegates and around 180 speakers anticipated to make exclusive use of the new centre's state-of-the-art facilities.

Taking place from 9-11 July, the UK Space Conference is considered the most influential event for the space community, bringing together government, industry and academia to build links, share opportunities and address mutual concerns at a crucial time of unprecedented change and growth for the sector.

The biennial conference has been held previously in Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester, with the first held in 2011 in Warwick.

Welcoming the announcement, ICC Wales Chief Executive Ian Edwards said:

"This is a massive vote of confidence in the development of ICC Wales and we are delighted to be chosen as the host venue for such a prestigious event. With building work running on time and on budget, we can look forward to welcoming one of the most sought-after conferences in the country shortly after we open our doors next year. It's a terrific milestone achievement for the team.

"This is exactly the type of event we envisaged hosting when we initiated bold plans to build ICC Wales with its vast capacities, and we look forward to securing many more important conferences on this scale. This will bring huge benefits to the local economy in Wales."

Dr Graham Turnock, CEO of the UK Space Agency, said: "We are working with the space sector to build on our significant capability and maximise the benefits of space to life on Earth, creating jobs and opportunities across the country. The UK Space Conference is a fantastic event for sparking the kind of collaborations and partnerships that will help our sector grow. I am delighted that Wales will be hosting the 2019 conference and I'm sure it will build on the huge success of the 2017 conference in Manchester."

Speakers at the 2017 UK Space Conference included British ESA Astronaut Tim Peake, one of the most inspirational figures in the UK space sector, who spoke in the closing plenary entitled “Inspiring the future through exploration”. Other influential speakers included; Professor Jan Wörner, Director General of the European Space Agency and Andy Green, President of UKspace and chair of the Space Sector Council.

ICC Wales is an £84m joint venture between Celtic Manor Resort and Welsh Government, and when complete in 2019 will accommodate up to 5,000 delegates. The venue includes a 4,000sqm pillar-free main hall, a 1,500-seated auditorium, 12 flexible meeting rooms, a double-height glass atrium and a 2,500 sqm outdoor plaza.

Ends

For all media enquiries, photos, additional comment and request for interview please contact: Ken Kelling, Nancy Cremore or Evie Kennedy at davies tanner Tel: +44 (0)1892 619100 / +44 (0)7941 218915 Ken.kelling@daviestanner.com

For UK Space Conference queries please contact Samantha Hardyman, Event Director, Bray Leino Events on shardyman@brayleino.co.uk and + 44 (0) 117 906 4564. To register your interest in attending contact Katie Edwards, Event Executive, Bray Leino Events on info@ukspace2019.co.uk and +44 (0)117 906 4528.

Notes to editors

ICC Wales is managed by the Celtic Manor Resort’s expert leadership team responsible for the successful delivery of the 2014 Nato Summit and the 2010 Ryder Cup.

Opening in 2019, the ICC Wales is located within the grounds of the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport just two minutes from the M4.

The position of UK Space Conference Programme Committee Chair is now open for nominations; this committee is responsible for defining the theme, shaping the content and selecting the speakers. Nominations for members of the committee are also welcome. We are looking to ensure wide



engagement in the Conference and so encourage people from across the community to put themselves forward. Email info@ukspace2019.co.uk to nominate yourself or a colleague as Programme Committee Chair (or as a member) and to register your interest to become an exhibitor, sponsor and / or delegate.

Follow us on Twitter @ukspace2019 for any updates. Registration will be open in Autumn 2018.