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Historic ICAS Congress in Russia a Great Success

The 29th Congress of the International Council of the Aeronautical Sciences (ICAS) took place in St Petersburg, Russia from 7-12 September. “This was the first ICAS Congress to be held in Russia and it has successfully continued the traditions of the previous great Congresses dating back to 1958”, announced ICAS President, Prof. Murray Scott of Australia’s CRC for Advanced Composite Structures.

There were 867 participants from 43 countries, consisting of 573 professionals and 159 students, plus 135 accompanying persons, with a total of 559 papers published in the Congress proceedings. This event was the culmination of four years of planning by the Russian organising committee led by Mr Boris Alyoshin and Prof. Sergey Chernyshev, directors of TsAGI – the Central Aerohydrodynamic Institute, which is the leading aeronautical research organisation in Russia and formally represents Russia at ICAS.

The official opening ceremony on 8 September included speeches from Mr Vladimir Kargopoltsev, Director of the United Aircraft Corporation, and Dr Andrey Maximov, Chairman of the St Petersburg Government Committee for Science & Higher Education, as well as a special video message from the crew of the International Space Station. This was immediately followed by Daniel & Florence Guggenheim Lecture delivered by Prof. Sergey Chernyshev, Executive Director of TsAGI, on new opportunities for international cooperation.

Other highlights during the Congress included two award lectures: the Nikolai Zhukovsky Lecture delivered by Dr Michimasa Fujino, CEO of Honda Aircraft Company USA, on innovation in aircraft design for the HondaJet, which features the unique over-the-wing engine mount configuration, and the von Kármán Lecture delivered by a team from Dassault Aviation, Alenia Aermacchi, HAI, Airbus, Ruag and Saab, reporting on nEUROn: an international cooperation to enhance innovation.

Prof. Scott noted, “Several additional significant awards were presented on 11 September. Prof. Joachim Szodruch of Germany was honoured with the Maurice Roy award for his exceptional record in fostering international cooperation in the field of aeronautics. Exceptional younger people were also recognised with Dr Adrian Orifici of Australia receiving the John J. Green Award, and two South African students, Mr Marius-Corne Meijer and Ms Elizna Miles, respectively being placed first and second in the John McCarthy student paper competition.”

The Congress closing ceremony included a speech from Mr Andrey Bogynsky, Director of the Russian Federation Ministry of Industry & Trade Aviation Department, as well as announcements concerning future events. Prof. Scott said, “I conclude my term as ICAS President at the end of this year, at which time Dr Christian Mari of France’s Safran Messier-Bugatti-Dowty will take over as President. Together with our 29 Member Societies and 36 Associates from 21 countries, I am confident that ICAS will go from strength to strength into the future”.

For more information contact the ICAS Executive Secretary – Mr Axel Probst (icas@icas.org)