



Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program

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## MEDIA BRIEF - Space Balloon Launch

This Sunday 28 January 2018, 50 participants in the Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program will be launching a helium balloon with a specially built satellite payload into the stratosphere over the Adelaide region.

The students from 15 nations will send the helium balloon to an altitude of 35 kilometres (115,000 ft) above McLaren Vale and then recover the satellite payloads to analyse the data.

The Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program (SH-SSP) was launched in January 2011 by the University of South Australia in partnership with the International Space University. This year's program participants will be undertaking pre-flight tests and calibration, in-flight operations, downloading of real-time images and post-flight analysis.

The launch event on Sunday is co-hosted by the International Space University, the University of South Australia, the South Australian Space Industry Centre and Nova Systems and Serafino Wines.

Chair of the Space Industry Association of Australia and the SH-SSP Management Committee, Michael Davis, says small satellites have opened up unprecedented opportunities in space research and business, allowing the emergence of new and dynamic economies of scale possible on small, rather than large, budgets.

"The payload will capture and downlink images of surrounding areas that will be viewed live from the McLaren Vale launch site," Michael says.

Dr Ady James, Co-director of the SHSSP and Adjunct Senior Lecturer at UniSA, says the high-altitude balloon payloads will simulate a small satellite mission.

"The payload will collect visible and infrared images that will be transmitted to ground stations with new tele-communications technology called WENET, developed by the Amateur Radio Experimenters Group (AREG) and staff from UniSA," Dr James says.

"The participants will then process the imagery from the payload and display the results in near real time."

### International Space University

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67400 Illkirch-Graffenstaden • FRANCE  
<http://shs-sp.isunet.edu>

### University of South Australia

Mawson Lakes SA 5095  
AUSTRALIA  
<http://www.unisa.edu.au/spaceprogram>

**Launch Program details:**

0930 At McLaren Vale – pre-launch commentary of the payload and balloon prior to launch

1000 (or thereabouts) balloon launch from Serafino Winery at McLaren Vale

1100 Participants and invited guests move to reception room at Serafino for presentations and tracking the flight on a video screen

**Social Media Handles**

#ISU #SHSSP18

**Background information**

This is the seventh program held at the University of South Australia's Mawson Lakes campus. It is matter of considerable prestige that a South Australian university has been chosen as ISU's partner in this international space education venture – UniSA is the only university in the world to have a continuing partnership with ISU to conduct an annual program.

The SH-SSP is an intensive, five-week, live-in experience in the southern hemisphere summer, involving the international, intercultural, and interdisciplinary educational philosophy for which ISU is renowned. The program is open to participants from all nations with graduate qualifications or who have completed the first two years of their undergraduate studies. The program focuses on space applications, space policy and space services, while giving a well-rounded overview of the principles and concepts involved in space science, space systems engineering and technology, space business and management and space legal and regulatory issues.

As in other ISU programs, students benefit from the experience of an international, interactive working environment shared with other professionals, graduate researchers and senior undergraduate students. Program graduates will become part of the international network of ISU alumni, faculty members and visiting lecturers (numbering more than 4,000 to date).

This year there are 50 participants from a wide range of countries - Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, China, India, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA. Approximately 60 visiting lecturers and staff will come from Australia, Belgium, France, India, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Turkey and the USA.

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