



Amsterdam, 1 March 2024

Re: ASE 2024 Planetary Congress - Invitation to join our mission

Dear space colleagues,

I am pleased to invite you as a partner of the XXXV Planetary Congress of the Association of Space Explorers that I am hosting in the Netherlands from 30 September to 4 October 2024, with 100 international astronauts participating. The ASE 2024 team is working hard to put together a varied and complete program that will be enriching for all participants.

The workforce of the near future is the focus of the Planetary Congress of the ASE, around the theme **Generation Space, shaping the future together**. In the run-up to the congress, more than fifty student teams have already started a challenge to come up with groundbreaking ideas: 'Moonshots'.

The ASE will make every effort to actively involve and enthuse the Dutch community, policy makers and the young generation, for science, technology, innovation and sustainability and the space sector in particular. Astronauts visit various educational institutions, research institutes and companies during the congress week. Technical sessions are live streamed to allow a large audience to participate and experience what spaceflight means in our daily lives.

The conference takes place at the highest level and we will be guests of ESA-ESTEC in Noordwijk. On behalf of the ASE, the André Kuipers Stichting (ANBI) organizes the conference week and supports the educational activities.

With inspiring partners, the foundation wishes to turn this historic event into a great success by providing insight into the indispensable role of space travel within countless crucial sectors. And by helping to improve the connection between education and the labor market and thereby reducing the shortage of technical and scientific staff in particular.

Astronauts stand on the shoulders of giants. The André Kuipers Stichting invites you to be involved as a partner of ASE and to help lay a healthy financial foundation for the conference week and the educational prelude to it in order to allow our society to benefit from this unique opportunity.

Thank you for your trust and support.

André Kuipers

andre@andrekuipers.com

