

14th IFAR Summit Press Release October 17 – 20, 2023

The International Forum for Aviation Research ([IFAR](#)) just concluded its 14th annual Summit, that was organised by be the Italian Aerospace Research Centre ([CIRA](#)), at the beautiful Darwin- Dohrn Museum ([DaDoM](#)), in Naples, Italy. The annual gathering counted more than 75 participants representing 22 countries – a record high!



The International Forum for Aviation Research – IFAR, is the world’s only network of publicly-funded aviation research establishments. IFAR was founded in 2010 and operates on a voluntary, non-binding basis. IFAR’s 26 active aviation research organizations – with more than 40,000 researchers - span all inhabited continents. The picture above shows the 14th IFAR summit at work @CIRA

Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) was the central theme of the 14th IFAR Summit, with focused discussions around environmental sustainability, safety, and successful integration, to ensure efficient multi-modal travel services to the public. The meeting was opened by the President of CIRA, Prof. Antonio Blandini, and chaired by the IFAR Chair and National Research Council of Canada ([NRC](#)) Principal - Ibrahim Yimer, VP Transportation & Manufacturing.

During the 4-day event, distinguished guest speakers shared their vision on AAM. Among the speakers were illustrious figures such as Valeria Fascione, Regional Minister for Innovation, Startup and Internationalization, Carmela Tripaldi, National Civil Aviation authority (ENAC) R&D Programme Manager, and Leonardo Lecce, Novotech CEO. Additional key notes presentations were delivered by Shigeya Watanabe, JAXA Deputy Director General, Danilo Cannoletta, Leonardo Head of NEMESI & Digital Transformation and Andreas Boschen, SESARS3 JU Director.

The Summit also included visits to [Leonardo](#) – a global industrial group that builds technological capabilities in Aerospace, Defence & Security, and [CIRA](#) facilities, to allow the IFAR members to get acquainted with the activities of these two important innovation players in the Campania region, and beyond.

Summit highlights

- Two IFAR research projects were approved on topics of 1) Navigating the Skies: A Guide to Certification for Urban Air Mobility and 2) Atmospheric characterization through in-flight measurements: Atmospheric Electricity and Charging.
- A new IFAR Working Group on Certification by Analysis (CbA) for Metallic Structures was approved. Already 8 countries have expressed interest in joining.
- The Summit participants exchanged ideas and information in the IFAR Café format on the different themes of the Summit, more specifically: greening, co-modality, safety, and security.
- Growing the ICAO cooperation remains IFAR's one of the central objectives. IFAR Principals have approved the go-ahead of the second IFAR scientific assessment in the domain of digitalization in certification processes, with the goal to an agreement announcement at the [2024 ICAO Innovation Fair "Digital Aviation: the Future is Now"](#)



IFAR Café discussing sustainable AAM @DLR; IFAR Summit participants from 22 countries @CIRA; New IFAR Leadership Team @IFAR

The IFAR organizational changes took place with Principal - Ibrahim Yimer, NRC VP Transportation & Manufacturing passing the IFAR chairmanship to Bruno Sainjon, the French Aerospace Lab ([ONERA](#)) Chairman and CEO. Pawel Stezycki, Director at Lukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Aviation ([ILOT](#)) has been nominated as IFAR Vice Chair. Ibrahim Yimer remains on the IFAR Board in the capacity of Past Chair.

The next IFAR Summit will take place in October 2024 in Singapore and will be hosted by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research ([A*STAR](#)).