

Bid Summary

2023 FAI S World Championships for Space Models
for Juniors and Seniors

1-8 July, 2023, Austin, Texas
United States of America



USA-Texas
2023



FAI S World Championships for Space Models
National Association of Rocketry



Ready for the challenge...

In 1972, a group of intrepid competitors traveled to Vršac, Yugoslavia, to participate in the first FAI World Championships for Spacemodels. They had gathered there largely due to the efforts of an American, G. Harry Stine. A decade before, Stine had introduced the young sport of “spacemodeling” to the international air sports community, and was elected as the first Chairman of the FAI Spacemodeling Subcommittee.

Working alongside a handful of friends from across the world, Stine had brought to life a vision of friendly competition that would reach across borders, while also educating young people in a wide range of science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines. Harry led the effort to create a sporting code for these competitions, based largely on successful events already being conducted in the United States.



Team USA, 1980



Team USA, 1992

That first World Championships featured nine countries from three continents. A decade later in 1992, spacemodelers from around the world gathered in Lakehurst, New Jersey, for the 4th World Championships for Spacemodels. That was the last time the United States had the opportunity to host the international space modeling community at a World Championships. The United States is eager to welcome the international spacemodeling community again.



The American Rocketry Challenge, 2019

Experience in event delivery: Our national federation, the National Association of Rocketry, has successfully administered the world’s largest rocket contest since 2003. The American Rocketry Challenge (TARC) annually brings together almost a thousand students from across the US to a launch site near Washington, DC, for a contest on the scale of an FAI World Championship, and we conduct that contest in a single day! While this contest takes place outside the auspices of the FAI, our consistent success in delivering this massive event each

year shows that we are prepared for the challenge of hosting the World Spacemodeling Championships.



F.I.R.E. 2019 participants at Firefly Aerospace

Building relationships for the future: Two years ago, we successfully conducted a small test event at our proposed World Championships site. The Firefly International Rocket Event (F.I.R.E.) leveraged our existing productive relationship with Noosphere Global, and allowed us to forge a new relationship with Firefly Aerospace, an exciting participant in the “new space” movement. These valuable partnerships will allow us to host the World Championships at the production and test facility of a real rocket booster manufacturer.

Leadership in challenging times: As COVID-19 threatened to shut down spacemodeling activity last year, the United States led the way to conduct the first ever World Space Modeling Virtual Open Meet. This friendly online contest allowed people all over the world to keep their skills sharp while staying safe and healthy. 139 competitors from four countries and three continents took part in this groundbreaking venture, led by the US spacemodeling community.

The last time the United States had the opportunity to welcome the international space modeling community to a World Championships was more than a generation ago. In the spirit of “paying forward,” and in honor of G. Harry Stine and the visionaries who made the 1st FAI World Championships for Space Models possible a half-century ago, we are presenting to CIAM our proposal to host the 2023 FAI World Championships for Space Models. The time has come for space modeling to return to the nation where it was born.

We are ready to pay it forward.

The National Association of Rocketry, the world's oldest and largest sport rocketry organization, in conjunction with the Academy of Model Aeronautics, is pleased to submit this bid to host the 2023 FAI World Championships for Space Models.

Organizers: The National Association of Rocketry in conjunction with the Academy of Model Aeronautics, with significant support from Firefly Aerospace. Noosphere Global will also be providing major support for the World Championships.

Event Dates: 1 July through 8 July, 2023. Competition dates will be 3 July through 6 July, 2023.

Event Location: Austin metropolitan area, Texas.

Housing: The primary housing location for competitors and team supporters will be in comfortable student housing located on the campus of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, approximately 26 miles (42km) from the contest venue. Cafeteria-style breakfast and dinner choices will be available for participants who choose this housing option.

Participants who prefer more traditional hotel arrangements will have the opportunity to choose from many options offering a wide range of amenities and prices.

Transportation: Austin's Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) offers direct flights from all major cities in the United States, and also offers convenient direct international service from Toronto, London, Frankfurt, and Amsterdam. Rental vehicles from a wide range of firms are available at all commercial airports.

Visa Support: Visa letters for participants needing these documents will be available, and the Academy of Model Aeronautics has a great deal of experience in guiding FAI event participants through the visa process.

Location: Briggs and Georgetown are part of the Austin metropolitan area, a vibrant, diverse community of over two million residents. Texas is renowned as a "melting pot" of many cultures, and central Texas in particular was shaped by settlers from Mexico, Germany, and Czechia.

Today, Austin is renowned as a active music hub, and is called "the live music capital of the world." Many prominent technology firms have a major presence in the city, including Apple, Dell, Facebook, Google, IBM, and many more. The annual South by Southwest music, film, technology, and media conference draws tens of thousands of the world's most influential people to the city each spring, and the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix brings over a hundred thousand visitors each fall.

Contest Site: For the first time the World Championships will be held on the site of an actual aerospace firm. Based in Cedar Park, Texas, Firefly Aerospace is actively engaged in the development of a family of small and medium space launch boosters. The Firefly test site in nearby Briggs, Texas, offers a unique opportunity to fly space models at a facility where actual space boosters are being constructed and tested.

Flying Field: The competition field for the World Championships will be adjacent to the Firefly Aerospace test site in Briggs, Texas. The range and recovery area will cover approximately 500 square acres (200 hectares). GPS coordinates for the field are 30°52'31.9"N 97°55'28.7"W.



Firefly's Test Site in Briggs is used for testing of rocket motors and integrated stage structures, as well as manufacture and assembly of booster structures.

Weather: Temperatures in central Texas during early July are hot, but manageable. Expect highs each day to be around 93°F (34C), with lows overnight at 76°F (24C). Rain is rare during July. Winds during the summer are typically from the south-southeast. Plenty of water and ice will be on hand to help participants stay cool.

Rules: The championship will be administered according to the FAI Sporting Code, Section 4, CIAM General Rules and Volume Space Models, (most recent edition) and the FAI General Section and FAI Code of Ethics.

Motors: All motors used in this Championship must be legal and certified for use, transport, and sale in the United States. To simplify the challenges traditionally associated with motor transport to space modeling events, the organizers will provide all motors to be used by competitors at this World Championships.

This will be a change to the traditional World Championships paradigm. By removing the burden of motor transport from the participating teams, this will be an exciting, efficient, equitable, and safe event. Specifics on motor selection and “common motor box” usage have been developed by an international working group of experienced space modelers and contest administrators.

Perhaps the most significant change is that each and every competitor will be using the exact same motors, leveling the playing field and producing spirited, compelling, and fair competition. It will truly be a test between the best flyers in the world, not the motor producers.

Both Estes and Aerotech products are legal for purchase and shipment in most European countries. Very detailed specifications of the available motors will be published leading up to the Championships, including dimensional and performance data.

Bid Website: Complete details of our proposal may be found at: www.nar.org/site/wsmc-2023

