



أكاديمية الشارقة  
لعلوم وتكنولوجيا الفضاء والفلك  
SHARJAH ACADEMY FOR ASTRONOMY, SPACE  
SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY



INAF  
ISTITUTO NAZIONALE  
DI ASTRONOMIA



Embassy of Italy  
Abu Dhabi

# الأجنحة Program



الملتقى الإماراتي-الإيطالي الثنائي الأول  
لعلوم الفضاء والفلك EIBSSAF2026

[www.SAASST.ae](http://www.SAASST.ae)

☎ 06 516 6000



09:00–10:00 ✦ Registration & Coffee

10:00–10:35 ✦ Opening Ceremony

**Forum Opening**

MC: Mr. Ammar Abdulla – Research Analyst, SAAST

**Welcome Speech**

H.E. Prof. Isam Agamy – Chancellor, UoS

**Opening Address**

H.E. Prof. Hamid Al Naimiy – Director, SAAST

**Guest of Honour Address**

H.E. Lorenzo Fanara – Ambassador, Italian Embassy in UAE

**Keynote Address**

Roberto Ragazzoni – President, INAF

10:35–10:50 ✦ MoU Signing

H.E. Prof. Isam Agamy – Chancellor, UoS

Roberto Ragazzoni – President, INAF

10:50–11:00 ✦ Group Photo

11:00–12:00 ✦ Plenary Session I: UAE Radio Astronomy Experience

Chair: Prof. Mashoor Al Wardat – Director of Academic Affairs Department, SAAST

**-Radio Astronomy Capabilities at SAAST:**

**Achievements, Challenges, and Future Directions**

Mr. Mohammed Rihan – Research Analyst, SAAST

**-Radio Astronomy Capabilities at UAEU:**

**Developing a Low-Frequency Radio Array Facility**

Dr. Aquib Moin – Associate Professor, UAEU

-Invited Speaker Dr. Rim Fares – Associate Professor, UAEU

**-Radio Astronomy Capabilities at KU:**

**Cosmic-ray Measurements with Radio Telescopes**

Prof. Satyendra Thoudam – Assistant Professor, Khalifa University

12:00–13:00 ✦ Plenary Session II: Italy Radio Astronomy Experience

Chair: Yazan Al-Momany – Scientific Attaché, Italian Embassy in the UAE

**-The role of Italy in Radio Astronomy:  
history, challenges and opportunities**

Gianfranco Brunetti – Director, INAF-IRA Bologna

**- Radio Astronomy and science with Very Long**

**Baseline Interferometry**

Tiziana Venturi – Research Director, INAF-IRA Bologna

13:00–14:00 ✦ Lunch Reception & Networking

14:00–15:00 ✦ Thematic Exchange Session I:

Chair: Simone Zaggia – First Researcher, INAF

**Scientific Research & Operations**

**- Round Table**

Prof. Zouhair Binkhaldoun – Director of Astronomical Observatories, SAAST

Prof. Andrea Macciò – Professor, NYUAD

Isabella Pagano – Scientific Director, INAF

15:00–16:00 ✦ Thematic Exchange Session II:

Chair: Marco Poloni – Technologist, INAF-IRA

**Infrastructure, Technology & Instrumentation Engineering**

**- Round Table**

Dr. Aquib Moin – Associate Professor, UAEU

Mr. Mohammed Al Zarooni – Facilities Support Engineer, SAAST

Mr. Mohammed Rihan – Research Analyst, SAAST

16:00–16:20 ✦ Coffee Break

16:20–17:00 ✦ Thematic Exchange Session III: Radio Interference:

**Impact & Mitigation**

Chair: Prof. Andrea Macciò – Professor, NYUAD

-Invited Speaker Simonetta Di Pippo – Visiting Professor, NYUAD

**-The INAF activity on spectrum management and RFI  
monitoring to protect the Radio Astronomy Service**

Pietro Bolli – Senior Technologist, INAF-OA Arcetri

17:00–19:00 ✦ SAAST Guided Tour

Ms. Fatima Al Khateri – Senior Scientific Guide, SAAST

19:00–21:00 ✦ GALA Dinner

Day 1  
Monday,  
9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2026



أكاديمية الشارقة للعلوم  
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جامعة الشارقة  
SAAST, UOS

# Day 2

## Tuesday, 10th Feb. 2026

**09:00–10:00** ✦ **Technical Session I: Installation & Commissioning**  
**-Development and Challenges in Radio antenna and receivers**  
Jader Monari – Senior Technologist, INAF-IRA  
**-Radio-Telescopes and Arrays: installation, commissioning and preparation for early science**  
Marco Poloni – Technologist, INAF-IRA

**11:00–11:20** ✦ **Coffee Break**

**11:20–13:00** ✦ **Technical Session II: Data Acquisition**  
**-Radio Astronomy: Antennas and Receivers**  
Renzo Nesti – First Technologist, INAF – OAArcetri  
**-Examples of state-of-the-art antennas and receivers for radio astronomical application**  
Pietro Bolli – Senior Technologist, INAF-OAArcetri  
**-Radio Astronomy: Data acquisition systems**  
Giovanni Naldi – Technologist, INAF-IRA

**13:00–14:00** ✦ **Lunch Reception & Networking**

**14:00–16:00** ✦ **Technical Session III: Space Awareness**  
**-The Earth space debris environment**  
Alessandro Rossi – Senior Researcher, INAF – OAArcetri

**-Radar monitoring of space debris**  
Germano Bianchi – Senior Technologist, INAF-IRA  
**-Radar observation of Near Earth Objects**  
Giuseppe Pupillo – Senior Researcher, INAF – IRA

**16:00–16:20** ✦ **Coffee Break**

**16:20–18:00** ✦ **Technical Session IV:  
Computation (Correlation, Beamforming, & Data Analysis)**  
**-HPC, Big Data and AI for Radio Astronomy in the Age of Computing**  
Claudio Gheller – First Technologies, INAF-IRA  
**-Software correlation for baseline interferometry - an insight on its challenges and results**  
Matteo Stagni – Technologist, INAF-IRA

## Day 3

# Wednesday, 11th Feb. 2026

09:30–11:00 ✦ **Hands on Session I: Academic Collaboration & Public Engagement**  
Chair: Marcello Giroletti – Senior Researcher, INAF  
**- Collaborative review of science projects involving students and staff, personnel and student exchanges, and public outreach joint initiatives**

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11:00–11:20 ✦ **Coffee Break**

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11:20 – 13:00 ✦ **Hands on Session II: Infrastructure & Technology**  
Chair: Marcello Giroletti – Senior Researcher, INAF  
**Co-Development Opportunities**  
**- Collaborative review of outstanding technological challenges and practical implementation of possible solutions**

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13:00–14:00 ✦ **Lunch Reception & Networking**

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14:00–15:00 ✦ **Closing Ceremony**

15:00–22:00 **Stargazing Trip**  
 **Sharjah Desert**