

Spring 2025

An astronaut in a white spacesuit is floating in space, holding a white tether. The Earth's horizon is visible in the background, showing a blue and white curve against the blackness of space.

ODYSSEY

The official newsletter of the Space Science
& Engineering Foundation

SSEF (Space Science Engineering Foundation) Registered Charity 1170548

COMING UP IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

EDC; BARBADOS

News from the UKSDC finals; Almost 300 of the most talented young minds from across the UK.

SPSDC- Beginnings

SPSDC- Spanish Space Design Competition 2025: A Resounding Success

TOP TIP; useful search engine 'workarounds'

UNIVERSITY SPACE DESIGN COMPETITION;

Since our last Newsletter

LATEST SPACE NEWS FROM AROUND THE WEB; #space and #enviro on social.

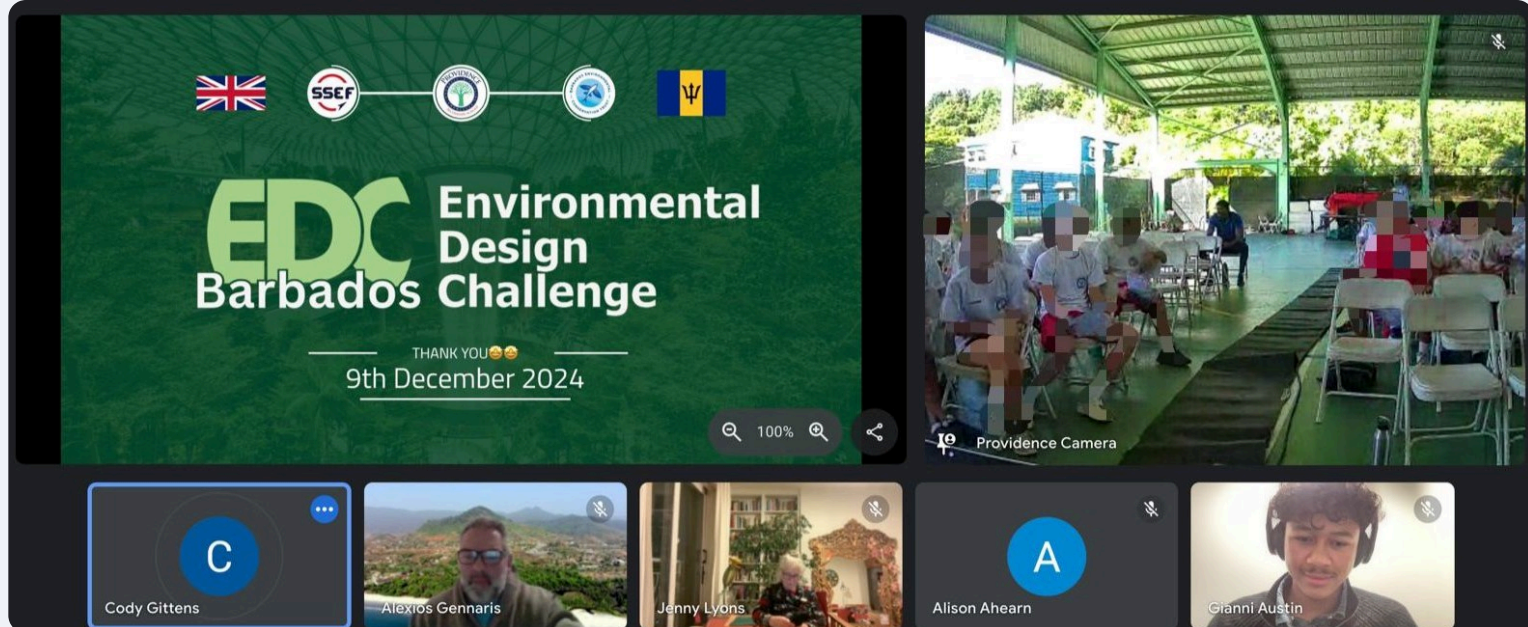
Our list of wonderful sponsors and supporters, past and present.

Get ready for the 2025-2026 season of SSEF competitions and challenges.

Find upcoming UK Space events- [Click Here](#)

Find upcoming UK Eco events- [Click Here](#)

FEATURE



Barbados Takes The Lead in the NASA-Inspired ‘Barbados Environmental Design Challenge (BBEDC)’

Barbados delivered the first international version of Space Science Engineering Foundation’s (SSEF) Environmental Design Challenge (EDC). This pilot version of the EDC was executed at the Providence Secondary School through the Barbados Environmental Conservation Trust on December 9th, 2024. Now named the Barbados Environmental Design Challenge (BBEDC), spearheaded by Gianni Austin, BECT Junior Steering Committee Lead and SSEF Barbados Development Lead, the event brought an immersive, industry-style design experience to local students.

To read more about the Barbados event [CLICK HERE](#)

News from the UKSDC



UKSDC Finals 2025:

Future Space Engineers Rise to the Challenge

The UK Space Design Competition (UKSDC) National Finals took place on 8-9 March at Imperial College London, bringing together over 260 of the most talented young minds from across the UK.

Divided into four companies of over 60 people, the students had just 24 hours to tackle an ambitious challenge—designing Astoria, a futuristic resource extraction facility in the Asteroid Belt. Working under intense pressure, they had to consider everything from engineering and structural integrity to life support, operations, and finance. Their final designs were presented to a prestigious panel of Judges from academia and industry, who were blown away by the creativity and technical expertise on display.

The event's success was made possible by an incredible team of volunteers, whose guidance and support helped the students bring their ideas to life. A special thanks also goes to United Airlines, who not only supported the students throughout the weekend but will also be sponsoring the top 12 finalists to attend the International Space Settlement Design Competition in Florida this July. This elite team, selected from all participants at the UKSDC Finals, will represent the UK on the global stage at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

With innovation, teamwork, and inspiration at its core, this year's UKSDC Finals once again proved that the future of space engineering is in very capable hands!

SPSDC

How the SPSPDC was started.

Mónica Juárez Jiménez explains how the SPSPDC began.

Since 2019, JOYFE College has actively participated in the Space Design Competitions (SDC), encouraging student interest in space exploration and engineering.

To find out more- [CLICK HERE](#)

A big thank you to Mónica and Óscar for supporting the EU teams at the ISSDC.



Monica and her husband Óscar Partida

SPSPDC 2025



Spanish Space Design Competition 2025:

A Resounding Success

The Spanish Space Design Competition 2025 (SPSDC 2025), organized by the Spanish Space Initiative (SPSIN) in collaboration with the Community of Madrid, brought together over 200 students in Madrid, aged 15 to 18, who faced the ambitious challenge of designing space colonies on Mars. The event showcased outstanding creativity, technical expertise, and a deep commitment to innovation in space exploration. The SPSSDC 2025 was marked by the high level of its participants and the quality of their proposals. The organizing team, led by Pablo Asenjo, Enrique Jiménez, Pablo Gutiérrez, and Lorena Terrón, played a crucial role in ensuring the competition's success.

To read in English- [CLICK HERE](#)

To read in Spanish- [CLICK HERE](#)

TOP TIP:

Top Tip: Finding more useful information via Google search engine 'workarounds':

Solution: There two tricks that can help

Trick 1: ADD the term **udm=14** to your normal search which, by default, will be in the "All" section of the Google search engine. udm=14 merely tells the search engine what to DISPLAY (i.e. skip past the generic

Trick 2: Enter the normal search terms, but instead of searching 'All' of Google (which includes all its A.I.-generated stuff), select **Web** from the options **under the search box**.

A full explanation with some handy screen shots- [CLICK HERE](#)

UNIVERSITY SPACE DESIGN COMPETITION



On the 22nd March, two talented teams of students, from across the wide range of disciplines on offer at the [University of Southampton](#), created their proposals for a **Quantum Computing and Prototyping facility on Mars in 2075**.

To find out more- [CLICK HERE](#)

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

Team SSEF has been very busy since our last newsletter, with a total of another **24 events** being added to the SDC repertoire!

As ever, we would not be able to deliver these events without our amazing alumni. You really are the backbone of the SDC world, creating RFP's, adding to the online story world, and giving up your free time to run the events.

We were lucky enough to be joined by [Barbara Kennedy](#) for a month in March. Barbara has just taken up the newly created post of CEO for the Aerospace Education Competitions (AEC) that manages the ISSDC. In her time here, she managed to attend the UK Finals, the EUSDC Finals and the inaugural University Space Design Competition.

I know how impressed Barbara was with everything she saw, as she has poached many of you to help with the ISSDC this year!



Barbara Kennedy

If you want your experiences to be featured in our Newsletter, then let us know by contacting us at b.mann@ssef.org.uk

VOLUNTEERING

Gain work experience, have fun, and support the Space Science and Engineering Foundation, (SSEF), by becoming a volunteer. Our volunteers help with both our senior and junior Space and Environmental challenges. Modes are online or in person, weekends or in the summer.

Volunteers are essential to the SSEF to enable us to run our free-to-enter events in the UK and EU .

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about the benefits of volunteering, the modes of volunteering, what you do/do not do as a volunteer, and how you can have impact, fun and learn.

Your connection to the British Interplanetary Society



NEWS

We look at the latest space and environmental news from around the world.



Inside Science

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UN Environmental news

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#SPACE & #ENVIRO ON SOCIAL



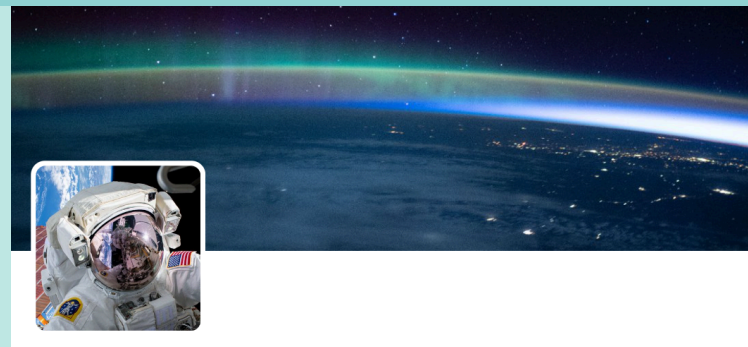
If you're interested in learning more about space then there is so much information out there on social media. Below is a selection of some recent #space tweets and videos. Why not follow some of the sites to keep up to date with all the latest news?



@Spacegovuk

We inspire and lead the UK in space to benefit our planet and it's people.

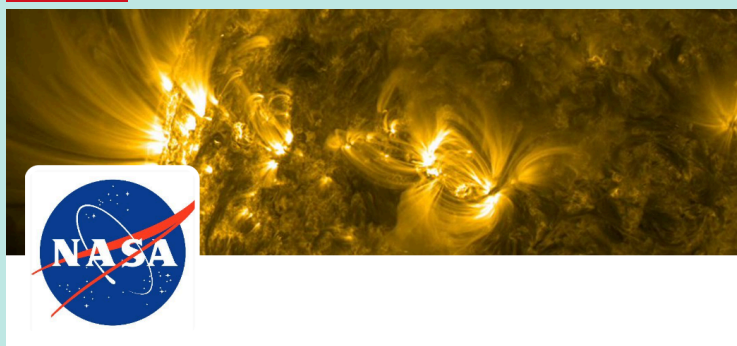
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@Space_Station

NASA's page for the latest updates from the International Space Station.

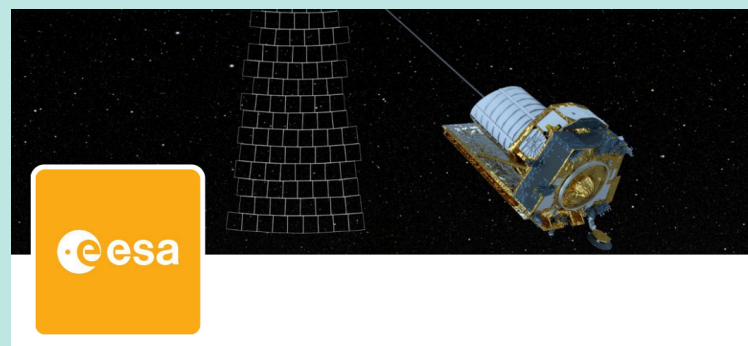
[Click Here](#)



@NASA

There's space for everybody. ✨

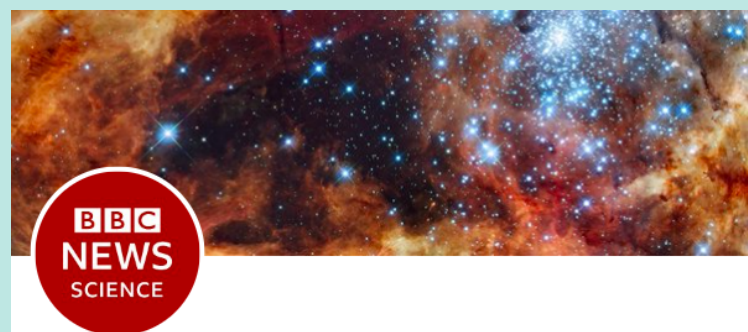
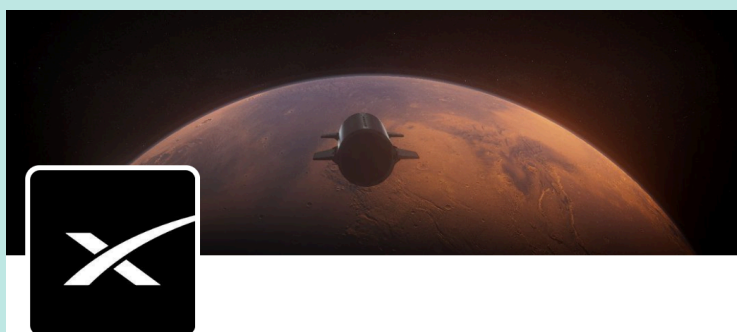
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WANT MORE INFORMATION?

If your school would like more information on any of SSEF's programmes, please contact Jenny Lyons at j.lyons@ssef.org.uk or Sam Hession at s.hession@ssef.org.uk

Other ways to get involved with the SSEF

[Become a Sponsor](#)

[Volunteer](#)

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Students will never forget the people they meet, the friends they make, or the supporters who help them. Backing the SSEF is not a one-way street. Sponsorship is as advantageous for you and your future as for the young designers and explorers of tomorrow.



Thanks for reading.

Have you benefitted from taking part in SSEF events?

If so, please consider a [donation to SSEF](#).

Space Science & Engineering Foundation

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