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UAE on a mission to become world-class player in space sector

Space agency holds talks with 10 foreign delegations to drive collaboration

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

The UAE Space Agency's Director General Salem Butti Al Qubaisi, yesterday concluded high-level strategic talks with 10 government and business delegations as part of the nation's drive to become a world-class space player.

The high-level meetings to promote closer cooperation and collaboration in space, science and technology took place at the 72nd International Astronautical Congress (IAC), which the UAE is hosting for the first time ever.

Among them included talks with the European Space Agency's Director General, Dr Josef Aschbacher, to explore Emirati-European astronautical missions and the exchange of satellite data. A meeting with the Saudi Space Commission presented an opportunity to advance joint initiatives under the umbrella of the Emirati-Saudi Space cooperation.

Private sector focus

The UAE Space Agency also met with Dr. Joel Marciano Jr, Director General of the Philippines Space Agency in the presence of the Philippines Ambassador to the UAE, Hjayceelyn M. Quintana.

Under the UAE Space Agency's strategy to create a competitive private sector and attract foreign direct investment, Al Qubaisi met with the Director General of European

Space may be the next frontier of business investment and innovation, but the only way navigate this complex environment is through enhanced international cooperation."

Salem Butti Al Qubaisi
Director General, UAE Space Agency

aerospace giant Airbus, which provides satellites, spacecraft, civilian and military launch services as well as commercial aircraft. A meeting also took place with Israel Aerospace Industries, a week after the UAE and Israel signed a strategic agreement to work together on a range of space-related matters, including the Beresheet 2 lunar mission. Other meetings included direct talks with Blue Origin, Safran and the UK Space Agency.

Al Qubaisi, said: "Space may be the next frontier of business investment and innovation, but the only way navigate this complex environment is through enhanced international cooperation. The 72nd IAC has provided a unique opportunity to bring 110 participating countries and space agencies together to take a quantum leap forward in humanity's ongoing efforts to use cutting-edge science and technology to explore the solar system and beyond."

During the meetings, Al Qubaisi also provided updates on the latest achievements of the Emirates Mars Mission's Hope Probe.



UAE Space Agency's Director General Salem Butti Al Qubaisi during high-level talks with foreign delegates at the International Astronautical Congress in Dubai.