

Simpósio ESPAÇO: A contribuição Portuguesa em Investigação e Desenvolvimento

50 Anos do primeiro voo Espacial tripulado
(Yuri Gagarin, 12 de Abril de 1961)

30 anos do primeiro voo do Space Shuttle
(12 de Abril de 1981)

Instituto Superior Técnico

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12 April 2011: Celebrating Two historical milestones in Space Exploration

- **12 April 1961.** Yuri Gagarin embarks in a Vostok I spacecraft on an 108 min historical spaceflight around the Earth
- *“Dear friends, you who are close to me, and you whom I do not know, fellow Russians, and people of all countries and all continents: In a few minutes a powerful space vehicle will carry me into the distant realm of space. What can I tell you in these last minutes before the launch? My whole life appears to me as one beautiful moment. All that I previously lived through and did, was lived through and done for the sake of this moment.”*



12 April 2011: Celebrating Two historical milestones in Space Exploration

- **12 April 1981.** The Space Shuttle Columbia is launched on her maiden flight, heralding a new age in space exploration.
- A full circle is closed 30 years later, with the retirement of one of the most iconic Space vehicles in history, leaving an outstanding legacy in space engineering.



Yuri's Night

- International celebration held every 12th April to commemorate space exploration.
- Aims to increase public interest in space exploration and inspire a new generation of space explorers.
- Was created by Loretta Hidalgo, George T. Whitesides and Trish Garner in the US. The first was held in 2001, on the 40th anniversary of human spaceflight. Cosmonautics Day, established in the USSR in 1962, precedes it.
- Radio Zero brought Yuri's Night to Lisbon in 2010.



Celebrating Space in IST

- Premiere of the movie *"First Orbit"*, reenacting the pioneering spaceflight of Gagarin, and two Documentaries about the Space race, and Space exploration after the Moon landings.
- Exposition of pictures from Planet Mars obtained by ESA Mars EXPRESS spacecraft and other thematic Space related material.
- A closing concert and screening of "First orbit"
- A 24 hour special space themed broadcast in Radio Zero.



- 522 Humans have visited Space.
- Space exploration moved from a competitive towards a collaborative endeavor.
- Portugal launched its maiden satellite, PoSat 1, in 1993.
- Portugal joined the European Space Agency in 2000, and has also been collaborating with NASA.
- Young and dynamic community, fully integrated in European and world space research activities.
- Objective of the Symposium: Give visibility to high-quality research by Portuguese scientists and engineers.