

Social
Impact



Impact Story

European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting 2025

Promoting and Advancing Astronomy
in Europe

University College Cork



CONFERENCE DETAILS

WHEN
June 2025

DELEGATES
1500

WHERE
University College Cork

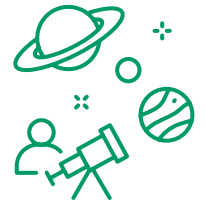
ECONOMIC IMPACT
€3.5 million

**The European Astronomical Society
Annual Meeting 2025 was aligned with the
following UN Sustainable Development Goals**



The European Astronomical Society (EAS) promotes and advances astronomy in Europe. The EAS acts on matters that need to be handled at a European level on behalf of the European astronomical community, through collaboration with affiliated national astronomical societies and pan-European research organisations and networks.

INNOVATION IN ASTROPHYSICS, COMPLEMENTED BY THE CULTURE AND HISTORY OF CORK



Hosted at University College Cork (UCC), the European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting (EAS) took place 23–27 June 2025 in Cork. It was officially the largest astronomy conference ever held in Ireland, drawing over 1500 astronomers from around the world, including an additional 600 attendees online.

The conference brought together astronomers from across Europe and beyond to discuss new research, breakthroughs, and emerging developments in all branches of astronomy and astrophysics. In addition, it created space for the community to assess developments in world leading European astronomy projects,

including large-scale observatories and space missions. It also offered the opportunity to broaden connections between national communities and foster collaboration across Europe, in the richly historic and cultural surroundings of Cork city.

The entire conference including plenary sessions, symposia, special sessions, and public events, was hosted on the UCC campus, positioning the university and Ireland “at the heart of European astronomy” for one week.

Dr. Mark Kennedy led the local organising committee, with support from Kuoni Tumlare, and worked in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and **Cork Convention Bureau**.

The European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting 2025 made a significant contribution to local businesses and the Irish science sector. Some of the key highlights are:

- The European Southern Observatory launched the process of selecting its next transformational facility. This process will conclude in 2028, and the final facility will be completed in the mid-2040s. The launch of this process at EAS means Cork will forever be associated with the future of ground-based astronomy in Europe.
- A special session of the “Astronomy on Tap” outreach event was held at the Franciscan Well Brewpub, which brought 200 members of the public together with leading researchers from across Europe. The event has continued on a bi-monthly basis since, ensuring communities in Cork are made aware of the groundbreaking astronomy research which is happening in their city and beyond.
- Environmental impact was at the heart of the conference, with several initiatives

trialled to encourage sustainability. This included supplying attendees with portable coffee mugs for use throughout the week (meaning zero single use cups were used during the conference) and giving an award to the international attendee who had travelled to the conference with the smallest carbon footprint.

- The conference featured many prestigious attendees such as Minister

James Lawless TD, who spoke at the formal opening of the conference, Cork City Lord Mayor Fergal Dennehy, who attended the reception in Cork City Goal, and esteemed Irish astronomers who led some of the key science sessions during the conference. Their presence served to promote Irish science to key stakeholders and demonstrated the need for the Government's continued support in this sector.



“ Organising the largest conference Cork city has ever hosted presented me with ample opportunities to work on my leadership and management skills. The entire UCC and Cork community rallied together to pull off this incredibly complex event, and I feel privileged to have been able to play my part. The logistics of securing, hosting, and financing the conference wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of the Cork Convention Bureau and Fáilte Ireland, whose staff are incredibly knowledgeable and have a clear vision for making Cork and Ireland a renowned destination. ”

Dr. Mark Kennedy, Conference Ambassador

