

27TH AMOS

Advanced Maui Optical and Space
Surveillance Technologies Conference

SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2026
Wailea Beach Reosrt, Maui, Hawaii



ENHANCING YOUR CAREER IN SPACE
A JOINT INITIATIVE OF THE
AMOS CONFERENCE AND SGAC

SEP 13-15

PRESS KIT

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DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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#AMOScon #EMERGEN2026

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EVENT DATE: AMOS Conference - Sept 15-18, 2026
EMER-GEN Conference – Sept 13-15, 2026

LOCATION: Wailea Beach Resort
3700 Wailea Alanui Drive, Wailea, HI 96753

FAST FACTS



Description: The Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance Technologies (AMOS) Conference is the premier technical conference in the nation devoted to space situational awareness. The cross section of private sector, government, and academic participation helps foster important dialogue and international collaboration. The continued growth in attendance and participating countries at AMOS reflects a growing interest in space sustainability and space commerce initiatives as new actors—national governments, private sector companies, non-governmental entities, and universities—become involved in these activities.

The conference is hybrid with an in-person event complemented by virtual components including livestream.

The call for papers for the 2026 AMOS Conference closes March 2 and anticipates attracting abstracts from over 20 countries. The number and content of the submissions demonstrate the continued evolution and advancements in field of space domain awareness and is reflected in the session topics to be covered this year: AI for SDA, Astrodynamics, Cislunar SDA, Conjunction/RPO, Satellite Characterization, SDA Systems & Instrumentation, Space-based Assets, Space Debris, Space Domain Awareness; and Atmospherics/Space Weather.

Papers are eligible for publication in the 2026 Journal of Astronautical Sciences as well as a Best Paper and Presentation Award. There is also a Student Award for the best manuscript submitted by a student.

In addition to the Technical Sessions, the AMOS Conference features Keynote Speakers, Policy Forums and Technical Short Courses. The on-site Exhibit Venue provides opportunities for sponsors to showcase new technologies and services as well as encouraging networking. There will also be virtual access to posters and networking rooms.

This will be the ninth year of the **EMER-GEN program**, designed especially for young professionals and students (35 and under) enthusiastic about careers in space. The program will be in-person with three webinars pre-event to prepare the cohort.

Presenter: This event is presented by the **Maui Economic Development Board**, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1982 with a mission to diversify Maui County's economy, building pathways to innovation, jobs and opportunities for our residents. Through partnerships with the public and private sector, MEDB undertakes projects that assist growth industries with navigating and thriving in our county, educates and trains residents for new careers, and engages our community in forums that determine future economic directions.

AMOS CONFERENCE FAST FACTS – continued

Technical Chairs

Paul Kervin, AFRL/RDSM retired
Daron Nishimoto, Maui Economic Development Board

2026 Session Topics and Chairs

AI for SDA Applications

Justin Fletcher, USSF SSC/BCB
Heather James, Kitware, Inc.

Astrodynamics

Laura Pirovano, Northstar Earth & Space
Paul Schumacher, AFRL (Retired)

Atmospherics/Space Weather

Piyush Mehta, West Virginia University
Shaylah Mutschler, Space Environment Technologies

Cislunar SDA

Mark Bolden, Trusted Space
Jaime Stearns, Space RCO

Conjunction/RPO

Zach Funke, University of Colorado Boulder
Jonathan Kadan, SSC/SYD 85/BI Odyssey Systems

Satellite Characterization

Heather Cowardin, NASA
Marcus Holzinger, University of Colorado Boulder

SDA Systems & Instrumentation

Brett Hokr, EO Solutions
Jim Shell, Novarum Tech, LLC

Space-Based Assets

BT Cesul, Umbra
Neil Dhingra, BlackSky

Space Debris

Chris Kunstadter, Triton Space LLC
Darren McKnight, LeoLabs

Space Domain Awareness

Jeremy Raley, AFRL (Retired)
Ayla Reed, 15th Space Surveillance Squadron (MD2)

AMOS CONFERENCE FAST FACTS – continued

Technical Short Courses

Short courses provide opportunities for working professionals to upgrade their technical job skills and remain abreast of recent developments in their respective fields of interest. The small size of each class gives you an excellent opportunity for personalized instruction. Taught by highly regarded industry experts on a variety of subjects, courses will be scheduled to be presented either in-person on Maui on September 15; or online on September 14.

Courses are selected through a Call for Short Course Proposals with a deadline of March 2 to submit. Courses are announced and open for registration in June.

2026 Sponsors - TBA

FAQs

How did the conference come to be on Maui?

Maui has some of the most diverse and highly capable optical telescopes (AEOS), instrumentation (adaptive optics, spectrometers, photometers, radiometers, etc.) and processing capabilities (MHPCC) centralized into one location on the planet earth.

The AMOS Conference began in 1999 as an AFRL initiative, executed by the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB). At that time, the focus of the conference was as a users' conference and to promote the Air Force Maui Optical and Supercomputing Site (AMOS) which has provided the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) with space situational awareness (SSA) capabilities for over 65 years (since 1951).

In 2006, MEDB assumed ownership of the AMOS Conference from the Air Force, and proceeded to build upon early success by evaluating and adding elements to the conference that bring value to the SSA/SDA (Space Domain Awareness) Community. In the 19 years since, MEDB's intent in presenting the AMOS Conference is still to support the Air Force's mission on Maui which, in turn, supports MEDB's mission of economic diversification.

What are the various activities of the AMOS Conference?

For the AMOS Conference to continue to be of benefit to the Air Force, it must also be of benefit to the SSA/SDA Community at large. The conference has expanded from solely technical sessions to include exhibition and sponsorship opportunities; SSA Policy sessions that explore international issues; keynotes by international SSA thought leaders; invited workshops that promote international collaboration and cooperation on SSA/SDA topics; and technical short courses. Evening receptions provide informal opportunities to network and build connections.

New in 2025 was the introduction of **digital touch screen monitors** for displaying posters, replacing the printed versions. Select poster presenters will be scheduled to give an 8-minute overview of their poster during the Wednesday and Thursday's poster receptions.

How are presenters selected for the Technical Sessions?

A [Call for Papers](#) is announced at the beginning of the year with submissions closing March 2. Papers are reviewed and selected by Technical Chairs that have been selected to moderate the specific sessions noted to be in high demand by the submissions.

Papers that are not accepted for an oral presentation may be invited to present a poster. To expand the number of opportunities to present at AMOS, virtual posters are offered with select presenters invited to present in-person. All presenters, oral or poster, are required to submit a final paper by August 21 in order to present at the AMOS Conference.

AMOS CONFERENCE FAQ – continued

Where are the Technical Papers published?

Final papers are collated into the Proceedings for the year and available for purchase 8-10 weeks post-Conference. The Conference also maintains an archive of individual technical papers presented at the AMOS Conference since 2006 which is searchable online as a resource to the SSA technical community. These are now located in the AMOS Conference Technical Library (launched in November, 2025) at <https://amostech.space>

In 2026, relevant papers will be considered for publication in the 2026 AMOS Collection in the Journal of Astronautical Sciences, an archival publication devoted to the sciences and technology of astronautics. Articles are published which present significant new results, important insights, or state of the art surveys in all areas of astrodynamics, celestial mechanics, atmospheric flight mechanics, navigation and guidance, and space-related sciences.

What awards are associated with the AMOS Conference?

For the ninth year, the Space Surveillance Technical Committee of the American Astronautical Society (AAS) and AMOS Conference will present a Student Award for the best manuscript submitted and presented by a student. The winner receives a \$3,000 stipend, as well as free registration for both the AMOS Conference and EMER-GEN.

All presentations are eligible for an overall Best Paper that will be presented end of the Conference. Poster presenters are also in the running for awards – Best Poster, Most Creative, Best Newcomer and Best Poster Pitch Presentation.

What is the AMOS Policy Forum?

The AMOS Policy Forum (previously called SSA Policy Forum), coordinated in collaboration with Secure World Foundation, explores international issues related to Space Situational Awareness in a panel format. Held at the start of each day of the 3-day AMOS Conference, Wednesday to Friday, the sessions are preceded by a relevant keynote presented by an invited SSA thought leader. Bringing together the developers and implementers of SSA capabilities and the architects of SSA policy provides a forum to interact at a time when the landscape is rapidly changing. This year's topics are yet to be announced.

How will the virtual conference experience be for attendees?

A robust virtual platform provided by X-CD technologies will allow attendees to attend the live plenary sessions and participate in Q & A via a chat function. The platform will include a poster venue and the opportunity to network with fellow attendees. Technical sessions will be on-demand, and all presentations will be recorded for later access by those registered unable to attend the live streaming.

A virtual exhibit hall will have a collection of resources (links and downloads) provided by sponsors. In the poster venue, attendees can view pre-recorded 3-minute presentations of the posters and post questions to the presenters via the discussion board.

AMOS CONFERENCE FAQ – continued

Who attends?

Along with United States representatives from military, government, academia and commercial sectors, the number of countries that have attended over the history of AMOS Conference is 46 – Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

A sampling of companies, universities, and government organizations that have attended AMOS can be [viewed/downloaded](#).

What is EMER-GEN and what do you expect to achieve?

The EMER-GEN program is a joint initiative of the AMOS Conference and the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC). Designed especially for young professionals and students (35 and under) enthusiastic about careers in space, the original 2+ day program has grown to include webinars before the main event with a focus on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among the cohort. Through the whole program, participants are challenged to solve/hack a problem to create new opportunities for space-based technologies.

With the help of advisers from industry, government, academia and NGOs, the EMER-GEN experience offers the experience offers

- Mentoring with renowned space specialists from the public sector (military and civil), private sector, and non-governmental organizations
- Networking with other young professionals
- Technical Short Course presented by a specialist in space situational awareness
- Professional Development sessions to enhance your effectiveness in a global environment

The partnership with SGAC provides an opportunity to extend the reach of the AMOS Conference and to contribute to the professional development of the upcoming space generation.

Scholarships are available to Hawaii-based residents.

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2026 AMOS CONFERENCE PRESS RELEASES

(latest to earliest)

Contact: Annette Lynch, Director of Communications, Maui Economic Development Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Submissions sought for AMOS 2026 – Abstracts and Short Course Proposals

Kihei, Maui, Hawaii, January 13, 2026 – The 2026 AMOS Conference has launched its Call for Papers and is now accepting submissions for technical papers related to space domain awareness. All submissions are due March 2. The 27th annual AMOS Conference, presented by Maui Economic Development Board, is scheduled to take place September 15-18, 2026.

Recognized as the preeminent scientific conference in the field of space situational/domain awareness (SSA/SDA), the AMOS Conference is attended by over 1,000 scientists, engineers and space experts from around the globe and across industry, government, military, and academic sectors.

Featuring technical short courses and more than 150 presentations, the four-day event includes work in astrodynamics, cislunar SDA, satellite characterization, space weather, artificial intelligence and more. The conference also features high-level presentations and panel discussions by key stakeholders in space policy.

The annual conference is an in-person event with virtual attendance options. All presenters must be available to present in-person. To accommodate a greater technical body of work for the SSA/SDA community, select poster presentations are designated as pre-recorded virtual-only presentations.

The AMOS Technical Committee reviews all submissions from the annual Call for Papers and selects those that best meet the scientific and technical standards of the conference. Submissions are encouraged from international, undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a STEM degree at an accredited college or university. International and student participants receive a reduced conference fee.

Please visit <https://amostech.com/cfp/> for all the details on submitting an abstract. Proposals for special sessions, such as panels and featured oral presentations are also considered.

Publication in the Journal of Astronautical Sciences

The AMOS Conference, in conjunction with the American Astronautical Society (AAS), is delighted to provide participating authors the opportunity to be published in a peer-reviewed journal. The Journal of the Astronautical Sciences is an archival publication devoted to the sciences and technology of astronautics. Invitations to be peer-reviewed and considered for publication in a special AMOS Conference issue of the Journal of Astronautical Sciences will be extended upon conclusion of the Conference. [Learn more.](#)

Awards

In collaboration with the Space Surveillance Committee of the American Astronautical Society (AAS), the AMOS Conference recognizes outstanding efforts in the field of Space Situational

Awareness by presenting a series of awards at the close of the annual conference. Award criteria and details are available online at <https://amostech.com/awards>.

The Student Best Paper Award provides funding assistance in the form of a stipend. Once accepted into the conference, the deadline for submission of the completed manuscript is August 14.

Posters are also judged for design and creativity with awards given for Golden Ticket (Best Overall Poster), Most Creative (Top poster with the most ambitious goal and/or most unexpected methodology to solve), Newcomer (Top poster by a person presenting at AMOS for the first time) and Best Poster Lightning Pitch. The last award is given to the best 30-sec pitch– an opportunity given to poster presenters to share their work on the main stage.

Short Course proposals

Proposals are also being solicited for half-day Short Courses. Short courses are schedule for in-person instruction on Tuesday, September 15, and for virtual instruction and participation on Monday, September 14.

The short courses offer opportunities for participants to acquire an introductory knowledge on conference topics and are always well attended. Focus topics of broad interest from excellent instructors are encouraged. Short courses are solicited from all technical areas within SSA/SDA subject areas.

The deadline for all submissions to be included in the 2026 AMOS Conference program is March 2. A full list of key dates as we countdown to September can be found at <https://amostech.com/amos-speakers/>

The AMOS Conference is presented by the Maui Economic Development Board, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1982 with a mission to diversify Maui County's economy, building pathways to innovation, jobs and opportunities for our residents. Through partnerships with the public and private sector, MEDB undertakes projects that assist growth industries with navigating and thriving in our county, educates and trains residents for new careers, and engages our community in forums that determine future economic directions.