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Courtesy Space Foundation

The Space Symposium returns

As many as 8,000 people (combined in-person and virtual) from 25 countries will convene at The Broadmoor, which is utilizing its new Bartolin Hall for the city's biggest convention.

By Heidi Beedle

The 36th Space Symposium will make its post-COVID return to Colorado Springs next week. The annual event, hosted by the Space Foundation and usually held in April at The Broadmoor hotel, features the crème de la crème of the international space community — military, industry and academic professionals from around the world. It was canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This month the event returns to The Broadmoor, this time in the new 125,000-square-foot Bartolin Hall.

“We’re very excited about bringing —

literally — the world back to Colorado Springs, making us, again, the capital of the world space community,” said Rich Cooper, vice president of communications and outreach for the Space Foundation. “We’ve got 15 space agency leads; we anticipate representatives from 25 different countries. We [expect] between 7,500 to 8,000 people. That is in-person and virtual. We are going to have a record-breaking set of exhibits this year and we really get to break in the new exhibit hall at The Broadmoor, which we wanted to do last year, but were interrupted.”

One of the new features of this year’s symposium is virtual attendance. Like

many companies emerging from the fog of COVID lockdowns, the Space Foundation used the emergency as an opportunity for innovation.

“I think we all knew when the pandemic hit we had to make the evolution to becoming the digital Space Foundation occur,” Cooper explained. “We did that on several levels, particularly with our education programs, with the launch of the Center for Innovation and Education, as well as the launch of our Symposium 365 digital platform. It’s great to be able to bring the world together for a week and go over everything that’s happening, but there’s far too many conversations and

far too many other great things that are happening to just wait for the week. The platform will allow us to have those conversations in real time and allow people to access those same conversations at their leisure. This is a global space ecosystem that’s happening, and we’re happy to be its champion and steward.”

A subscription for Symposium 365 through the end of 2021 is included for all Space Symposium registrants, and virtual attendance isn’t the only difference for this year’s event.

Though COVID restrictions have loosened, the prevalence of the Delta variant

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TRANSPORTATION FOCUS

Small towns are turning to paid parking to cut congestion and boost visitor turnover.



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