Press Release

48 Hours to Tackle a Real-World Challenge. Young People in Uzbekistan Presented Their Projects at “NASA Space Apps Challenge 2026”

Uzbekistan concluded the national stage of the 2026 NASA International Space Apps Challenge. Around 500 participants formed nearly 100 teams. Over two days, they developed projects using NASA’s open data and presented them to a panel of judges.

Compared with 2025, the number of participants more than doubled, while the number of teams nearly doubled. The previous year, 210 people took part in Uzbekistan’s national stage across 52 teams. They presented projects addressing 18 NASA challenge topics.

The national stage was held with the participation of "Uzbekcosmos", in collaboration with Inno Technopark, Sehriyo School, the ZIYO FORUM Foundation for the Development of Science and Education, the U.S. Embassy’s American Spaces in Uzbekistan program, and Skillbox.

Each team had 48 hours to explore its chosen challenge, find relevant data, and demonstrate how its proposed solution could work using that data. The international program covered Earth observation, data analysis and visualization, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. It also included challenges in space technology, astronomy, planetary science, oceanography, ecosystems, and sustainable development.

Uzbekistan had taken part in the NASA Space Apps Challenge since 2022. In 2023, three teams from Uzbekistan ranked among the top 500 out of 8,715 teams in the global competition, with one reaching the top 40. In 2025, Eclipsar, Yggdrosil, and Triplesaj won Uzbekistan’s national stage.

The NASA International Space Apps Challenge had been held annually since 2012. The hackathon took place simultaneously in multiple countries with support from NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and other partners. Over that period, it drew more than 370,000 participants from over 185 countries. At the global stage, experts from NASA and other space agencies evaluated the projects. Following the selection process, ten winners had the opportunity to visit NASA space centers and present their work.