

We will be 516 on site during the day!!

Wonderful but what a challenge in the organisation!! It was so huge!

But I'm so happy to welcome you who are present here but also to 97 students who are remotely connected around the world.

Welcome to this **unique** Belgian Space event dedicated to you students and young professionals!

If Switch is **unique**, it's because it's the only place in Belgium where you can find out about numerous domains of space many jobs and internships and the latest technologies and research being developed in our country.

Switch is a key a key which can open many doors which can change your career path and broaden your vision of possible fields.

And it's so true that 7 young professionals will testify between Panel 1 and 2 how Switch to Space switched their professional life ... it will be interesting!

At Switch to Space, we have 2 aims:

- To make you discover or deepen your knowledge of many domains of space.
- To break the isolation of students by organising **active** networks to help you find a job or an internship or simply to answer your questions.

A long day begins where you will meet discuss and discover.

53 Space experts have agreed to be with you today to inspire you, to boost your (future) career and to recruit new talents!

This year, we are innovating with:

- 100 minutes of speed dating it concerns 204 students,
- 3 large boards to pin your CV to discover the jobs and internships available
- 15 booths where professionals are waiting for you.

So, move, dare and to go towards them it's a real opportunity to have so many professionals available **only** for you.

I would like to show you 1 slide, Space industry employees age pyramid in Europe

I big thank Olivier Lemaitre, Secretary General of Eurospace, for sending me these fresh statistics.

The sector in Europe employs about 40,000 people, the average age is around 44 years but the 49-58 age group still represents 28% resulting in many retirements in the upcoming years

The upshot, is that the sector in Europe is looking to recruit 2,600 young talents which is huge!

And what about Belgium?

In Belgium the sector is widely recognized in Europe and is in good shape too the best proof is that they are here and also looking for new talents.

The sector counts:

- around 40ty compagnies which employ around 3.150 persons
- 70ty research teams in Universities and Research Centres

Quite impressive!

Last number!

45! Never forget this number, 45 is not the number of cars, nor the number of girls boyfriends you will have in your lifetime. While it could be!

Less funny, 45 is the number of years you will probably work. Quite a long stretch of life.

Essential therefore to make the best career choice.

The one that inspires you, that excites you ... daily!

The space sector, can be one of the best options!

I must now conclude

My 1st thanks, goes to our sponsors, without them the wonderful adventure of Switch to Space could not exist.

My 2d thanks, go to the Kot Astro, from UCL, who are always willing to help us.

My 3d and warm thanks, go the Switch to Space team, who is really a dream team of 32 persons who are proud to realise the crazy challenge of bringing together passionate and enthusiastic space professionals all around Belgium North-South- Center to help you find your way.

My final words:

Be passionate. Be confident in you. Love what you do. Make your life beautiful! And don't forget to be happy!

Enjoy Switch to Space 3!!