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International Space Apps Challenge

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Event Details

6pm April 11 - 8pm April 13
The Ontario Science Centre
770 Don Mills Rd.

NASA Youth Space Challenge
Saturday April 12
12pm - 5pm

Full Event Details & Registration
www.spaceappstoronto.com

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News Release

Toronto, Waterloo, Winnipeg and Montreal Take on NASA's International Space Apps Challenge

Tonight, Toronto kicks off the hackathon with NASA's Beth Beck
For Immediate Release: April 11, 2014

Toronto, ON — Converting smartphones into satellites, creating apps to support wearable tech for space tourists, and visualizing asteroid activity to protect Earth are just a few of over 40 challenges that Canadians will take on this weekend in the NASA International Space Apps Challenge, the biggest hackathon in history. With over 100 cities participating this year, the title will likely stick.

The NASA International Space Apps Challenge is a tech competition taking place April 12-13, in which participants use public data to create open-source solutions to NASA-designed problems. Four major cities—Toronto, Winnipeg, Waterloo and Montreal—will be representing Canada during this year's event.

In 2013, Toronto was one of two Canadian cities (alongside Winnipeg) to host an International Space Apps Challenge, attracting 150 of the city's best developers, engineers, designers and technologists. There were more than 9,000 participants in 44 countries, making it the largest hackathon in the world. Toronto was the third largest event by projects produced with 26 submissions, behind New York City and Santiago.

This year Beth Beck, NASA's Open Innovation Program Manager, will be attending the Toronto event at the Ontario Science Centre. On Saturday at 12:30pm EST, she'll be moderating a public Google Hangout with other key members of the NASA team, as well as astronauts Doug Wheelock and Paolo Nespoli.

"We're thrilled to be hosting the NASA International Space Apps Challenge Toronto," says Dr. Hooley McLaughlin, Chief Science Officer at the Ontario Science Centre. "The participants produce amazing prototypes in just 48 hours that change how we see, view and learn about space and life on Earth."

In Toronto, the hackathon kicks off tomorrow night with opening remarks from Beth Beck. Participants will be supported by a roster of aerospace, design and development mentors, including several from the apps team at TELUS.

Projects will be presented on Sunday between 2pm and 5pm, with winners announced at 6pm. The top solution will earn a semi-permanent home at the Ontario Science Centre, while others will compete with international winners.