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**PRESS INFORMATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**IASP INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEETS IN MALAGA, SPAIN: 17 experts from 15 countries gather for annual meeting at IASP Headquarters**

* **New strategy looking ahead to 2020**
* **Global meeting places: Istanbul, Isfahan, and bids from Nantes and Edmonton**

The IASP International Board of Directors met in Malaga (Spain) on the 7th – 9th February 2017, to set the association’s new strategic direction through to 2020.

The International Board is made up of 17 members from 15 countries across 5 different continents: Spain, USA, Nigeria, Botswana, China, Brazil, Iran, Uruguay, Russia, Germany, Sweden, Mexico, France, Canada, Portugal. All experts in science parks (STPs) and areas of innovation (AOIs), they travelled to Malaga for the two-day Board meeting where they met with the Mayor of Malaga, discussed the association’s new strategic direction and outlined the path for IASP to follow over the next four years.

With global cooperation more important than ever, IASP’s internal procedures help to maintain the association’s international identity: there cannot be more than two voting directors from the same country. This ensures that different parts of the world are always represented on the International Board of Directors, and maintains IASP’s status as the only global organisation for the science park industry.

IASP President, Josep Piqué of La Salle Technova, Spain, said:

*“We know that one of the key responsibilities of the Board is to manage our network in order to be in the right place in every moment, and in the process of globalization, IASP is and will be a key player on innovation. Our parks, as well as being local innovation ecosystems, must be connectors of the global innovation ecosystem, and our network must be the worldwide platform that links our members, but also connects us with global companies and institutions.”*

**The new IASP strategy**

The new IASP strategy renews and updates the current Knowledge Leadership strategy which has guided the association’s work for the past 6 years. It has been developed under the leadership of IASP President Josep Piqué, Vice President Paul Krutko (USA) and Director General Luis Sanz in close collaboration with members, all of whom were invited to submit their ideas.

The five main elements of the new strategy have been agreed as:

* **Knowledge:** Share and increase knowledge, connecting local ecosystems with the global innovation system;
* **Talent:** Increase mobility and connections between the companies, talent, technology and financial resources in science parks and areas of innovation;
* **Tech giants:** Build a relationship with the most important technology-based corporations worldwide, and connect them with IASP’s global network of science parks;
* **Global bodies:** Strengthen our relations with international institutions and organisations, positioning STPs and AOIs as innovation leaders; and
* **Creative energy hubs**: Deepen our knowledge of new projects and models for the creation of innovation ecosystems such as FabLabs and LivingLabs, and build connections with science parks and areas of innovation.

**Global meeting places**

Every year IASP holds a World Conference in a different country, with the destination chosen by members – another way of building bridges for innovation and keeping the association truly global. At the Malaga meeting, the Board approved two candidatures to host the IASP’s 2019 World Conference: from Atlanpole, France, and Edmonton, Canada. Last year’s World Conference was held in Moscow, Russia and the 2017 event will take place in Istanbul, Turkey. 2018 will see members gather in Isfahan, Iran.

Members also have the chance to meet at regional events in Ann Arbor & Detroit, USA, with Richard Florida as keynote speaker; Lima, Peru, and York, UK, in spring 2017.

**About the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP)**

IASP is the worldwide network of science parks and areas of innovation, founded in 1984. With nearly 400 members in 74 countries, IASP connects professionals managing science, technology and research parks (STPs) and other areas of innovation (AOIs) from across the globe, and provides services that drive growth and effectiveness for members.

IASP members enhance the competitiveness of companies and entrepreneurs in their cities and regions, and contribute to global economic development through innovation, entrepreneurship, and the transfer of knowledge and technology.

The IASP is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and a founding member of the World Alliance for Innovation (WAINOVA).

For further information about IASP, please visit [www.iasp.ws](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CSony%20Vaio%5CDesktop%5CPress%20releases%20IASP%5Cwww.iasp.ws).

You can see an overview of the IASP International Board of Directors at [www.iasp.ws/board-of-directors](http://www.iasp.ws/web/guest/board-of-directors).

**IMAGES**

Please see attached.

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