



# Space Apps Vaasa 2018

## Information Sheet

### Background

Since its inception in 2012, the International Space Apps Challenge (Space Apps), a part of NASA's Earth Science Division, has become ***the world's largest global hackathon***. Space Apps engages thousands of individuals and teams each year across the globe to work with NASA data in the building of innovative solutions to challenges we face on Earth and in space. Space Apps inspires local innovation communities in cities across six continents to convene, ideate, and build. Diverse and collaborative teams of technologists, scientists, designers, entrepreneurs, and others work together in a 48-hour sprint to develop answers to some of the most pressing challenges facing planet Earth. ***Over 25,000 global citizens from 69 countries and in 187 cities around the world participated in Space Apps 2017.***

During Space Apps 2017, more than 2,000 open source projects were developed in response to 25 Earth-themed challenges. This process witnessed an increase in first-time participation, the increased participation of women and girls in the hackathon space, and an increase in projects with the potential for positive impact on our planet.

### What is the International Space Apps Challenge?

- A global hackathon composed of nearly 200 in-person events around the world. Space Apps also includes virtual opportunities to participate, and some locations hold "data bootcamps" before the event to prepare those who are less familiar with the hackathon format. Each year the number of events has increased. In 2015, there were 133; in 2016 there were 161; in 2017, there were 187. How many will there be in 2018?
- A technology development event that draws on the talents and initiative of bright-minded volunteers – developers, engineers, technologists, designers, and anyone with a passion and desire to make an immediate impact on the world, or with an interest in Earth, space and/or data.
- An event that embraces engagement and collaborations across borders, sectors and populations to bring about paradigm-shifting innovation.



- An opportunity to showcase innovation, build awareness and encourage participants to use NASA data to solve complex problems related to both Earth and space.
- An unprecedented international collaboration among government agencies, organizations, and academic institutions from around the world.

## Space Apps Vaasa Overview

- Space Apps Vaasa is the northernmost Nasa Space Apps event in 2018
- Space Apps Vaasa is the only Nasa Space Apps event in Finland and one of the two events along Norway's Gjøvik.
- This is the third consecutive year when the event will be held in Vaasa.
- It will be held in collaboration with Vaasa Hacklab and the University of Vaasa at design centre Muova.