

## **Annual Report of the C.C4.WG3 HERITAGE OF SPACE EXPLORATION**

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During the year of 2017 and the first half of 2018 the main activity has been focused on selection of tangible objects as key elements of space technology heritage aiming to manifest the close linkage of human beings with the outer space and its practical implementation. In this regard a part of the Baykonur Space Centre infrastructure was selected as a case study. It includes the human-engineered Gagarin Launch Pad together with related auxiliary facilities which were recommended to be in the list of priority objects of space technology heritage. Elaborative comments in support of this idea were brought in the paper of M. Marov “World Space Heritage of Baykonur Cosmodrome: The Case Study” published in Thematic Study 2 (TS2) in 2017. This Initiative was preliminary accepted by the Russian Space Agency ROSCOSMOS. A meeting of stakeholders involving the nominated focal points and all other interested parties to advance the UNESCO Initiative regarding to Space Technology Heritage is planned in the UNESCO HQ in 2018 with ROSCOSMOS provisional sponsorship aiming to clarify the main thematic-organizing-cooperative issues concerning the respective WG of the UNESCO WH Center with the involvement of the IAU WG3 C.C4 and other international bodies. Significant progress has been made during April-May towards preparation of the meeting.

Report on the contents and activities in science and technology related with space exploration in the framework of the IAU C.C4.WG3 was presented by the WG Chair at the International Expert Meeting on Astronomical Heritage and Sacred Places in Gran Canaria, Spain, 22 May 2018.