

# Invitation to ESOP XLII on 2023 Sep 16-17 in Armagh, Northern Ireland



AOP and the City of Armagh as viewed from above. (Credit: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. Used with permission)

The 42<sup>nd</sup> ESOP will take place at the *Armagh Observatory and Planetarium (AOP)* in the historic City of Armagh, Northern Ireland between Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Armagh is a town of circa 25,000 in Northern Ireland - one of the four UK nations - located some 20 mi from the border with the Republic of Ireland (RoI). Armagh is considered the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland, was given city status in 1994 and is home to two cathedrals (both named St Patrick's!). Travel to and from Armagh is served by three major airports, Dublin International (DUB; 90 min by car), Belfast International (BFS; 45 min by car) and Belfast City (BHD; 70 min by car). Many low cost flights are available to these airports. Regular bus services exist between Armagh and Belfast or Dublin.

The AOP venue combines a 230-yr old historic Observatory, home to the Dreyer New General Catalogue and the Shelton "Regulator"



Register here:  
<https://www.armagh.space/meetings-conferences/esop42>

clock used by His Majesty King George III to time the 1769 Transit of Venus, with a modern astronomical research department and a state-of-the-art Planetarium facility dedicated to exposing and educating its approx. 15,000 annual visitors to space and astronomy. AOP is one of three historical observatories in Ireland, the others being *Birr Castle* (Co. Offaly, RoI) and *Dunsink Observatory* (Co. Dublin, RoI).

In addition to these sites of astronomical interest, the island offers a wide variety of sightseeing destinations to the casual visitor, such as the Antrim coast and Giant's Causeway, the Titanic Quarter in Belfast or the Sperrin & Mourne Mountain ranges.

A social programme will be available following the meeting.

**Apostolos Christou**  
Armagh Observatory and Planetarium, LOC



The Observatory Main Building & Library and Robinson Telescope Dome. In the foreground, we see the Human Orrery interactive exhibit. (Credit: Armagh Observatory and Planetarium. Used with permission)