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■ Shaikh Mohammad with astronauts from Nasa, MBRSC and Roscosmos, the MBRSC management and the International Astronautical federation at the congress yesterday.

MOHAMMAD VISITS INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS

■ His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum visited the 72nd International Astronautical Congress in Dubai yesterday. He met astronauts Hazzaa Al Mansoori, Sultan Al Neyadi, Nora Al Matrooshi and Mohammad Al Mulla. He visited the stands of the UAE, Russian and US space agencies. "The space sector is crucial to our efforts to transform ourselves into a knowledge-based economy," he said. **DETAILS ON P5**

'Space sector crucial to realising UAE's vision'

MOHAMMAD VISITS INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS

DUBAI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, yesterday visited the 72nd International Astronautical Congress, the world's largest and most prestigious global space event, taking place at the Dubai World Trade Centre. Being held for the first time in the Middle East, the five-day international event organised by the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in partnership with the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), has brought together over 4,000 participants, and more than 90 exhibitors, 110 country delegations and 350 young professionals and space experts from all walks of life.

Shaikh Mohammad was accompanied by Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs; Lieutenant-General Talal Belhoual Al Falasi, Vice-President of MBRSC; Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori, Chairman, MBRSC; Yousuf Hamad Al Shaibani, Director General, MBRSC; Emirati astronauts Hazzaa Al Mansoori, Sultan Al Neyadi, and graduates of the second batch of the UAE Astronaut Programme Nora Al Matrooshi and Mohammad Al Mulla. Shaikh Mohammad visited the stands of Russia's Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (Roscosmos), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Saudi Space Commis-



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■ Some of the model spacecraft on display at the International Astronautical Congress under way at Dubai World Trade Centre.

The space sector is crucial to our efforts to transform ourselves into a knowledge-based economy as well as meet the aspirations of our people."

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

sion, ISpace, Lockheed Martin and the European Space Agency.

New horizon for growth

Speaking during the visit, Shaikh Mohammad said: "The space sector plays a major role in realising the UAE's vision for development and our goal to enhance the country's role in shaping the future of the planet. Our investment in advancing our space engineering, scientific research and exploration capabilities is part of our efforts to create a new horizon for growth in a sector that has no boundaries or limitations. Already, our efforts

and achievements have led to the UAE taking its place among the leading spacefaring nations of the world. The space sector is crucial to our efforts to transform ourselves into a knowledge-based economy as well as meet the aspirations of our people, contribute to human progress and create a brighter future for the next generation."

During his visit, Shaikh Mohammad posed for photographs with astronauts from Nasa, MBRSC and Roscosmos, the MBRSC management and the International Astronautical federation.