

17th July 2024

Due to external circumstances with the motor propellant order, the AYAA most regretfully announces that the launch festival cannot proceed with the planned September 2024 date.

During planning for the 2024 AURC, AYAA acknowledged early-on that the availability of solid rocket propellant was a critical element to the feasibility of the competition. In the absence of a domestic procurement option, AYAA facilitated an arrangement to include universities in a third party bulk-order to be shipped to Western Australia. The order was placed and paid in February, to arrive in mid-2024 for the September launch festival.

The AYAA, along with event partners, made an inquiry into the status of the motor propellant order in early June; however, it has taken an extended period to receive confirmation. In the last week AYAA has become aware that due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, the manufacturer has experienced delays with shipping the order to Australia. The revised timeline for propellant delivery is such that it will not arrive in time for the intended launch dates in September.

The propellant is critical not just for University teams who have designed rockets with specific motors, but also for amateur hobbyists and the wider Williams Wildfire Westernationals rocket launch festival that AURC was to be hosted alongside. Without a propellant supply, the September in-person launch event is no longer be feasible and AYAA is suspending the event pending further notice. AYAA deeply regrets the impact this decision has on all stakeholders.

Our team is considering options of postponing the competition to early 2025 or reducing the scope of the 2024 competition to an online-only format. For the time being, the propellant order will remain in place to allow for a postponed launch date. Tickets purchased to attend the festival through Trybooking or invoice will be refundable. Team registration fees will not be refundable. In the event of an event cancellation, refunds for rocket fees and motor orders may be available. We will engage with teams and stakeholders in the coming weeks to determine the path forward and endeavour to communicate decisions and refund options promptly.

The AYAA would like to sincerely apologise for the effect on attendees, particularly those who have made travel arrangements. Our team is disappointed with this outcome, but we will continue to act in a manner consistent with our values and respectful of those impacted. Our organisation remains committed to the goal of providing tertiary STEM students with the skills required for Australia's growing aerospace industry. We will continue to pursue this mission into the future through AURC and other AYAA programs with support of industry partners.



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