

ESA BIC Challenge 2024

“Join the New Space Economy”

Submit your idea from 15 February to 23 April 2024!

The Challenge

There are tremendous commercial opportunities by using satellites and the technologies that underpin space infrastructure and data. Space assets and insights derived from space data generate value in non-space domains such as critical infrastructure, communications, (cyber) security, green transition, sustainable mobility, and more. Today, more innovative applications are becoming financially feasible. Thus, new commercial opportunities for all sectors arise, while creating benefits to new communities.

The ESA Business Incubation Centres (ESA BICs) and the ESA Business Applications and Space Solutions (ESA BA) programmes provide a comprehensive and structured system that supports innovative businesses who want to seize these opportunities.

The ESA BICs in Germany are searching for ambitious entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas involving space technologies or new commercial concepts for the application of space data. Start-ups will receive support to turn their ideas into a viable company. Potential innovation areas are:

- Mobility applications and solutions
- Innovative optimisation solutions
- Increased efficiency and customer orientation solutions

- Components or subsystems
- Any other ideas for the space sector or the utilisation of space data

Your Reward

-  Support with the application to one of the German ESA BIC facilities. If accepted, the start-up will benefit from EUR 50,000 in funding
-  Assistance in transforming the business concept into a viable business plan
-  1:1 Coaching Sessions with ESA experts and exclusive tour of the European Astronaut Centre EAC in Cologne
-  Access to the Europe-wide network of experts, who can assist in both, technological and business-related aspects

The Evaluation Criteria

- The business proposition has a clear space connection (spin-in or spin-off/application).
- Realisation Aspects: The implementation plan is realistic and the funding requirements are adequate

- The idea / solution is technically feasible.
- The exploitation potential and the chance for commercial success are high.
- The degree of innovation is high (technical and/or business model).
- Entrepreneurial experience is sufficiently demonstrated, the team shows complementary skills (technical and business development related).

The Partner

The European Space Agency (ESA) is dedicated to the peaceful exploration and use of space for the benefit of mankind. Established in 1975, ESA works with its 22 Member States to push the frontiers of science and technology and to promote economic growth in Europe.

One of our top priorities is to help companies seize the commercial opportunities to exploit space technologies and data and benefit society at the same time, with the ambition of creating a greener, safer and digital Europe. Our vision is to make the continent a space commercialisation hub, where innovative ideas can grow into world-beating space companies that benefit people all over the world.

[Learn more](#)

Eligibility & Submission information

To ensure that you or your institution is eligible for the challenge and that your submission can be processed successfully, please adhere to the following prerequisites:

Eligible are start-ups, research teams, students & individuals

- from the space and non-space sectors
- with a valid space connection and existing business idea
- who are registered in Germany
- who are planning to get registered in Germany

For the **submission** of the proposal the use of the ISM submission platform is mandatory: <https://innospace-masters.awardsplatform.com/>

When **submitting** your proposal, you have to choose which ESA BIC office to submit your idea to:

- ESA BIC Bavaria (Oberpfaffenhofen, Ottobrunn, Nuremberg, Neubiberg, Wuerzburg)
- ESA BIC Northern Germany (Bremen, Luebeck)
- ESA BIC North Rhine-Westphalia (Aachen, Herten)
- ESA BIC Hesse (Darmstadt)
- ESA BIC Baden-Wuerttemberg (Reutlingen, Friedrichshafen)

Apply now

**15 February to
23 April 2024**



innospace-master.de

The timeline – Important dates for you!

