

SUCCESS: ESA shares space proposals with industry



Europe's space industry gathered at the European Space Agency (ESA) in the Netherlands on 3-4 April to gain insights into the future of space in Europe. Also Latvia delegation participated in the event.

The agency is gearing up for its Council Meeting at Ministerial Level (CM25) in Germany later this year. This is when key decisions will be taken that will shape the future of Europe's space ambitions into the next decade and underpin the goals described in ESA's long-term **Strategy 2040**.

ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher welcomed 530 participants including industry representatives from startups, small and medium-sized enterprises, midcaps and large system integrators, as well as Delegates from ESA Member States, Associate States and Cooperating States.

“Space is fundamental for economic growth, scientific advancement, national security, and societal resilience. Not coincidentally, we are currently witnessing a growing recognition of the importance of space across Europe. ESA, European industry, ESA Member States, and the European Commission must unite and position collectively to ensure long-term autonomy, global

competitiveness, and sustainable growth. Strategy 2040 marked a significant milestone, with the next being CM25. Industry plays a crucial role in realising our ambitions over the coming decades,” he commented.

During this two-day event ESA directors presented programme proposals which are now being prepared for CM25 across the full range of activities of the Agency. The aim of the event was for ESA directors to communicate their current plans and considerations, highlight opportunities, answer questions and garner feedback from industry. This will help to consolidate proposals, support the decisions to be made at CM25, and improve the implementation after CM25.

The first day ended with a networking session.

Géraldine Naja, Director of Commercialisation, Industry and Competitiveness who opened the event with Dietmar Pilz, Director of Technology, Engineering & Quality / ESTEC Head of Establishment, added: **“ESA works with European entities of all sizes from small to large companies at all stages of their development to raise their competitiveness which has become crucial in the space domain. We aim for open dialogue with our industrial community and this event gave us a platform to provide a full and in-depth understanding of our plans for the future and upcoming opportunities from the highest level of ESA across all directorates.”**



The Latvian delegation (Kaspars Karolis, Ministry of Education and Science and Dāvids Štēbelis, ESA industry coordinator) together with Lev Lapkis (Latvian Space Industry Association) also participated in the CM25. The participants commented that during the event, ESA presented key programs for the upcoming budget period (2026-2028) and highlighted strategic shifts in response to the evolving geopolitical landscape. The focus will increasingly be on security and the development of dual-use solutions that serve both civilian and military needs.

All of them emphasized that one major new initiative was the “European Resilience from Space” program, designed to support security institutions with high-resolution data and integrated solutions across Earth observation, satellite navigation, and communication technologies.

ESA will also host industry days on Human and Robotic Exploration and CM25

preparations and opportunities for industry on 28–29 April, and LISA on 7–8 May, listed on ESA's events website.

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