

From Proposal to Reliability: ESA's Approach to RHA in Space Projects



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ESA ESTEC

24/07/2025

24/07: ESA's Approach to RHA in Space Projects

- The European Space Agency
- RHA process
- ESA's R&D programs
- ESA Education office
 - Trainings
 - Programs
 - Early career opportunity



The European Space Agency

EUROPE'S GATEWAY TO SPACE

WHAT

22 Member States, 5000 employees

WHY

Exploration and use of space for exclusively peaceful purposes

WHERE

HQ in Paris, 7 sites across Europe and a spaceport in French Guiana

HOW MUCH

€6.49 billion = €12 per European per year



What Does ESA Do?



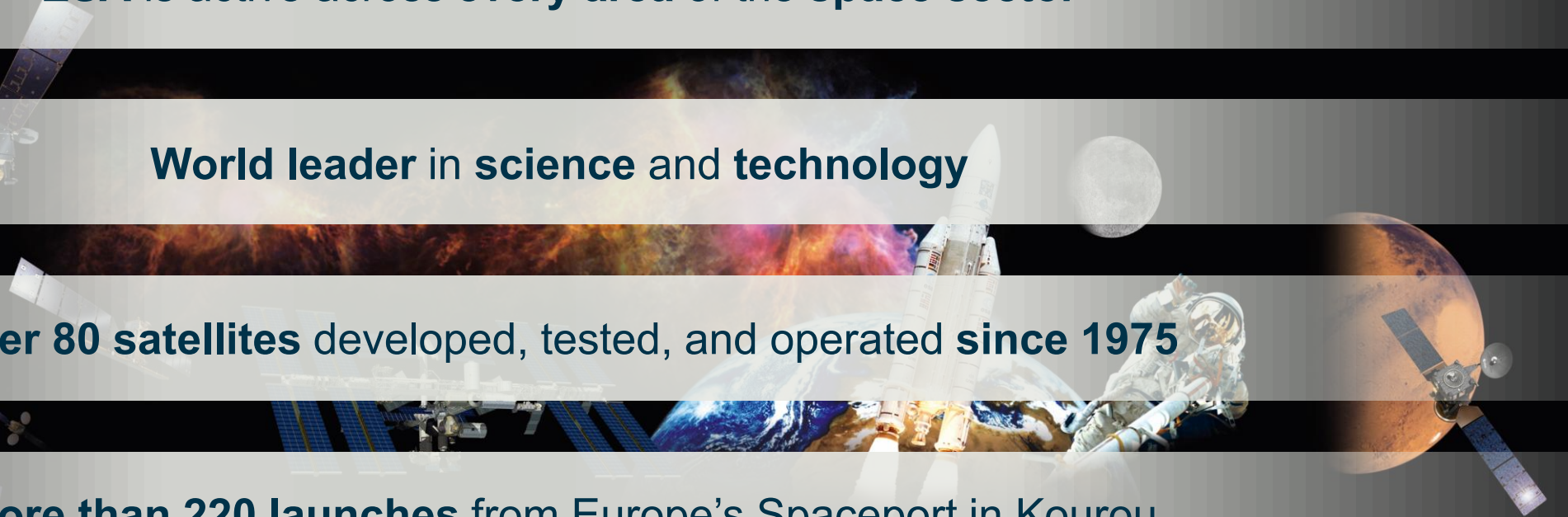
ALL OF THIS IS POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE COLLABORATION OF MEMBER STATES

ESA is active across **every area** of the **space sector**

World leader in science and technology

Over 80 satellites developed, tested, and operated **since 1975**

More than 220 launches from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou

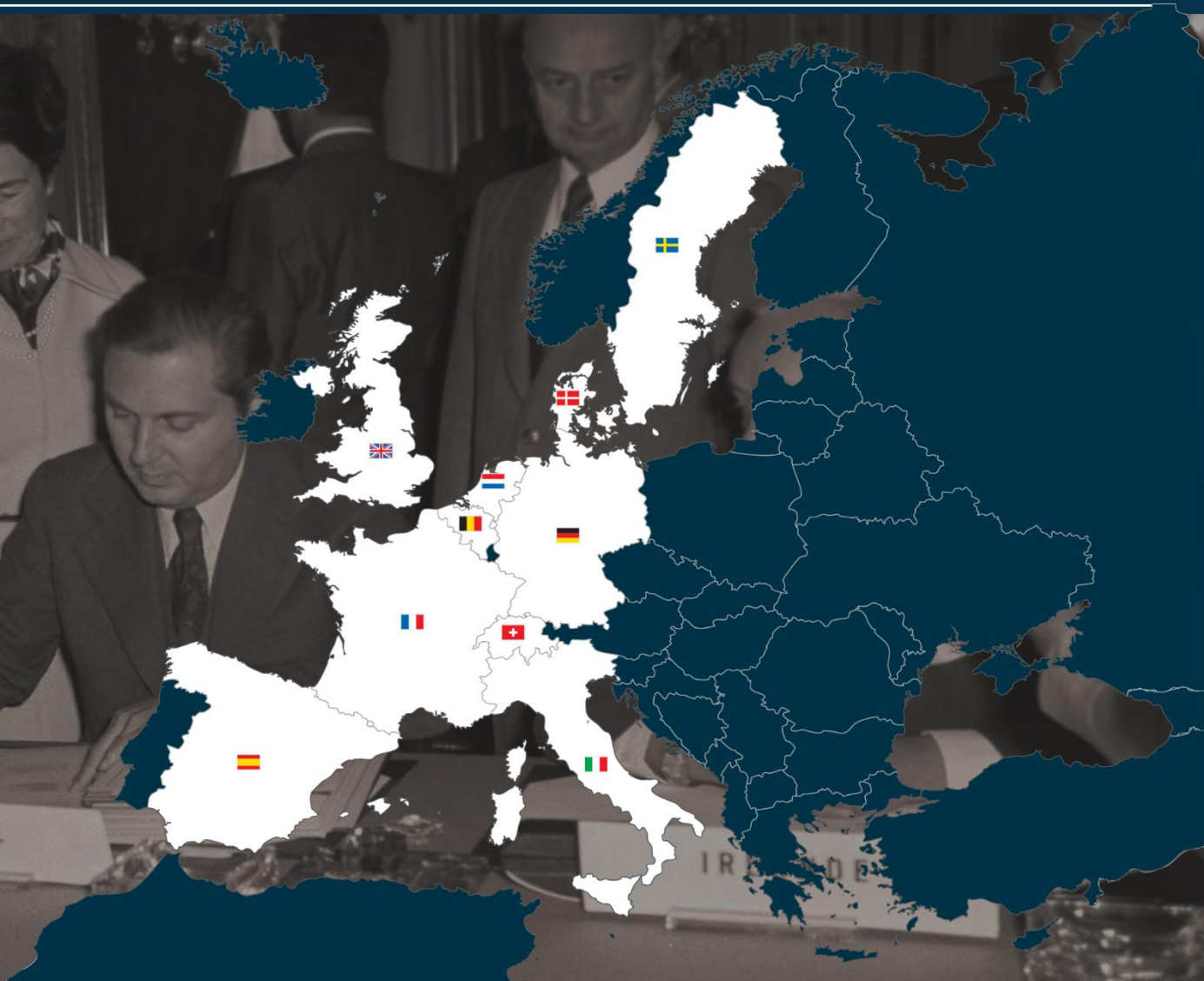


1975 Signing of ESA Convention



10

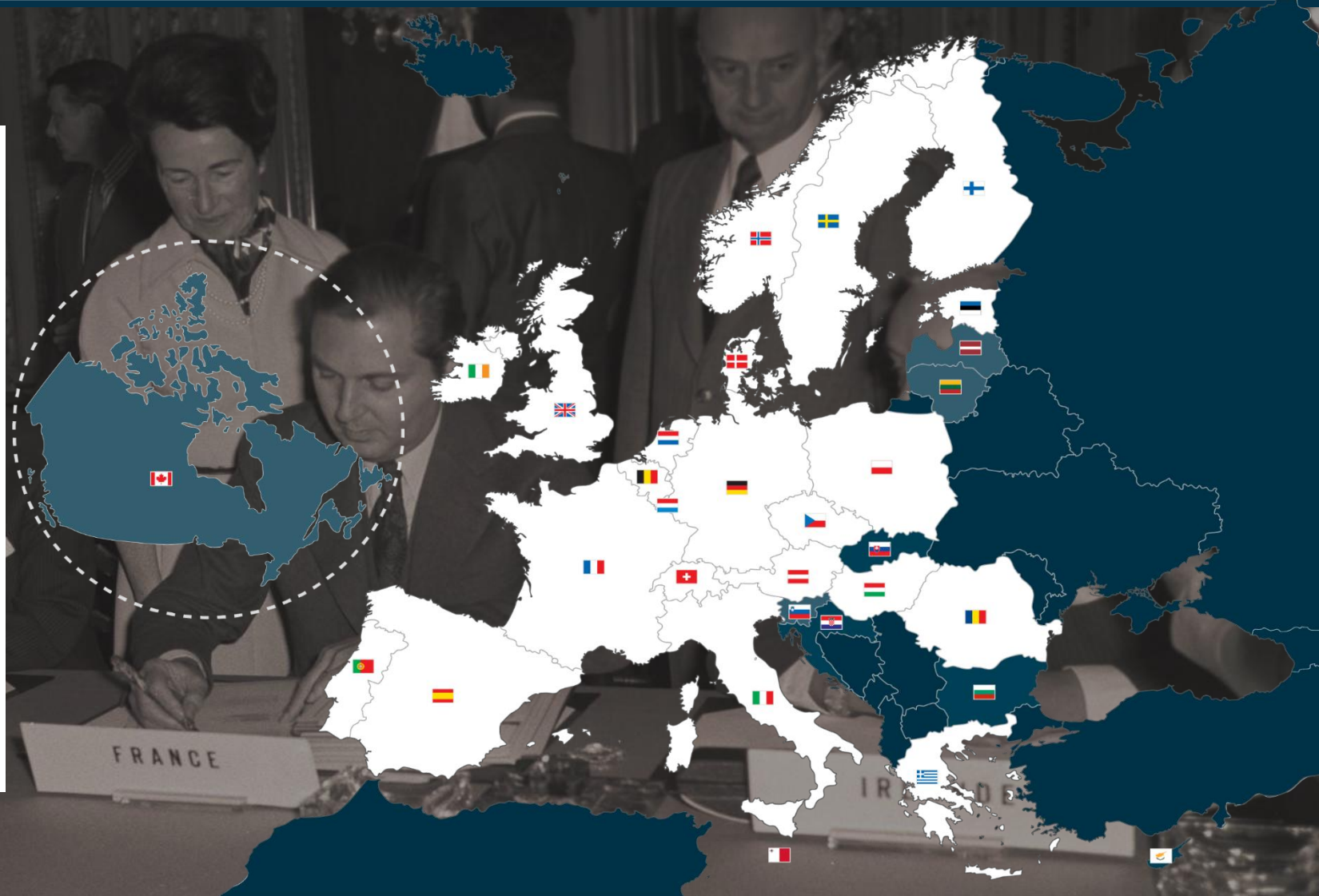
MEMBER
STATES



22

* 23 since 1 January 2025

MEMBER STATES



The Explorers and Their Challenge



1. EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE

2. IMPROVE LIFE ON EARTH

...WHILE SERVING

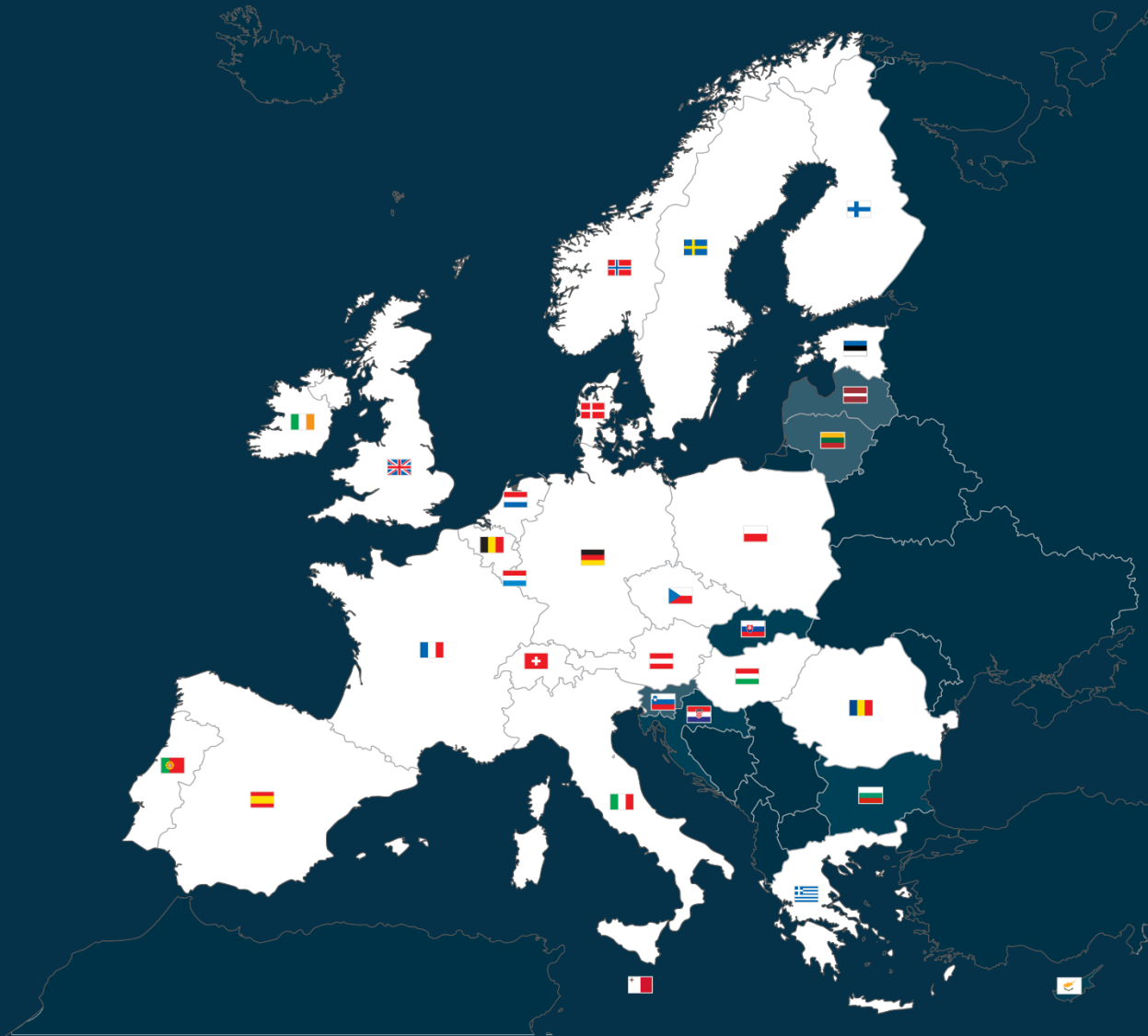
PEACEFUL PURPOSES



CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

ESA Establishments

ESA Establishments (1)



Headquarters

Located in Paris, home to the main programme directorates that steer and formulate ESA policy.



ESRIN

ESA's centre for Earth observation activities, near Rome, Italy, also develops information systems and hosts the Vega launcher project.



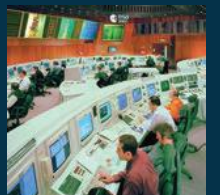
ESTEC

The European Space Research and Technology Centre, Noordwijk, the Netherlands, is the largest site and the technical heart of ESA.



ESOC

The European Space Operations Centre, Darmstadt, Germany, tracks and controls European spacecraft.

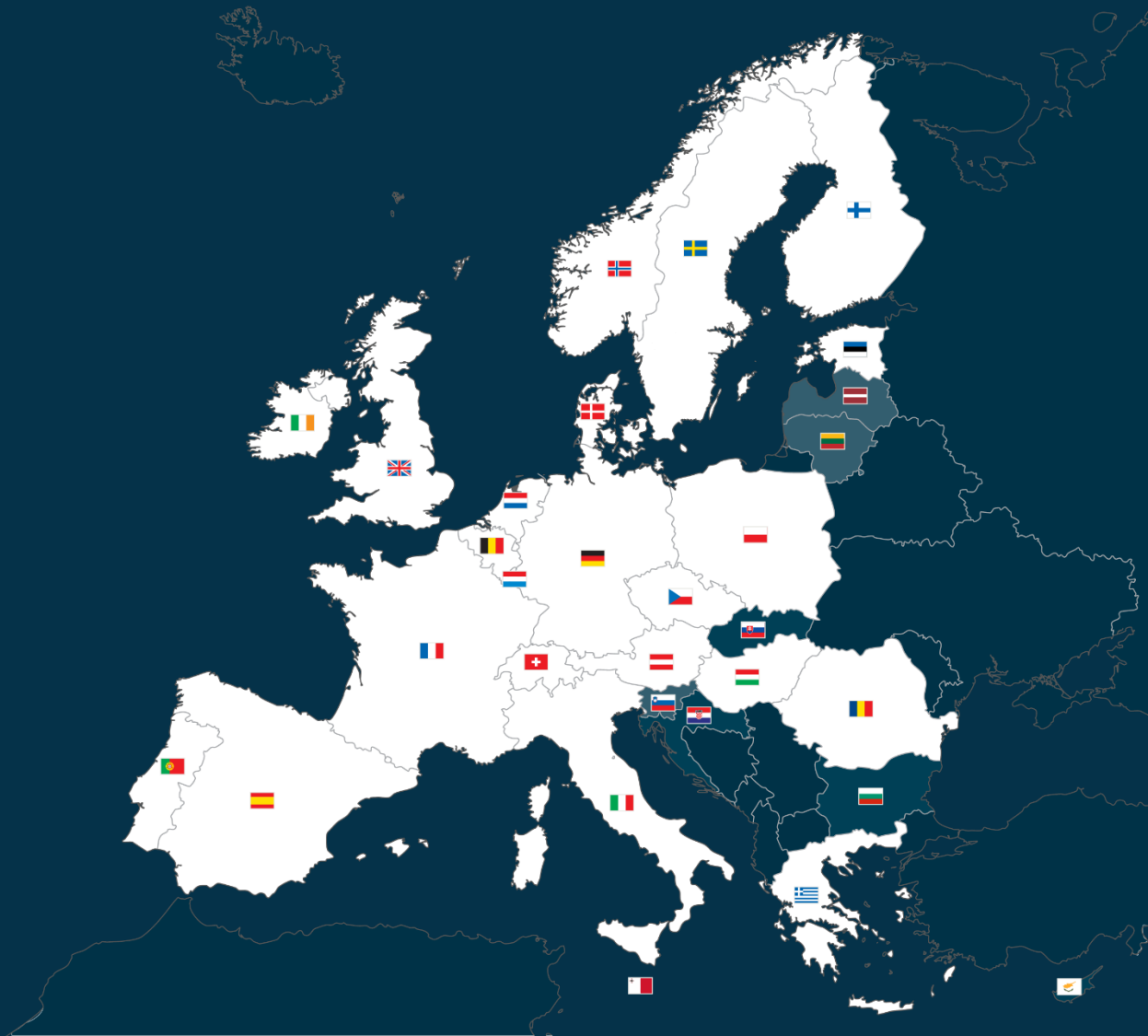


EAC

The European Astronaut Centre, Cologne, Germany, trains astronauts for missions to the International Space Station and beyond.



ESA Establishments (2)



ESAC

The European Space Astronomy Centre, near Madrid, Spain, hosts the science operation centres and archives for ESA's astronomy and planetary missions.



Harwell (ECSAT)

Harwell Centre, in Oxfordshire, UK, is focusing on commercialisation and partnerships in space activities.



Redu (ESEC)

The European Space Security and Education Centre in Belgium is part of ESA's ground station network and has specialised on operating small satellites and security relevant, sensitive operations.



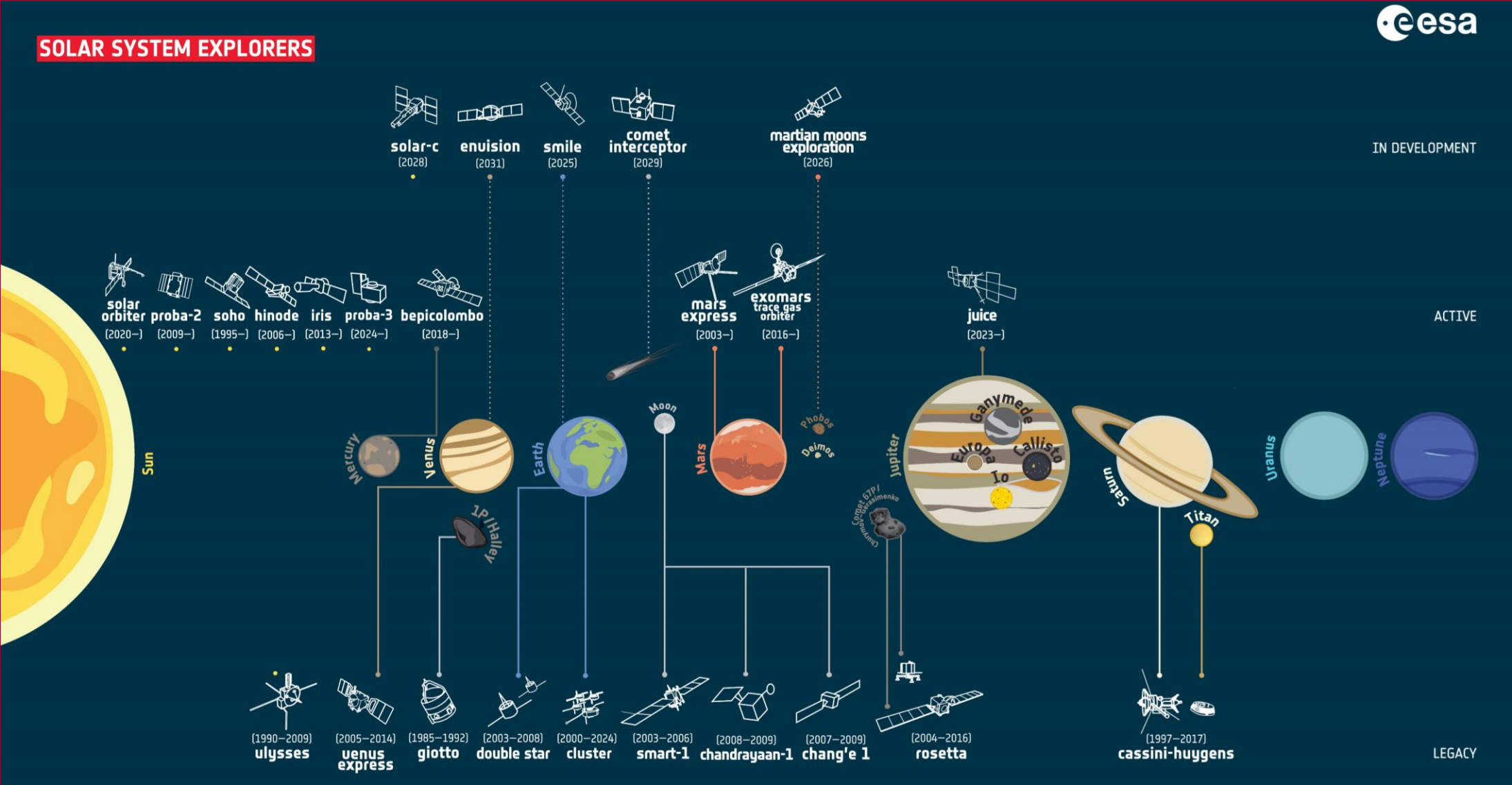
Guiana Space Centre

ESA's launchers lift off from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. It is jointly operated by the French space agency (CNES) and Arianespace with the support of European industry.

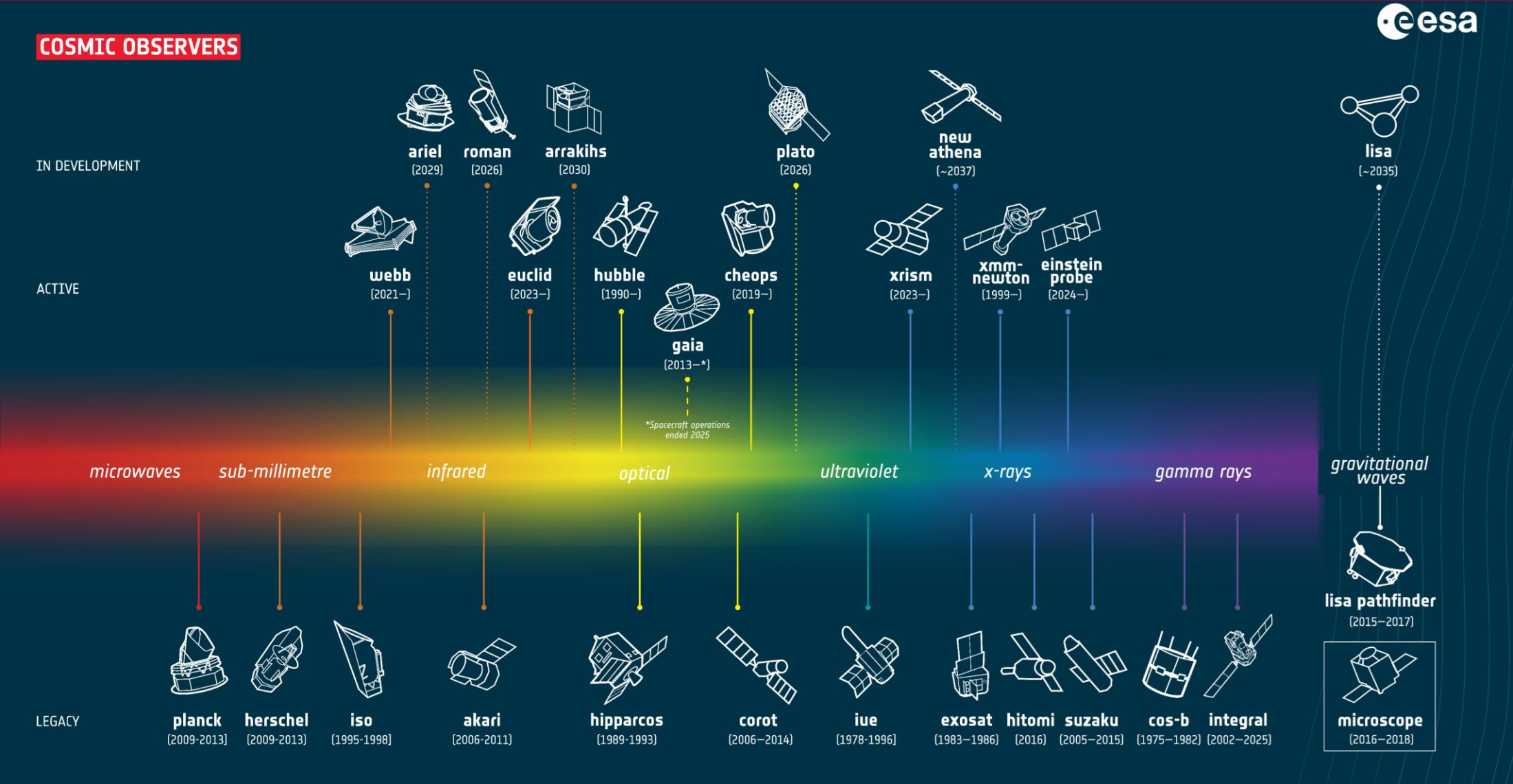


SCIENCE & EXPLORATION

Some of Today and Tomorrow's Science Missions (1)



Some of Today and Tomorrow's Science Missions (2)



EARTH OBSERVATION



Earth Explorers





PROGRAMME OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION

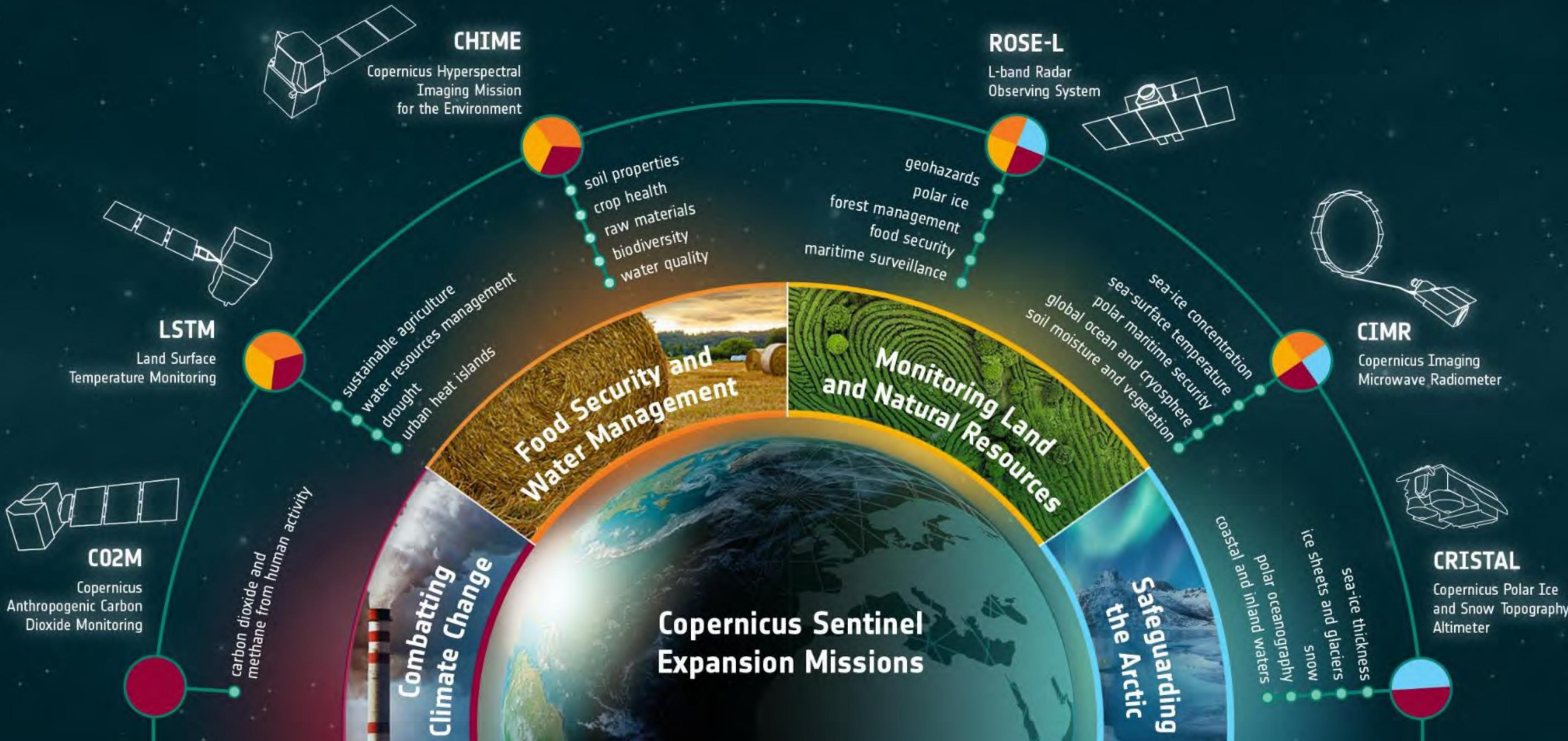


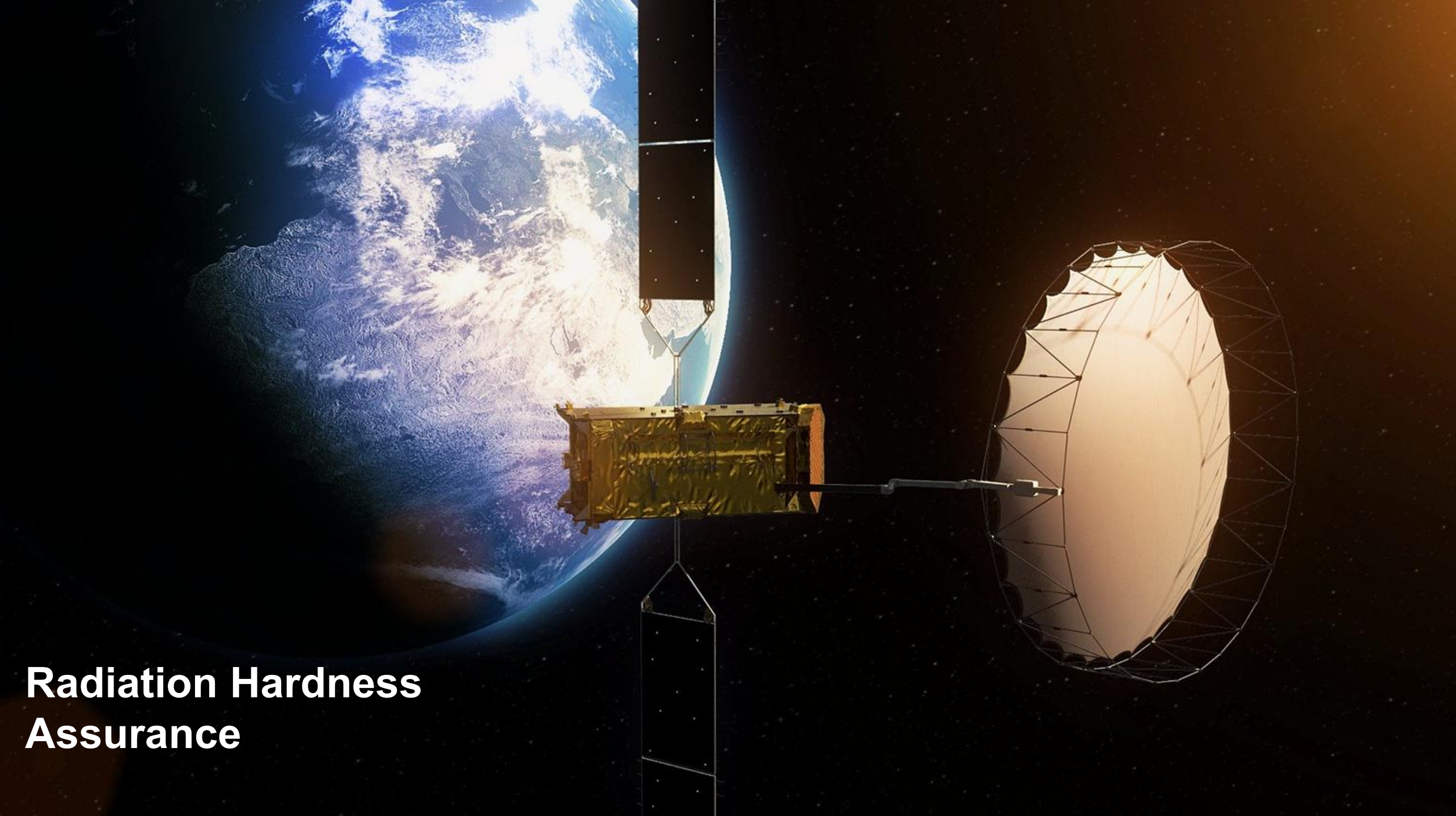
co-funded with



Sentinel-Next Gen. under definition

Expansion missions : 1st launch (CO2M) in 2026





**Radiation Hardness
Assurance**

- **What is RHA:**

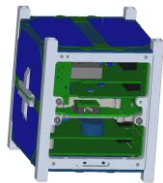
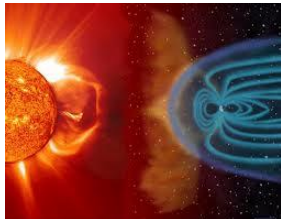
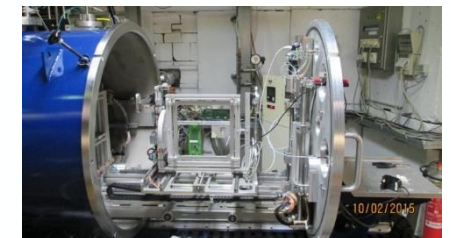
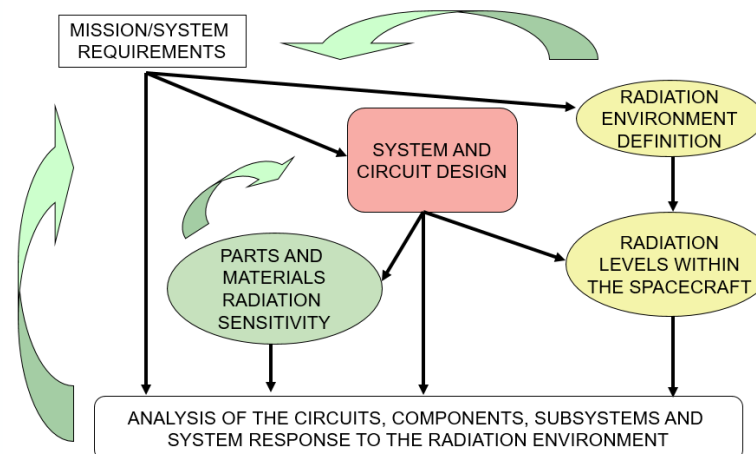
- It is a PA discipline: **all activities** to “assure” radiation hardness!
- An RHA Plan is defined and can be **adapted** to each project

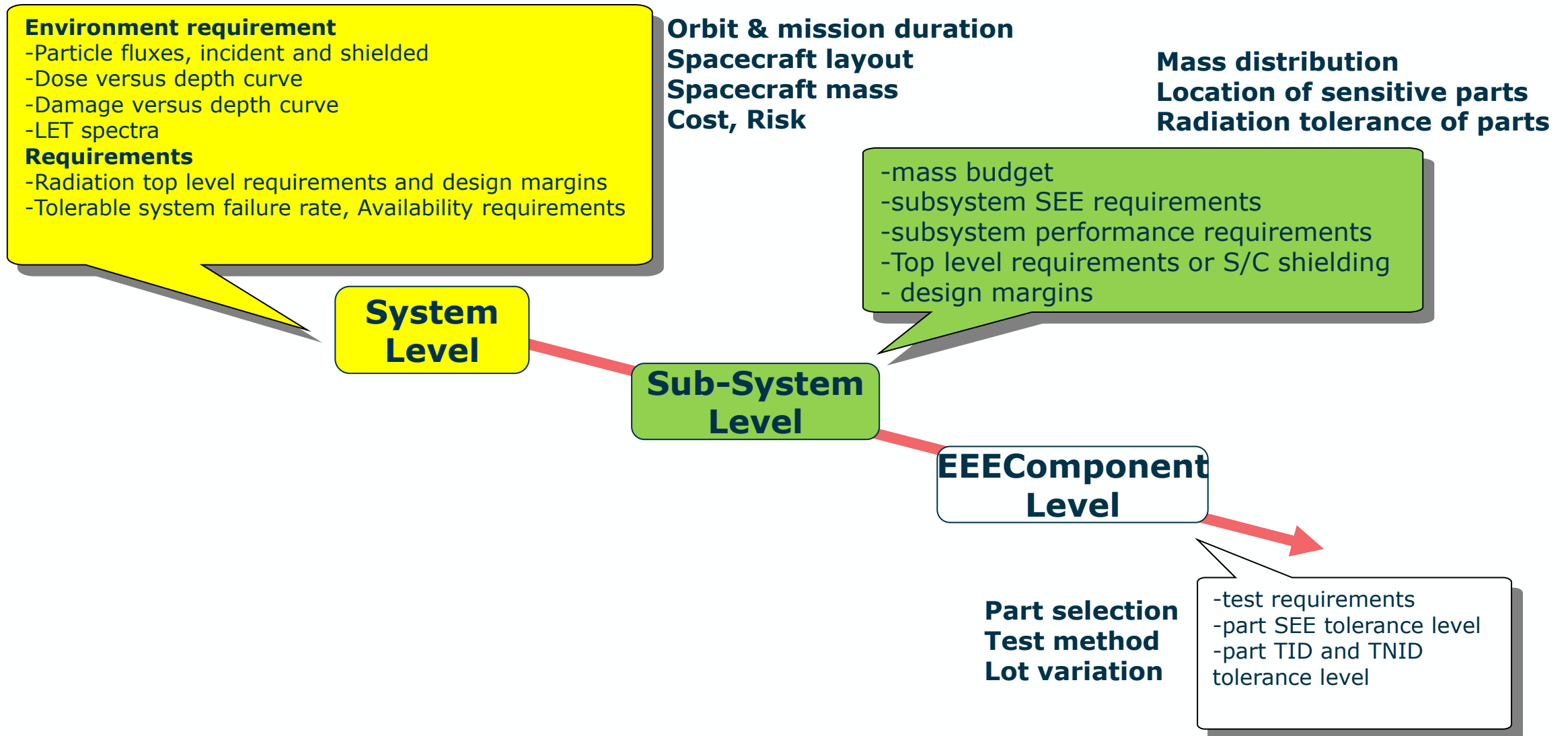
- **When:**

- From the **start of the design**, up to “CDR” (bulk of work)...until in-orbit anomaly investigations!
- Radiation test, as part of RHA, is done before CDR...but also after CDR for RADLAT.

- **How:**

- RHA engineer + **Interaction** with PA manager & other engineers from several disciplines
- **Iterative** process but which should start early during the project lifecycle.
- Summarised in the **Radiation Analysis Report**

[illegible]



Phase B1 – SRR (System Requirement Review)

- Draft environment definition
- Draft hardness assurance requirements (top level)
- Preliminary studies

Phase B2 – PDR (Preliminary Design Review)

- Final environment definition
- Electronic design approach
- Preliminary spacecraft layout for shielding analysis
- Preliminary shielding analysis & hardness assurance requirements update

As designed ERCB

Phase C –CDR (Critical Design Review)

- Radiation test results
- Final shielding analysis & final hardness assurance requirement
- Circuit design analysis results

As built ERCB

Phase D

- Radiation Lot Acceptance Tests (RLAT)

Phase E

- Failure analysis

Radiation
Environment
Analysis ECSS:

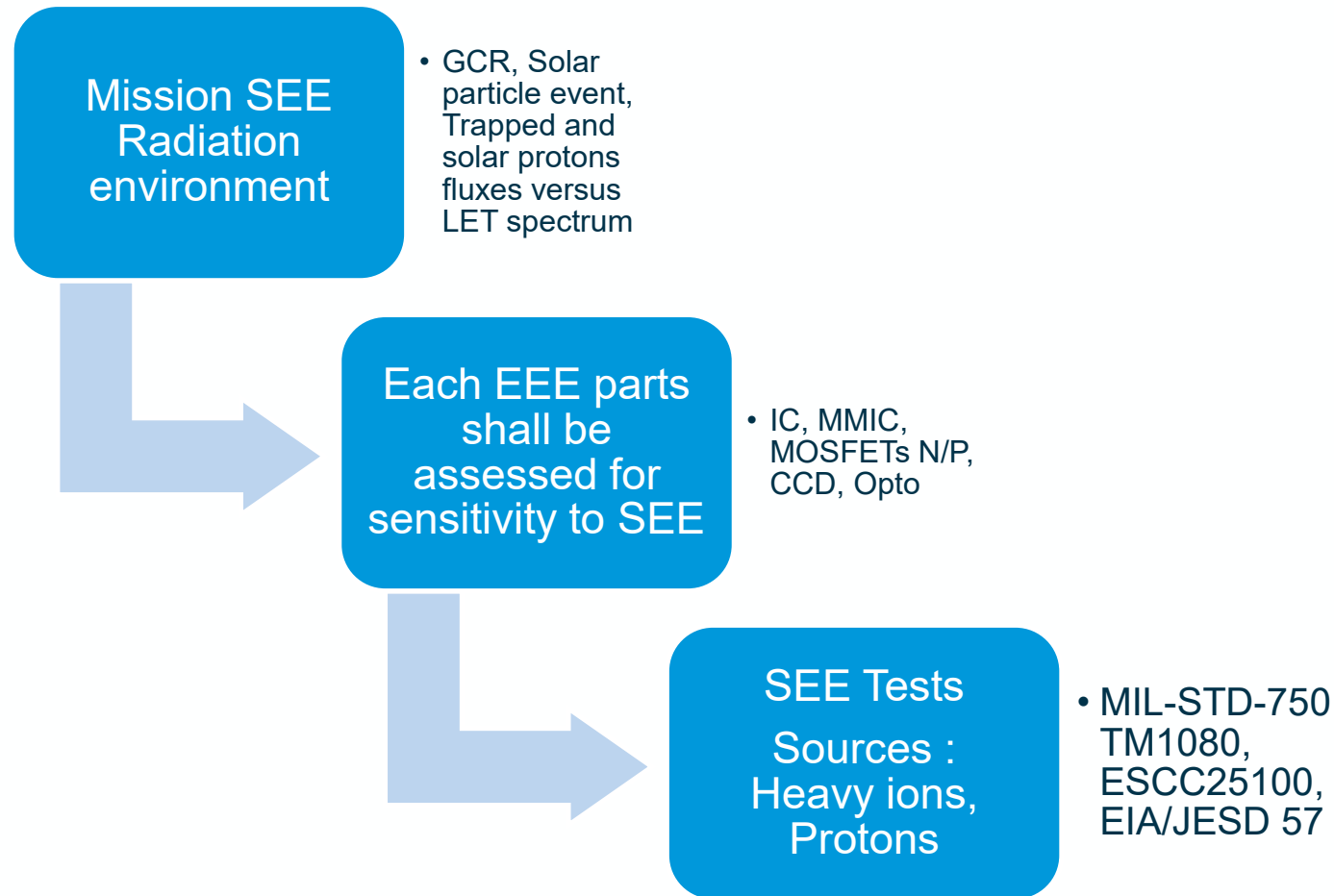
- ECSS-E-ST-10-04C – Space Environment
- ECSS-E-ST-10-12C – Methods for calculating radiation received, it's effects & design margins
- ECSS-E-HB-10-12A – Handbook for the above
- ECSS-E-ST-20-06C – Spacecraft Charging

Radiation
Hardness
Assurance EEE
Components
ECSS:

- ECSS-Q-ST-60-15C – RHA for EEE components
- ECSS-Q-HB-60-02A – Techniques for radiation effects mitigation in ASICs and FPGAs handbook

Component
Radiation
Testing
Specifications
ESCC:

- ESCC 22900 – Total Dose Irradiation Test Method
- ESCC 25100 – Single Event Effects Test Method and Guidelines
- ESCC 22500– Guidelines for Displacement Damage Irradiation Testing



No SEE shall cause damage to a system or a subsystem or induce performance anomalies or outages not compliant with mission specifications

Alternative Sources: Cf-252, Focused Pulsed Laser, Neutron, Alpha sources

Alternative sources shall not be used for SEE qualification. Only for preliminary assessment
Ref ECSS-Q-ST-60-15C

ESA new Approach to Mission Classes

Evolution of RHA and SEE test requirements -in definition

5 Classes, 4 different sets of requirements tailored from ECSS-Q-ST-60-15



Class V

- < 3 M
- No TID test
- NO SEE test
except for MOSFET VDS > 200V
- **Proton Test recommended (component or board level)**

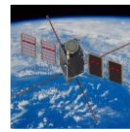
δ



Class IV

- 3M-2y
- No TID test if TIDL<5Krad
- **SEE** HI test **recommended**
- **Proton** test **required**

γ



Class III

- 2y -5 y
- No TID if TIDL<5Krad
- HI at part and board level
- Proton at part and board level

β



Class I & II

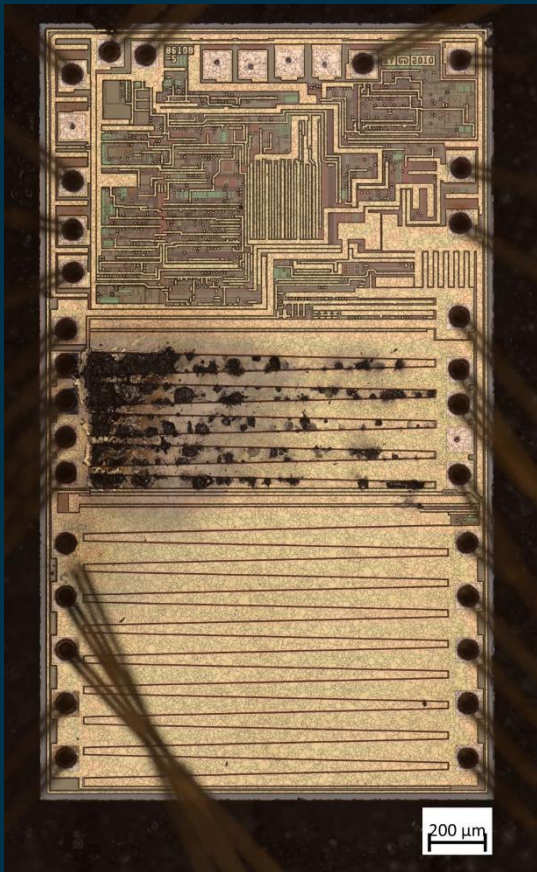
- > 5 y
- ECSS-Q-ST-60-15 + ESSB-Q-008
- TID
- SEE

α

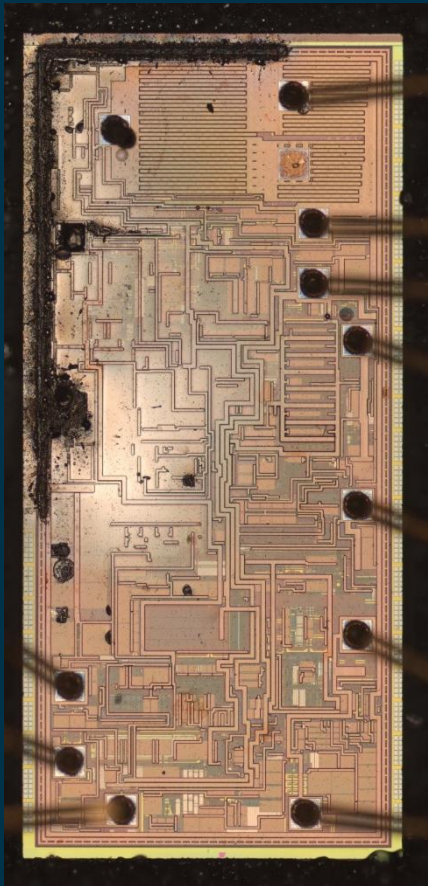


SEE LET Threshold	Analysis Requirement
$LET_{\text{threshold}} > 60 \text{ MeVcm}^2/\text{mg}$	SEE risk negligible, no further analysis needed
$15 \text{ MeVcm}^2/\text{mg} < LET_{\text{threshold}} < 60 \text{ MeVcm}^2/\text{mg}$	SEE risk, heavy ion induced SEE rates to be analyzed
$LET_{\text{threshold}} < 15 \text{ MeVcm}^2/\text{mg}$	SEE risk high, heavy ion and proton induced SEE rates to be analyzed
$LET_{\text{threshold}} < 1 \text{ MeVcm}^2/\text{mg} ?$	Very high SEE risk, heavy ion and proton (indirect and direct ionization) and electrons

Bonus: Destructive Single Event



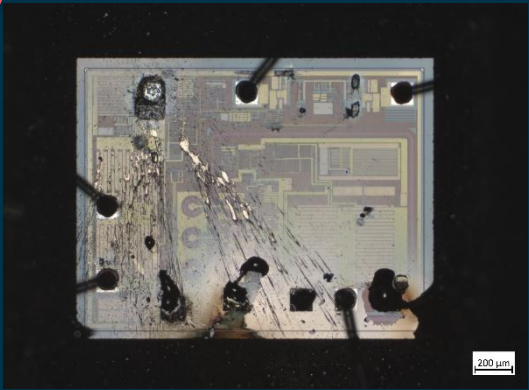
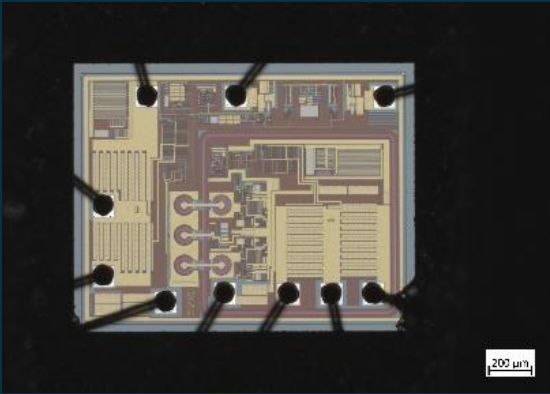
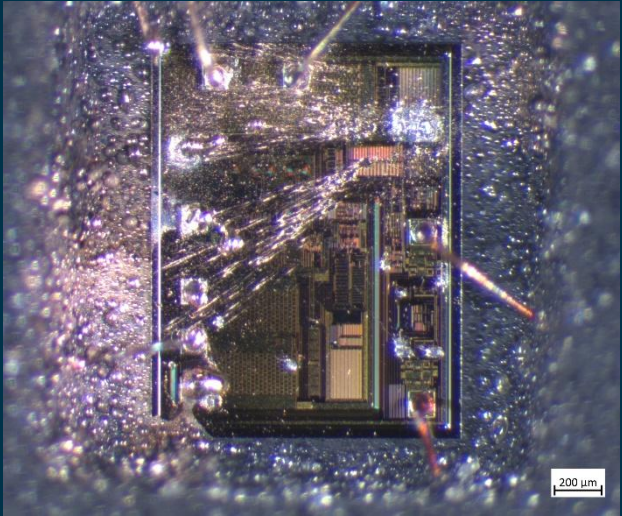
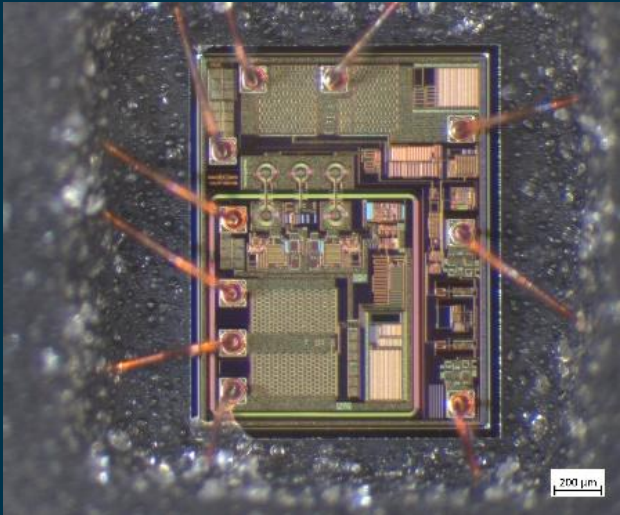
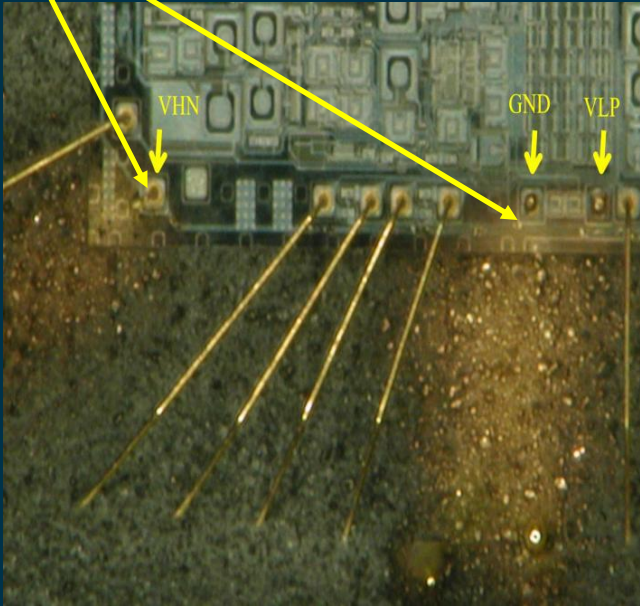
DC/DC:
LT8603



DC/DC:
MAX17551

Bonus: Destructive Single Event

Vaporized wirebonds
in an Agere LSP2916
MEMS Driver
from an SEL





ESA programs and initiatives

•

→ THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY



ESA programs and initiatives

The Open Space Innovation Platform (OSIP)

 [Start](#) [Activity](#) [Explore](#) [Help](#) [...](#) [Search](#) [Log In](#) [Register](#) 

CHANNEL

Open Discovery Ideas Channel (new)

Strategic Innovation Area: Discovery

[Submit Your Idea](#)



ESA Director General
Sponsor

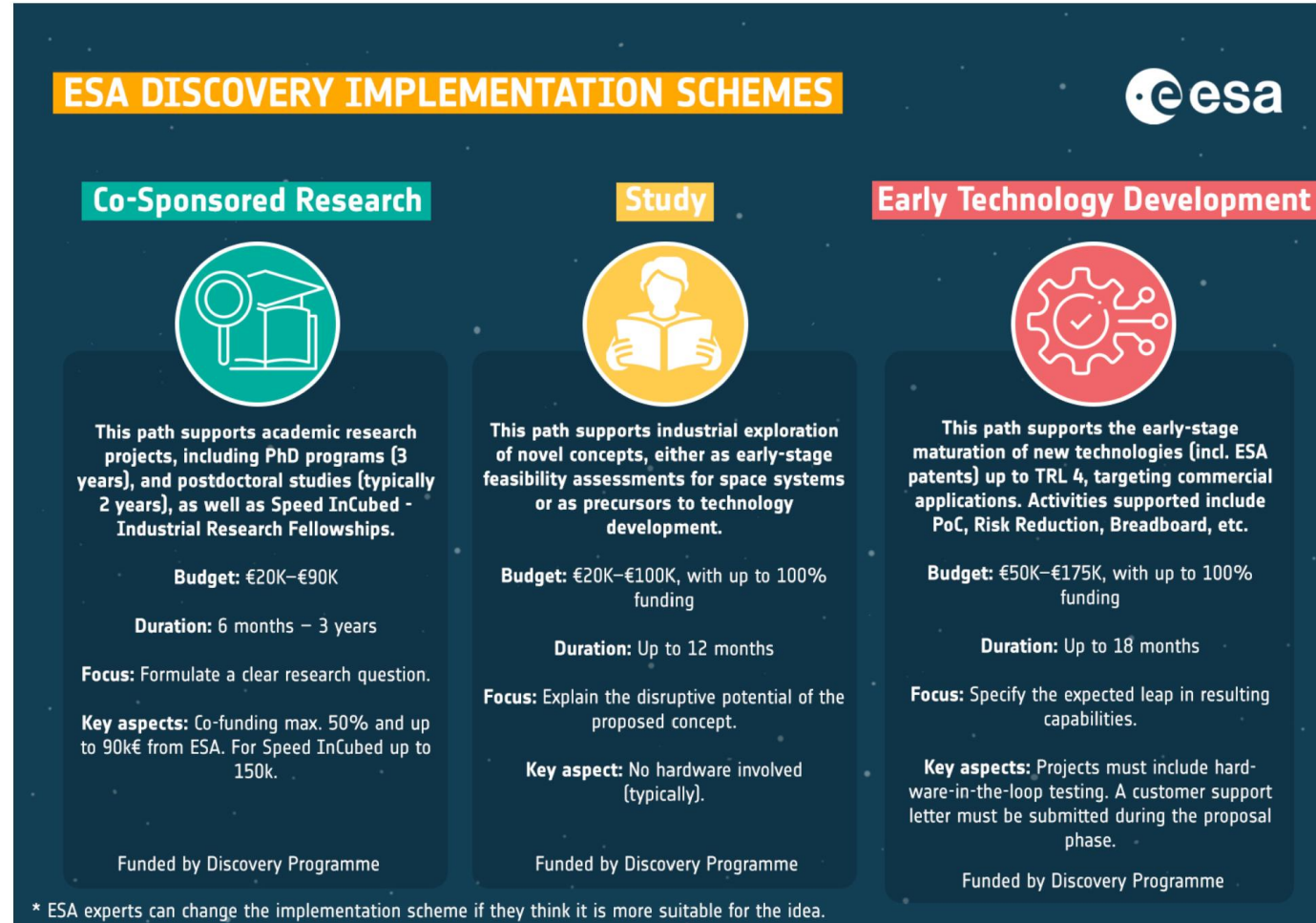
35 Followers



Got an idea that could revolutionise space research and technology? We're looking for visionary concepts and technologies to explore and inject into the European space landscape. This channel offers a streamlined entry point to ESA's R&D pipeline.

From:
<https://ideas.esa.int/servlet/hype/IMT?documentTableId=45087218053168825&userAction=Browse&templateName=&documentId=084c11fe4a9679bf192774977870faba>

The ESA Discovery Implementation Schemes



From:

<https://ideas.esa.int/servlet/hype/IMT?documentTableId=45087218053168825&userAction=Browse&templateName=&documentId=084c11fe4a9679bf192774977870faba>



Idea archived

Not eligible

- Ideas cannot be resubmitted



Not selected

Idea evaluation

- Eligibility check
- ESA can comment

[1 w

Eligible

- All users can comment (non-confidential ideas)
- Authors refine the idea [2-4 weeks]

- Includes qualified Ideas marked "Ready for Evaluation"
- No further edits allowed

(1 week)

Selected

Valid ESA entity code is required to enter into a contract relation with ESA

Contract signature & Public announcement

- Based on communicated evaluation criteria [2 weeks]

Selected

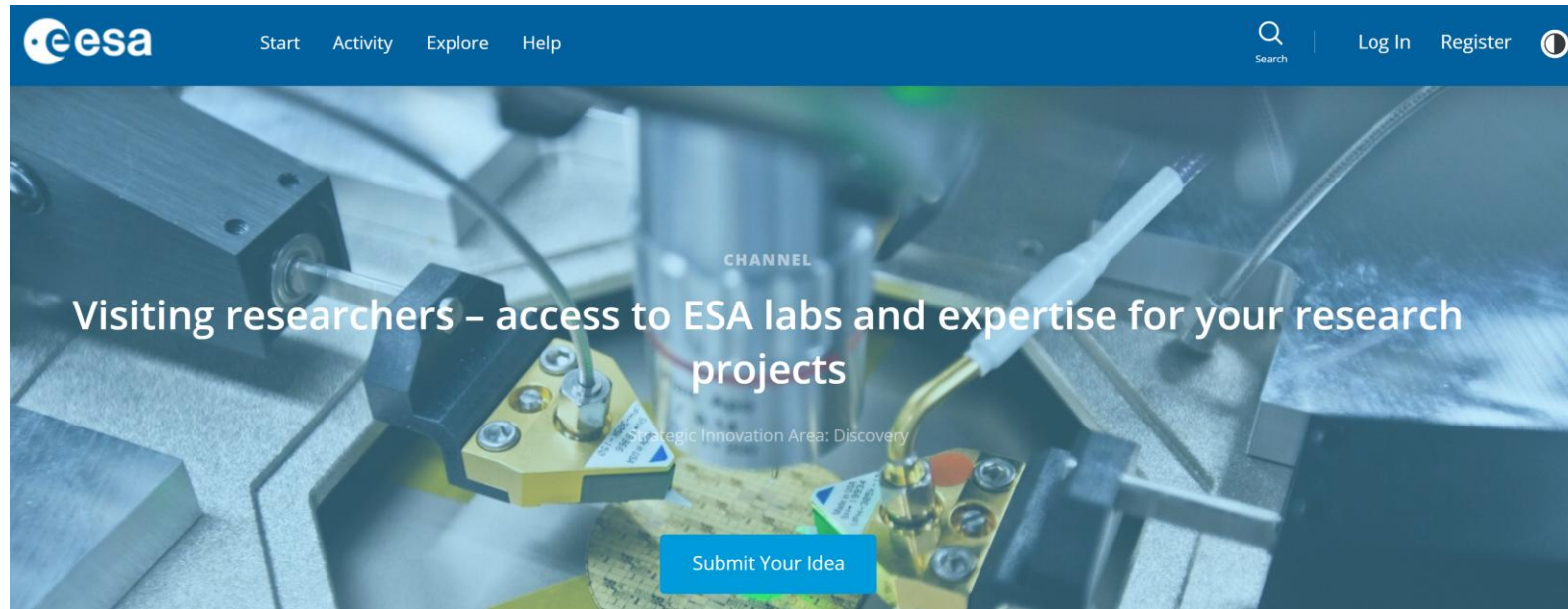
- Cooperative Agreement placed with successful entity
- Activity publication on ESA websites (title, abstract and illustration)



— ESA step
— Your step

<https://ideas.esa.int/servlet/hype/IMT?documentTableId=45087218053168825&userAction=Browse&templateName=&documentId=084c11fe4a9679bf192774977870faba>

OSIP Program – Visiting researcher



Director of Technology, Enginee...
Sponsor

Do you have a funded research project and think that you might benefit from ESA labs and/or expertise by joining as a visiting researcher? Submit your project here!

From:

<https://ideas.esa.int/servlet/hype/IMT?documentTableId=45087661359713405&userAction=Browse&searchTerm=dmlzaXRpbmc&templateName=&documentId=ea0e1fd289bd5f4f9a47138cc6791b2e&searchContextId=c3965aabf3c7c1c4a72b2a97b583ed42>

The visiting researcher channel is for active European researchers at the PhD, post-doc or higher level. Visiting researchers are expected to be able to perform research autonomously, as well as to understand and have experience with the typical requirements and rules of laboratory work. Visiting researchers need to have an ongoing researcher contract with an ongoing funded project and be employed by an organisation in one of [ESA's Member and Cooperating States](#) . The Channel is not open for Master's students and is not intended as a training exercise. If you are a European business interested in using ESA labs, please have a look at [our simplified lab access](#) .

There is no fixed length of stay and some projects might require multiple shorter stays. Thus these stays by visiting researchers at ESA could last from a few weeks up to a year, if justified by the project and agreed with the ESA team/lab.

From:

<https://ideas.esa.int/servlet/hype/IMT?documentTableId=45087661359713405&userAction=Browse&searchTerm=dmlzaXRpbmc&templateName=&documentId=ea0e1fd289bd5f4f9a47138cc6791b2e&searchContextId=c3965aabf3c7c1c4a72b2a97b583ed42>



ESA Academy

Enhancing skills, boosting ambitions

Opportunities for tertiary education students and early-career professionals

Alex Kinnaird

Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality

ESA/ESTEC
28 Feb 2025



STEM LEARNING & INSPIRATION



ESA ACADEMY



esa academy

For tertiary-level students and early-career professionals from ESA Member and Associate States

Transfer of space know-how and interaction with space professionals

Enriching academic education to increase employability within space sector

Stimulate innovation & entrepreneurship in response to community needs

❖ Objectives

- *inspiring and engaging the next generation*
- *enhancing youngsters' literacy & competences in STEM*
- *motivating students to pursue studies & careers in the space sector*
 - *by using space as learning & teaching contexts*
 - *by offering unique hands-on opportunities & access to SoA facilities*
 - *by sharing ESA's expertise*

❖ Contributing to building the human capital needed by the European space sector to implement its programmes

- equip the future workforce with the skills and competences which Europe needs in order to remain competitive
- stimulate creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship
- eventually enhance employability





TRAINING



TRAINING SESSIONS

- Online training sessions
- Onsite training sessions
- Hybrid training sessions



ONLINE LEARNING LIBRARY



PROJECTS

EXPERIMENTS



- Large Diameter Centrifuge
- Parabolic Flights
- Drop Towers
- Orbital Robotics Laboratory
- Space Rider
- International Space Station



SATELLITES

- Fly Your Satellite
- Fly Your Satellite - Design Booster
- Fly Your Satellite - Test Opportunities



ROCKETS

- Fly a Rocket
- REXUS/BEXUS



ENGAGEMENT



SCHOLARSHIPS

- Summer schools
- Academic programmes



INTERNSHIPS



CONFERENCES

- Student sponsorships
- European Space Education Conference



ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Downstream hackathons
- Student Aerospace Challenge
- European Rocketry Challenge
- External partners' training courses



CAREERS FOR YOU



BOOK A SPACE PRO



EDUCATION WEB TV



Training Programme



Facility

Training and Learning Facility ESA/ESEC-Galaxia (BE)

Who

Individual

Bachelor/Master/PhD

What

1–4 week intensive training sessions

Opportunity

Regular calls for applications

When

Continuous, 1-2 sessions per month



Target audience

Engineering & Science university students, from **BSc to PhD**

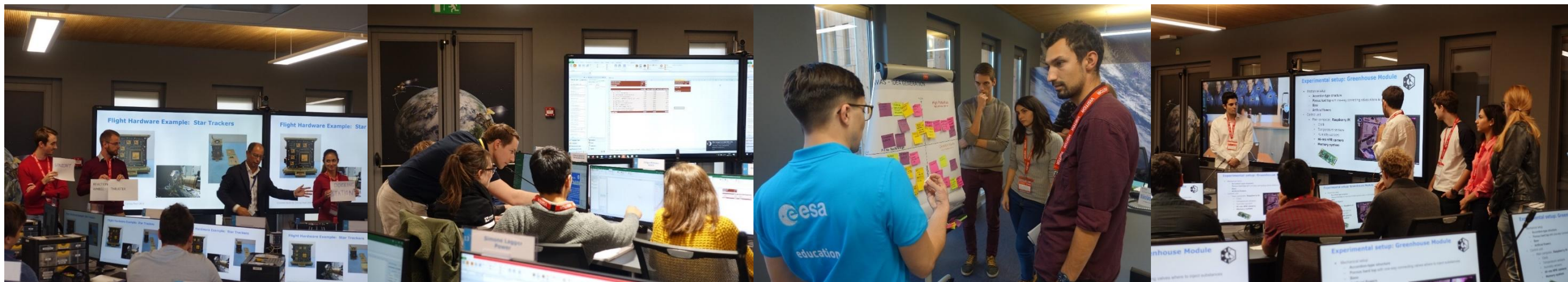
- Participating to ESA hands-on projects
- Preparing for a space related career
- Never involved in the space domain

→ Each training session has a specific target audience

Typical training

Minimum **32 training hours**

- 30 - 60 University students
- 1-6 Trainers/day:
- ESA, space industry and academia experts
- Group projects & exercises
- Student presentations & evaluations
- Certification and Training transcript for ECTS credit(s)



Training Courses:

- Clean Space
- Cybersecurity
- Earth Observation
- Satellite System Design
- Human Space Physiology
- Introduction to Space Law
- Spacecraft Communications
- Spacecraft Operations
- Navigation
- Product Assurance Awareness
- Satellite Communication Systems
- Space Debris
- Space Standards
- Space Systems Engineering
- Space Weather
- CubeSat Hands-On Design
- Concurrent Engineering Challenge



Workshops:

- Concurrent Engineering Workshop
- CubeSat Concurrent Engineering
- Earth Observation Remote Sensing
- ESA Academy Experiments
- Robotics
- Spacecraft Testing
- Technology Transfer, Application & Innovation
- CubeSat Summer School
- ESA/ELGRA Gravity Related Research Summer School
- Post-Alpach Summer School

Learning Management System
for e-learning under
development

Example: CubeSat Summer School

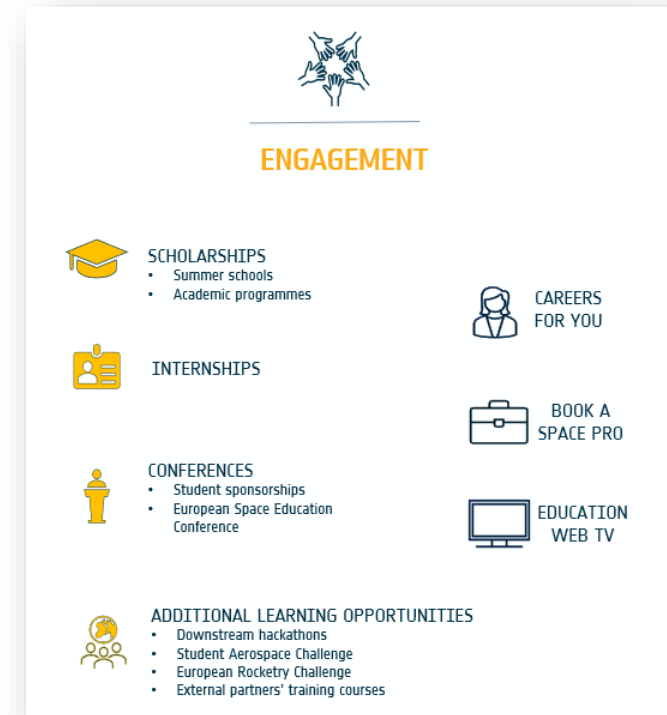


Direct collaboration schemes with academia, industry and institutions



Objectives

- ✓ Reinforce collaboration with ESA Directorates, academia, industry and institutions to the benefit of students and early professionals so to increase the number and quality of opportunities available to them, to stimulate visibility and awareness of the job market, and to bring talents in contact with potential employers;
- ✓ Exchange on the needs in terms of knowledge, skills and competences
- ✓ Work together on topics of common interest and enable closer involvement of the space sector in education
- ✓ Organise educational activities together (ex: Hackathon)
- ✓ Offer additional opportunities to future talents
- ✓ Facilitate internships in space industry
- ✓ Offer easy access to ESA expertise to the community for educational and inspirational purposes
- ✓ Raise awareness on ESA and the European space programme, and promote the ESA Education Programme



EXPERIMENTS



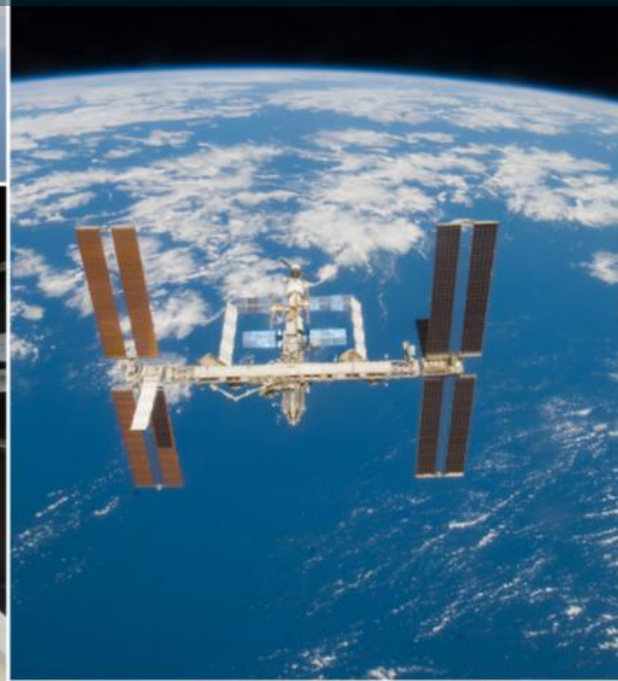
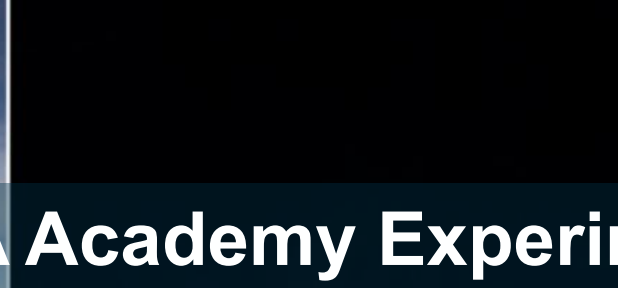
SATELLITES



ROCKETS



ESA Academy Experiments





Facilities

- Large Diameter Centrifuge
- Orbital Robotics Laboratory
- ZARM Drop Towers
- Parabolic Flights
- Space Rider
- ICE Cubes Facility (ISS)

What

Development of an experiment and operations

When

Once a year

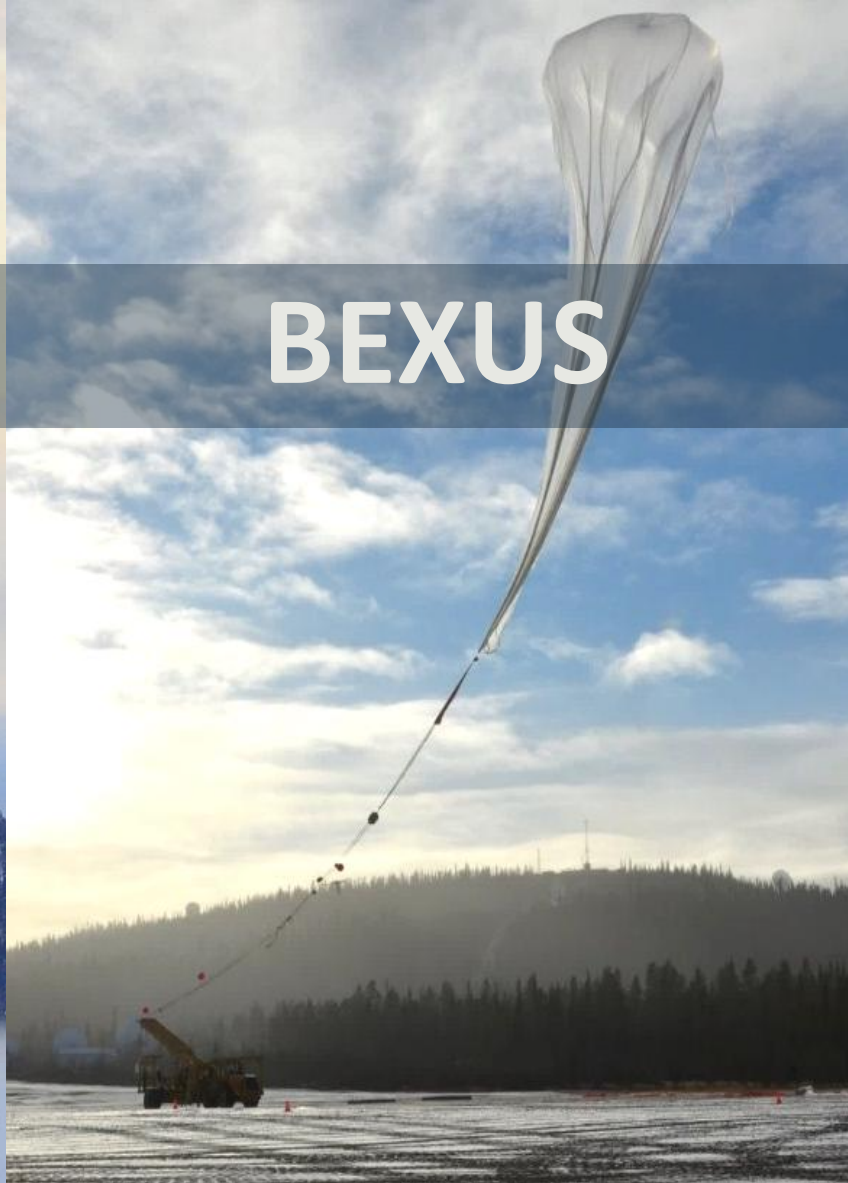
Who

Team: bachelor, master, PhD students

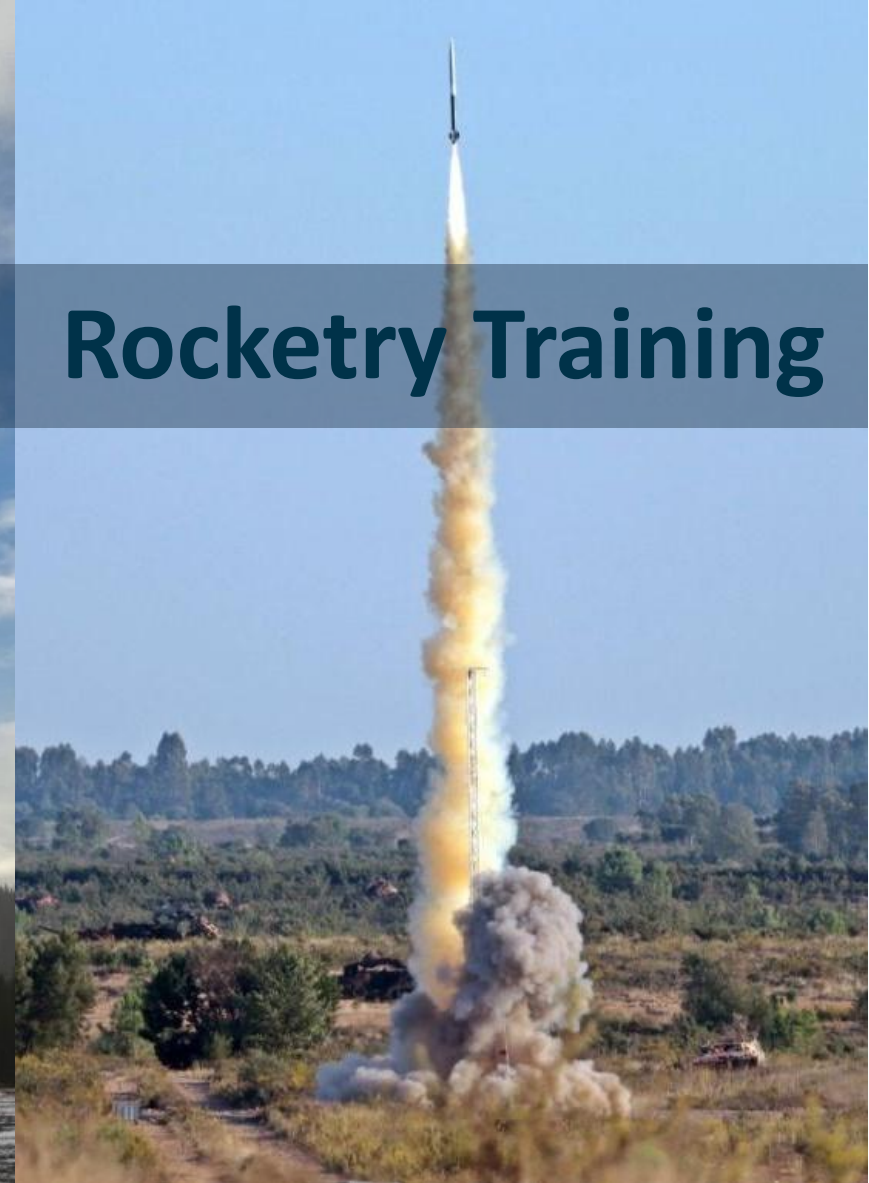
REXUS



BEXUS



Rocketry Training



- ◆ Rocket launch competition for European university teams
- ◆ Created by the Portuguese Space Agency in 2020
- ◆ ESA supports since 2022





REXUS

BEXUS

Development of an experiment and execution of the launch campaign at Esrange Space Center, Sweden

One call for proposals / year
Bachelor, Master, PhD

5.6m spin-stabilised sounding rocket
40kg student experiment mass
Altitude ca 90km

~ 3min of microgravity, up to 10^{-4} g
Despin and experiment ejection possible
Experiments recovered after flight

12,000m³ stratospheric balloon,
40-100kg student experiment mass
2.5h floating at 20-30 km altitude

Experiments recovered after flight



Rocketry Training Programme



A stylized, semi-transparent graphic of a satellite or space station is centered in the background. It features a central body with several long, thin solar panel arrays extending outwards in different directions.

Fly Your Satellite!

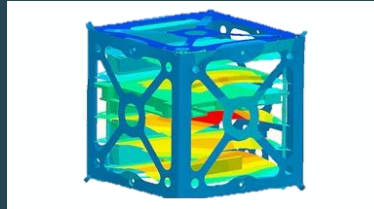
Fly Your Satellite – CubeSat opportunities

Fly Your Satellite!



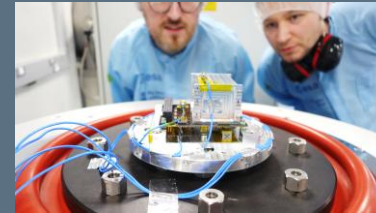
For teams with subsystems built & tested, ready to integrate soon

Fly Your Satellite! Design Booster



For teams with a preliminary design

Fly Your Satellite! Test Opportunities



For teams who would like to learn from an environmental test campaign

Fly Your Satellite! & Training Training sessions



Training weeks for students/teams before or in early phases of CubeSat projects

Various opportunities throughout the year

CubeSats Concurrent Engineering Workshop

5-day training course at TLF | BSc, MSc, PhD students



CubeSat Summer School

4-week training course at Galaxia | BSc, MSc, PhD



CubeSat Hands-On Training Week

5-day training course at TLF | BSc, MSc, PhD students



Spacecraft Testing Workshop

5-day training course at TLF & CSF | BSc, MSc, PhD students







- Structured collaboration models involving ESA, academia, companies & institutions



- Prepare future talents in tertiary education via joint opportunities



Funding opportunities

- Conference Student Sponsorship programme
- Short Courses Scholarship programme
- Academic Scholarship programme

Events

- European Space Education Conference

Collaboration

- Book a Space pro & Alma Matter
- Careers for you
- Tailored collaboration

Future: SME's Internship Support – Coming soon

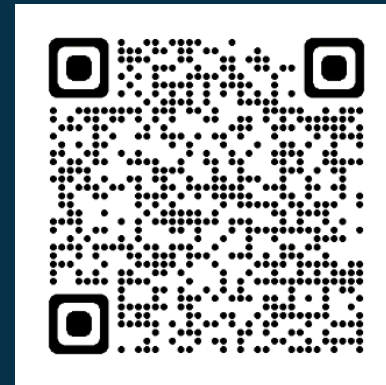


Make European **space-related conferences** more accessible to tertiary education students



→ To be eligible, the student is expected to contribute to the conference (oral presentation, poster, ...)

- ✓ Registration fee
- ✓ Economy travel & accommodation costs up to a ceiling amount

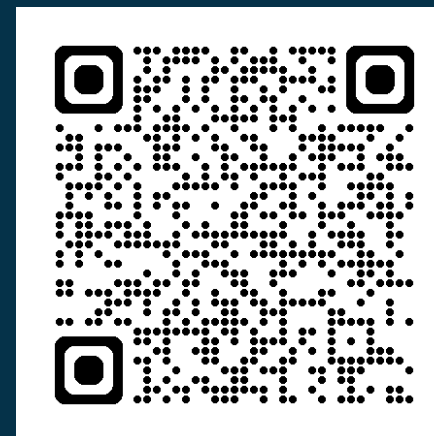




Make European **space-related short courses more accessible** to tertiary education students by financially supporting their participation.



- ✓ Registration fee
- ✓ Economy travel & accommodation costs up to a ceiling amount



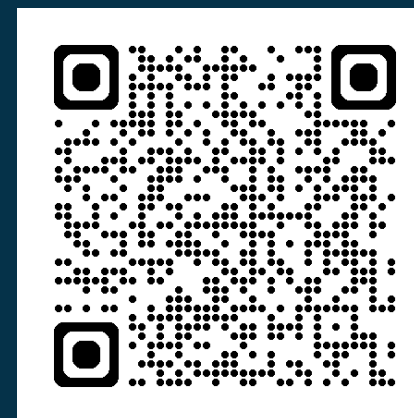


Make European **space-related higher education programmes** more accessible to future talents by covering the tuition fees.



✓ tuition fee

Institutions to
apply before 14th
March 2025



ESA Early career opportunities

ENTRY-LEVEL AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES



STUDENT INTERNSHIPS PROGRAMME



NATIONAL TRAINEE PROGRAMMES



ESA CO-FUNDED RESEARCH (for PhDs and post-docs)

JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

YOUNG GRADUATE TRAINEE PROGRAMME

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME (post-docs)



→ THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY



DURATION

- 3 – 6 months placement

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Students in their **last** years of a Master's degree
- You must be a citizen of one of the ESA Member States, Associate Members, European Cooperating States or Canada as a Cooperating State.

WHEN DO THEY OPEN?

- November

HOW TO APPLY?

- jobs.esa.int

YOUNG GRADUATE TRAINEE OPPORTUNITIES



DREAM
DARE
DO!

#ESArecruits



DURATION

- One-year contract (subject to conditions, a second-year extension may be granted)

WHO CAN APPLY?

- You must be a student in the final year of a Master's or have just graduated
- You must be a citizen of one of the ESA Member States, Associate Members, European Cooperating States or Canada as a Cooperating State

WHEN DO THEY OPEN?

- February

HOW TO APPLY?

- jobs.esa.int



DURATION

- Initial duration of one year, with possible extension to another year.

WHO CAN APPLY?

National Trainee Programmes are set up through bilateral agreements between ESA and national agencies.

- You are a citizen of one of the participating countries

(see the website for the latest list)

WHEN DO THEY OPEN?

- This varies between participating countries but the selection is usually on an annual basis

HOW TO APPLY?

- Application through national agency
- Learn more here bit.ly/ESANationalTrainee



DURATION

- 2 year contract, with the possibility of a third year

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Recently attained doctorate (PhD) in a relevant field
- You must be a citizen of one of the ESA Member States, Associate Members, European Cooperating States or Canada as a Cooperating State

WHEN DO THEY OPEN?

- Research Fellowship opportunities are published throughout the year, except Space Science (usually published in August)

HOW TO APPLY?

- jobs.esa.int

JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME



DURATION

- A three-year ESA contract with the perspective of a permanent ESA position at the end of the programme

WHO CAN APPLY?

- You must be graduate of a Master's-level degree programme.
- You must have two to three years of relevant professional experience after Master's
- You must be a citizen of one of the ESA Member States, Associate Members, or Canada as a Cooperating State

WHEN DO THEY OPEN?

- The next publication of JPP vacancies is currently foreseen for early 2025

HOW TO APPLY?

- jobs.esa.int



WHAT IS OFFERED?

- ESA co-funding up to 50% and up to €90K research at PhD or post-doc level
- access to ESA laboratories
- technical support by ESA experts
- networking through ESA links to identify industrial partners for further cooperation or to build "innovative networks"

WHO CAN APPLY?

- PhD or post-docs

WHEN DO THEY OPEN?

- Open all year long

HOW TO APPLY?

- ideas.esa.int