



EU SPACE

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**EU SPACE INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTRE
(EU SPACE ISAC)**

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1. Introduction and Background

Space plays a crucial role for EU strategic autonomy, economy, citizens' welfare, security and defence, scientific development and other vital areas. Considering our increasing reliance on space data and services, safeguarding the security of space systems and the communication and information networks they rely upon is of paramount importance for the European Union.

The EU is taking several steps to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure and services, including through the adoption of the Network and Information Security (NIS) 2 Directive¹ and the Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive². In this context, it aims at raising awareness and facilitating the exchange of best practices among private entities on resilience measures, including through the establishment of cooperation arrangements and Information Sharing and Analysis Centres (ISACs) across essential sectors.

As an increasingly critical sector, and considering the rapidly-evolving nature of the space industry and the significant rise in the number of new commercial actors, special consideration should be given to strengthening the security and resilience of the EU space ecosystem. Against this background, the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence³ (EUSSSD) proposed to establish **an EU SPACE ISAC**.

¹ Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 and Directive (EU) 2018/1972, and repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (NIS 2 Directive)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2555/oj>

²² DIRECTIVE (EU) 2022/2557 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 14 December 2022, on the resilience of critical entities and repealing Council Directive 2008/114/EC

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32022L2557&from=EN>

³ EUSSSD website https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-space-strategy-security-and-defence_en, text of the JOIN(2023)9, JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL European Union Space Strategy for Security and Defence [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=JOIN\(2023\)9&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=JOIN(2023)9&lang=en)

2. Description of the initiative

The European Commission (hereinafter 'COM'), with the support of the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (hereinafter 'EUSPA'), is launching this Call to invite **Members and Public Partners** as defined below (hereinafter collectively referred to as 'Participant(s)', where both should be designated) to set up and participate in an EU SPACE Information Sharing and Analysis Centre (hereinafter 'ISAC'). It will strengthen the security and resilience of the EU space sector by developing the awareness and capabilities of its participants, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups.

Participating in the EU SPACE ISAC will improve the security and resilience of Members via:

- **Information sharing:** the EU SPACE ISAC will act as an information-sharing hub where Members can exchange valuable information related to security incidents. They will stay tuned on latest cyber trends, security vulnerabilities and hybrid threats.
- **Early warning systems:** Members of the EU SPACE ISAC share security alerts and gain access to timely and actionable information about security threats at their early stages. This will allow them to respond promptly and effectively to detect, prevent or mitigate any potential damages.
- **Enhanced cybersecurity posture:** through the sharing of knowledge, information, best practices and expertise, Participants of the EU SPACE ISAC will enhance their collective cybersecurity resilience to better safeguard critical space assets and systems.
- **Collaborative approach to cybersecurity:** by leveraging their combined resources and pooling their knowledge and expertise, Members will synergise their efforts to effectively respond to common cybersecurity challenges.
- **Access to expertise and guidance:** the EU SPACE ISAC will allow exchanges with Public Partners, including cybersecurity experts, public sector agencies and other stakeholders who can propose guidance and assistance to Participants.
- **Support to incident response and recovery:** in the event of a cybersecurity incident, the EU SPACE ISAC can offer support to its Members, including by facilitating communication between Participants and relevant authorities for the characterization, response and recovery processes.
- **Networking and industry insights:** participation in the EU SPACE ISAC will develop networking among Participants.

2.1 Members

Members shall be legal private entities from the Space sector established in the EU, developing their activity in the EU, having their executive management structure⁴ established in the EU, and that are not subject to control by a third country or by a third country entity⁵.

EU academic institutions and other recognized institutions can also be Members, provided that they develop knowledge about security and/or incidents and/or potential solutions that are relevant for the space sector (such as universities, research centers, think-tanks, group of experts, Member states' ISACs, ...).

2.2 Public partners

Public partners shall be legal public entities established in the EU of relevance for the EU Space sector, that are directly or indirectly contributing to its activity and/ or regulation, such as for example:

- a. EU institutions, bodies and agencies;
- b. Intergovernmental European Agencies acting in the space sector;
- c. Other EU ISACs – where relevant;
- d. EU National space agencies;
- e. EU National Computer Emergency Response Teams.

2.3 Founding Participants

Founding Participants can be either Member or Public Partners that are willing to play a significant role in shaping the governance and guidance principles of the EU SPACE ISAC. They should demonstrate a strong willingness and commitment to achieve its goals. They need to be able to dedicate time, resources and expertise during the initial stages of its development. Founding Participants will be responsible for promoting participation in the EU SPACE ISAC and for launching its first activities.

As pioneers of the EU SPACE ISAC, Founding Participants will substantially influence its set-up and development, including by participating in the first Board of the EU SPACE ISAC – alongside representatives from EU institutions.

The Board will review the Terms of Reference of the EU SPACE ISAC that are developed by the COM and EUSPA, and that shall be endorsed by all Participants to the EU SPACE ISAC.⁶ It will also assess applications of other candidates that will be willing to participate in the EU SPACE ISAC.

The composition of the Board shall reflect the diversity of space actors, both in terms of activity and characteristics. Large industrial players as well as SMEs and start-ups shall be represented. The

⁴ 'Executive management structure' means a body of a legal entity, appointed in accordance with national law, and, where applicable, reporting to the chief executive officer or any other person having comparable decisional power, which is empowered to establish the legal entity's strategy, objectives and overall direction, and which oversees and monitors management decision-making.

⁵ 'Control' means the ability to exercise a decisive influence over a legal entity directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediate legal entities.

⁶ Modifications related to the Eligibility criteria, role of EU Institutions, Bodies and Agencies and other strategic elements of the EU SPACE ISAC shall be always subject to prior approval by the COM and EUSPA.

size of the entity will be taken into account to assess its proposition of contribution as Founding Participant.

The number of Founding participants / seats at the first Board will be defined in coherence with the number of applications for participation while also taking into account the need for efficient decision-making and action for the development of the EU SPACE ISAC.

Two years after the official launch of the EU SPACE ISAC, the Board shall be renewed through an election by its Members.

2.4 Objectives of the EU SPACE ISAC

The EU SPACE ISAC is a membership-driven⁷ organization, engaging industry, public sector institutions and academia. It will act as a network-based information sharing platform, connecting its Participants to communicate in a trusted environment.

The EU SPACE ISAC will serve as the **primary communication channel for the space sector with regard to security related information and sharing of best practices**, and will provide relevant knowledge, services and resources to enable Members to prevent, tackle and mitigate security challenges to the space sector more effectively and efficiently.

The COM and EUSPA will support and facilitate the establishment and run of the EU SPACE ISAC.

The main objective of the EU SPACE ISAC is to contribute to the security and resilience of space systems and their supply chain. To do so, the EU SPACE ISAC aims at:

- Establishing efficient and secure communication channels to facilitate information sharing between Participants.
- Sharing space related security information, including an overview of main challenges, and exploring research and development needs.
- Facilitating access to security expertise and boosting skilling of the industry, including by raising awareness about training opportunities and organizing activities or events.
- Exploring measures and initiatives to enhance the readiness and the resilience of EU SPACE ISAC Members' capabilities for detecting, mitigating, and recovering from security incidents.
- Proposing ready-to-use and actionable resources and tools for Participants, including to guide the implementation of relevant EU regulations and shared best practices.
- Facilitating feedback and sharing of experiences of its Members.
- Bringing targeted support to its Members upon request, proposing advice, support, and evaluation.
- Collaborating with EU similar organizations or communities with a recognized expertise.
- Considering dialogue with non-EU similar organizations or communities, where relevant.
- Supporting information sharing in the context of major security incidents, where needed.

The EU SPACE ISAC shall not be an incident response body. Providing an answer to a security incident will remain the responsibility of each Member.

To achieve its goals, the EU SPACE ISAC will create working groups (Members only) and communities of interest (Members and Public partners) and organize activities.

⁷ "Membership-driven" means that Members shall take full ownership of the EU SPACE ISAC, by actively participating to its missions and activities, supported by Public Partners.

3. Purpose of the Call for expression of interest: application for participation in the EU Space ISAC

The EC, with the support of EUSPA, is launching a call for expression of interest (hereinafter “Call”) to invite Participants to the EU SPACE ISAC.

Participants within the EU SPACE ISAC consist of **Members** and **Public Partners** as defined in sections 2.1 and 2.2 respectively. **Error! Reference source not found..**

For the purpose of this Call, applicants shall specify if they apply as Members or as Public Partners. In addition, applicants shall indicate if they want to apply for the position of Founding Participant. If so, they will have to participate in the first Board Meeting of the EU SPACE ISAC.

All applicants shall present their motivation, a commitment to active participation (including a description of their future involvement), the description of the expertise that would be relevant for the purposes of the EU SPACE ISAC, their interest for working groups and/or communities of interest, and their expectations from the EU SPACE ISAC, as established in **Error! Reference source not found..**

Applicants interested in becoming **Founding Participants** will be required to undergo an interview to assess their motivation and the resources they are willing to contribute to the EU SPACE ISAC (commitment). The evaluation will also consider the characteristics of the applicant, i.e. if they are a SME or a larger industrial player. The level of commitment expected from each applicant will be based on their means and available resources, ensuring a proportionate contribution.

Potential Associated Partners (i.e. public and private entities established outside the EU willing to contribute to the objectives of the EU SPACE ISAC) are not subject to this Call.

4. Assessment of applications

The COM, with the support of EUSPA, will first assess applications for Founding Participants. Then the Board will assess other applications for participation. The following eligibility criteria will be assessed.

4.1 Eligibility criteria

Participants in the EU SPACE ISAC consist of Members and Public partners. In order to be eligible, Members and Public partners must:

1. Be legal entities in the private or public sectors directly or indirectly contributing to the EU space sector or to its security.
2. Commit to actively participating in the EU SPACE ISAC as declared in the Application Form (Annex I), ensuring the development of security expertise and resilience in the space sector. Members shall contribute to this overarching objective in a manner that is proportionate to their level of maturity: actors that are less advanced would benefit from the experience of those with a proven-track expertise in security of the space sector, demonstrating willingness to evolve in that direction.

3. Private legal entities must be established in the EU, developing their activity in the EU⁸, having their executive management structure⁹ established in the EU, and must not be subject to control by a third country or by a third country entity¹⁰.
4. Public partners must be legal public entities established in the EU and directly or indirectly contributing to the EU's space sector activity and/or regulation.
5. The applying entity shall be involved in one or several Space sector activities categories, such as the ones listed below:

Manufacturers and integrators	Space mission systems	Space Situational Awareness	Earth Observation
Satellite providers and operators			
Cloud and Data processing			
Security/Cybersecurity			
Quantum and Communications			
Research and Academia			
Consulting and professional services (non-security)			
Education/training			
Other sectors and services (Subject to approval by the Board)			

Eligibility criteria are only assessed for the purpose of application for participation in the EU SPACE ISAC. This assessment cannot be used for any other purpose.

4.2 EU Restrictive Measures

The Member/Public partner shall provide a statement guaranteeing that the Member/Public partner are not a Restricted Person¹¹/ entity and do not fall under the scope of EU Restrictive Measures in the list published at www.sanctionsmap.eu. In case of discrepancies between 'www.sanctionsmap.eu' and the restrictive measures published in Official Journal of the EU, the latter prevails.

⁸ At least a significant part of their activity.

⁹ 'Executive management structure' means a body of a legal entity, appointed in accordance with national law, and, where applicable, reporting to the chief executive officer or any other person having comparable decisional power, which is empowered to establish the legal entity's strategy, objectives and overall direction, and which oversees and monitors management decision-making, as defined in Article 24 (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/696.

¹⁰ 'Control' means the ability to exercise a decisive influence over a legal entity directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediate legal entities, as defined in Article 24 (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/696.

¹¹ Any entity, individual or group of individuals designated by the EU as subject to the EU Restrictive Measures in the lists provided at www.sanctionsmap.eu

5. Procedure for the submission of expression of interest

Founding Participants will have to submit their application by 3 November 2023. For other participants, there will be an open call with multiple cut-off dates, as specified below in the timetable.

Applications shall be submitted in English to EUSPA at EUSpaceISAC-secretariat@euspa.europa.eu and to the EC at defis-EU-SPACEISAC-SECRETARIAT@ec.europa.eu with 'Call for Expression of Interest – EU SPACE ISAC' in the subject line, together with the following documents:

1. Filled and signed [Legal Entity Form](#) and relevant attachments;
2. Declaration of honour on the exclusion criteria, dated and signed by the applicant's authorised representative, as per Annex I. It is to be duly signed and dated by an authorised representative. In case of doubt, applicants may be requested to provide supporting evidence of non-exclusion;
3. Statement on EU restrictive measures, as specified under section 4.2;
4. Evidence proving that the person that signed the required documents is the applicant's authorised representative (e.g. power of attorney, entity's extract from commercial registry, etc.);
5. For Members only: filled-in and signed ownership template, as per Annex III;
6. Completed Application Template, as per Annex I, signed by the applicant's authorised representative and including description of:
 - a. Involvement, experience or expertise in the space sector/domain and in its security.
 - b. Proposal of activities (including proposition of potential working groups / communities of interest) and expectations from the EU SPACE ISAC.
 - c. Ideas for active participation in the EU SPACE ISAC.
 - i. Examples of active contribution: chairmanship of a working group / community of interest, sharing information/returns of experience on specific topic, potential deliverables, organisation of events...
 - ii. For Founding Participants, available resources, facilities, services and/or deliverables to support the activities of the EU SPACE ISAC.

Timetable and deadlines	
Deadline for submission of requests for clarification	16 th October 2023, 23:59 CET
Deadline for issuance of clarifications by EUSPA	27 th October 2023, 23:59 CET Any requests for additional information shall be submitted in writing to EUSpaceISAC-secretariat@euspa.europa.eu .
Deadline for submission of expression of interest	Founding Participants: 3 November 2023, 23:59 CET
	Regular participants – open call with several cut-off dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 December 2023 • 30 April 2024 • 31 October 2024 • 30 April 2025 • 31 October 2025
Evaluation	Founding Participants: November/December 2023
	Regular participants: to be initiated at the first Board Meeting (Q1 2024) – then 2-3 months after cut-off date.
Information on results of evaluation	Founding Participants: December 2023/January 2024 Regular Participants: 4-6 months after cut-off date

6. Withdrawal of the Call for Expression of Interest

This Call is not binding for the COM and EUSPA and does not preclude future decisions.

7. Data protection

Any processing of personal data in the context of this Call for Expression of Interest will be done in accordance with Regulation [2018/1725](#). It will be processed solely for the purpose of analysing your application to participate in an EU SPACE ISAC (and subsequent management of further activities of it). Your reply to this notice and any personal data requested will be processed solely for those purposes by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space, Unit B2 which is acting as data controller, as well as EUSPA which is data processor. Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available in the relevant privacy statement.

8. Reference Documents

[1] JOIN(2023)9, JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL European Union Space Strategy for Security and Defence. [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=JOIN\(2023\)9&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=JOIN(2023)9&lang=en)

[2] Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, amending Regulation (EU)

No 910/2014 and Directive (EU) 2018/1972, and repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (NIS 2 Directive). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2555/oj>

[3] DIRECTIVE (EU) 2022/2557 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 14 December 2022, on the resilience of critical entities and repealing Council Directive 2008/114/EC <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32022L2557&from=EN>

9. Annexes

Document	Annex reference
Application form	Annex I
Declaration of Honour on exclusion criteria	Annex II
Ownership template	Annex III

End of Document