



Horizon Europe,  
a programme of the  
European Union

#EUSpaceResearch

# NEW SPACE AND EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SPACE

ELEVATING  
EUROPE'S SPACE  
ENTREPRENEURS  
TO NEW HEIGHTS





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# NEW SPACE AND EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SPACE

Elevating Europe's space entrepreneurs to new heights

## The emergence of New Space that gradually develops new commercial fields

Traditionally, the space industry catered mainly to governmental customers. However, in the past decade, a significant shift took place at a global level towards **greater involvement of the private sector**, both as client and supplier. New Space refers to the emergence of a privately owned, commercially motivated space industry. This impacts many layers of the space sector: innovative technologies, entrepreneurial activities, new models for R&D, commercialisation and financing new frontiers and explorations, as well as new industrial processes. It also spurs cross-fertilisation and synergies with other industries, such as automotive and digital.

## The European New Space ecosystem, unfolding commercial opportunities in space

The **European New Space ecosystem is steadily growing**, even though New Space is still dominated by the US. It is gradually developing new commercial fields beyond the traditional space sector, with many European companies popping up in different segments. For instance, the development of new launch systems ("Micro-launchers" rockets) by European SMEs such as ISAR Aerospace, RFA and PLD Space aims at providing cheaper and more flexible access to space, while in-orbit services (e.g. D-Orbit) create complete new space activities.

Another important segment in the European New Space ecosystem is the satellites. Today, many companies such as Iceye, Kinéis and KLEO are deploying constellations of hundreds of small satellites (<=500 kg mass) to provide customers with advanced Earth Observation, IoT and communication services. The growth and importance of this ecosystem is recognised by the European Commission, which has **increased its funding and support for start-ups and SMEs**.

## Teaming up across Europe

The Commission has put together all relevant public players to create the best conditions for New Space companies to scale up in Europe, with the support of:

- The **European Investment Fund** for the implementation of the CASSINI investment facility;
- The **European Investment Bank** for debt operations;
- The **European Space Agency** and the **EU Agency for the Space Programme**, including for matchmaking activities;
- The **European Innovation Council**, that provides a tangible financial support to New Space companies, complementing the CASSINI initiative.



### Boosting entrepreneurship

€1+ billion investment to support the European space ecosystem



### Boost space

Produce fundamental measures that are required to sustain the five strategic capabilities, ensuring growth of the economy competitiveness, foster competitiveness and accelerate the pace of innovations, support EU non-dependency on critical technologies and strengthen international cooperation



### Supporting EU objectives

By promoting a globally innovative European New Space domain

## Introducing CASSINI

**CASSINI** boosts the commercialisation of Europe's space industry, with the aim of increasing revenue growth among startup companies and easing access to investment capital.

**CASSINI Investment Facility** provides €1+ billion capital to venture capital funds focusing on space investment. The Commission and EIF regularly offer capacity building workshops to create an ecosystem of space investors.

**CASSINI Business Accelerator** provides expert coaching and mentoring about marketing, sales, and business growth. 40 startup companies per year get admitted.

**CASSINI Matchmaking** provides a Europe-wide networking arena for space companies, investors, and corporations. Up to 12 events per year across Europe. 200+ companies have participated in 2022-23.

**CASSINI** has partnered with Dealroom to track the amount of investment capital raised by European space companies. Visit [Dealroom.co](https://www.dealroom.co) and use the CASSINI label: CASSINI Business Accelerator | [Dealroom.co](https://www.dealroom.co)

**CASSINI Hackathons** and **CASSINI Challenges** offer exciting competitions to spur early-stage innovation and assist new entrepreneurs taking the first steps towards building a viable company.

The **In-Orbit Demonstration and Validation service** enables new technologies to be tested in orbit by providing aggregation on spacecraft, if needed, and launch services and operations.

To stay informed about all **CASSINI** news/events/activities: [www.cassini.eu](https://www.cassini.eu)

## Introducing the EIC activities with Europe's flagship innovation programme, the European Innovation Council (EIC)

Introduced by the European Commission to support the commercialisation of high-risk, high potential, high-impact technologies in the European Union, the European Innovation Council (EIC) was launched in March 2021 under the Horizon Europe programme. Intended to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough technologies and game-changing innovations, the EIC provides several funding opportunities.

## Introducing the EIC activities

- The **EIC Pathfinder & Transition programmes** support research teams exploring bold ideas at low TRLs for radically new and emerging breakthrough technologies, with grants of up to €4 million.
- Providing grant funding and equity investments for individual start-ups and small companies with TRLs above 5 to develop and scale up innovations is the objective of the **EIC Accelerator**.



Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, with a budget of around €95 billion over 2021-2027, of which close to €1.6 billion is dedicated to space research. The space R&I is managed by the **Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)**, the **EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA)**, the **European Space Agency (ESA)** and the **European Commission** itself. Most calls are also published on the **EC Funding and Tenders participant portal**.

