

German Space Agency at DLR Challenge 2026

“Groundbreaking Cross-Sector Innovations”

Submit your idea from 15 January to 25 March 2026

The Challenge

The space sector continues to evolve: Increasing numbers of new concepts are becoming economically viable, giving rise to emerging markets and creating new opportunities for space industry innovation. At the same time, the space industry is integrating hardware, technologies, and approaches from terrestrial sectors, further accelerating its transition. In this context, the German Space Agency at DLR is seeking for ideas and concepts for space spin-ins and spin-offs that can lead to technologies, processes, and applications with cross-sector relevance.




The DLR Challenge will award four projects in two categories:

- **two projects submitted by a research consortium** (e.g. led by a university or research institution – integration of industry welcome)
- **two projects submitted by industry** (e.g. led by a SME or company – integration of research also welcome)

The focus of the DLR Challenge is on technology with a pre-commercialisation TRL (Technology Readiness Level). Of particular relevance are collaborative projects from consortia that combine expertise from industry and research.

Team up with relevant partners and submit your idea!

Your Reward

-  Up to EUR 500,000 in possible funding for each project over a period of up to 2 years (excluding own contribution)
-  This funding is subject to the general funding guidelines of the German Federal Government ([Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 651/2014](#)).
-  The submission of a proposal does not constitute any legal entitlement to a grant

This year, the DLR Challenge is open to various cross-sector innovation ideas. The following topics are provided for inspiration:

- **Enabling the Use of Satellite Data**, e.g. Guidance, Navigation and Control Systems, Use of Timestamps for Wearables, Integration of EO-Data in On-Board Applications, GNSS receiver, Special Services of Galileo
- **Advanced Manufacturing**, e.g. Additive Manufacturing in Microgravity and Healthcare Business, 3D-Printed Medicines, Use of AR/VR for Interactive Representations, Automated Processes through Robotics
- **Optical Space Systems**, e.g. Quantum/Photonic Technologies, Onboard Computing Systems
- **Innovative AI Applications** that are entirely new for space and infrastructure sectors – ideas beyond current horizons

The Evaluation Criteria

- There is a clear research need and the investigative approach is expedient.
- The project course (work programme, schedule, budget allocation) is realistic, the described milestones and project outcome are achievable.
- The idea/solution is technically appropriate and feasible.
- The exploitation, application, and expected market potential are high.
- Specific plans exist for the further application of the project outcome (scientific or economic).
- The degree of innovation of the idea/solution is high.
- There is a high potential for cross-sector technology/knowledge transfer.
- Professional excellence and previous experience are sufficiently demonstrated.

The Partner

On behalf of the Federal Government, the German Space Agency at DLR designs and implements the German Space Programme, which integrates all German space activities at national and European level.

The German Space Agency at DLR has started the INNOspace® initiative to promote innovation, technology transfer and new markets.

[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 companies, SMEs, universities and research institutions

- from space and non-space sectors
- with a registered office or branch in Germany

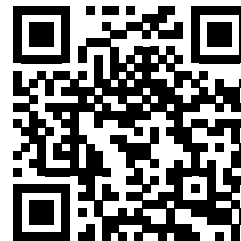
All proposals must be submitted via the INNOspace Masters submission platform:

<https://innospace-masters.awardsplatform.com/>

Please note: The submission of a proposal does not constitute any legal entitlement to a grant.

Apply now

**15 January to
25 March 2026**



innospace-masters.de

The timeline – Important dates for you!

