

German Space Agency at DLR Challenge 2026

“Groundbreaking Cross-Sector Innovations”

Submit your idea from **15 January to 25 March 2026**

German Space Agency at DLR Challenge

This year, the DLR Challenge will award 4 project proposals, split by 2 categories: 2 winners will be selected from proposals submitted by research (consortia or individual entry, e.g. university, research institutions) and 2 winners will be selected from proposals submitted by industry (consortia or individual entry, e.g. SMEs).

Submission Phase

15 January to 25 March 2026

Every journey starts with the first step. Submit your idea for the DLR Challenge of the INNOspace Masters 2026 at <https://innospace-masters.awardsplatform.com/> by 25 March 2026 at the latest. Please note: For the submission of the proposal the use of the ISM submission platform is **mandatory**.

Evaluation Select Finalists

Until 22 May 2026

The jury members, selected by the German Space Agency at DLR, individually evaluate the submitted proposals according to the challenge-specific criteria. The scores are combined to determine the final score for each proposal. The Participants with the highest scoring proposals within both categories (research led consortia and industry led consortia) are invited to present their idea as Finalists in the Challenge Finals.

Challenge Finals Select Winners

3 June 2026

At the Challenge Finals, the Finalists present their proposal face-to-face to the jury members in an online pitch and Q&A session of about 10-15 minutes. This determines the 4 Winners of the DLR Challenge. All pitches take place on 3 June 2026, but in individual sessions. The Winners are invited to the Winner’s Pitch in Bonn on 30 June and 1 July 2026.

Pitch to the Challenge partner (up to 10 min.)

Winner’s Pitch Bonn Select Overall Winner

30 June to 1 July 2026

The Winner’s Pitch in Bonn brings together all Winners of the ISM 2026 and members of all Challenge partners for the first time. **Day one** features group pitch coaching and a networking dinner. The Winners then have until 9 am the **following day** to perfect their pitch for the final competition round: The choice of the Overall Winner by pitching in front of all INNOspace Masters partners.

Day 1: Practice Pitch (5 min)
Day 2: Pitch to all ISM partners (5 min.)

Final Event Berlin

12 November 2026

During the Final Event in Berlin, the Winners have the opportunity to present their idea in a 90-seconds elevator pitch to an expert audience. Afterwards, the 1st Place Winners in both categories are revealed and the Winners receive their award in an on-stage ceremony. Furthermore, the best idea of the INNOspace Masters 2026 is crowned as Overall Winner.

Pitch to the audience (90 sec.)