

ESA BIC Challenge 2026

“Join the New Space Economy”

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

ESA BIC Challenge

Submission Phase
15 January to 25 March 2026

Every journey starts with the first step. Submit your idea for the ESA BIC 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**.

**Online Evaluation
Select Finalists**
1 April to 15 April 2026

The jury members, selected by the ESA BIC, 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 will advance as Finalists to the individual Business Coaching where they will get tailored support and feedback to further develop their idea into a viable business proposal.

**Individual
Business Coaching**
16 April to 31 May 2026

The Business Coaching aims to further elaborate the best ideas and to support the teams to identify valid business models. The support and coaching will be offered by the selected ESA Business Incubation Centre. The aim of the coaching is to offer support to turn your promising idea into a viable business proposal.

**Challenge Finals
Select Winners**
1 June to 5 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 3 Winners of the ESA BIC Challenge. All pitches take place on the same day (a date between 1 June and 5 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 to 3rd places 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.)