

Airbus Challenge 2026

“Boosting Earth-Space Industry Partnerships”

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

The Challenge

Airbus is looking for innovators with ideas for exceptional hardware, industrial processes, applications, or business models relevant to space that promise to have a lasting impact on our daily lives. The focus is on smart solutions enabling sustainable and commercially viable innovations on topics such as:

- Search for new innovative and commercial use cases for a next-generation space station like Starlab, which – thanks to the industrial approach – is offering both traditional and new opportunities.
- Space-based Earth observation and environmental monitoring as a catalyst for sustainable development, climate resilience on Earth and now more than ever a safer world.
- Ubiquitous and secure space-based end-to-end connectivity solutions. We are interested in technology, ideas and business that enable seamless multi orbit integration with terrestrial networks through innovations such as optical and quantum communication technologies and intelligent networking software.
- In-orbit infrastructure and services for a sustainable space economy driving technological innovation, resource-efficient growth and global collaboration on Earth.
- We encourage out-of-the-box thinking, please submit your space innovations, even if they don't align perfectly with the above mentioned criteria.

Your Reward



Support from Airbus internal network of experts



Access to space qualified tools, simulation and test equipment



Development of a mission proposal (with the aim of a joint application for public funding)



Opportunity to pitch to Airbus Venture

The Evaluation Criteria

- There is a clear relevance to the topics of the Airbus Challenge.
- The project plan and schedule are realistic, and the amount of funding is appropriate.
- The idea/solution is technically feasible.
- The exploitation potential and the chance for commercial success are high.
- The degree of innovation the development represents is high.
- Professional expertise and prior experience are sufficiently demonstrated.
- The relevant skills to implement the idea are available in the team.

The Partner

Airbus is a European leader and pioneer in the space sector with a strong focus on technology and industrial development using new commercial approaches. With the vision of linking Earth and Space through viable cross-industry innovation, Airbus aims to boost the commercialization of space in Europe, considering efficiency and sustainability at the same time. The aim is to foster New Space applications by integrating and connecting different systems and sectors along the entire value chain. This is achieved through intensive co-innovation and co-creation between the space industry and terrestrial partners across a variety of vertical 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 institutions from the science and industry sector, start-ups, SMEs and individuals

- from space and non-space sectors
- from Germany, Europe and worldwide

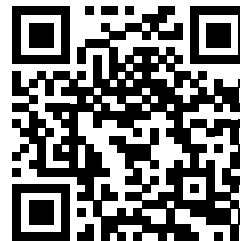
All proposals must be submitted via the INNOspace Masters submission platform:

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

During the submission process you can upload a short video presenting your idea.

Apply now

**15 January to
25 March 2026**



innospace-masters.de

The timeline – Important dates for you!

