INNO space MASTERS

esa BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

ESA BA Challenge 2026

"Space for a Resilient Society"

Submit your idea from 15 January to 25 March 2026

The Challenge

There are tremendous commercial opportunities by using satellites and the technologies that underpin the resilience of different systems and data. Space assets and insights derived from space data generate value in non-space domains such as resilient agrifood and energy systems or finance and insurance and more. Today, more innovative applications are becoming financially feasible. Thus, new commercial opportunities for all sectors arise, while creating benefits for new communities.

In a drive for a sustainable future, the ESA Business Applications and Space Solutions (BA) supports businesses of all sizes and across all sectors to develop innovative solutions for Earth using space data and technology. We are looking for ideas that can lead into commercially sustainable services or applications supporting such as:

Resilient Agrifood Systems

- **Stable access to food:** Use satellite imagery and AI to track crop yields, soil health, and water availability, ensuring stable food supplies and early warning for shortages. Deploy space-enabled tools to assess droughts, floods, and storms, minimising disruptions to food production and distribution.
- **Resilient response to climate change impact:** Apply Earth observation data to model temperature shifts, precipitation changes, and extreme weather impacts on farming regions, supporting adaptation strategies. Use geospatial analytics to measure emissions from agriculture and food systems, enabling climate-smart policies and practices.
- **Transparent supply chain tracking and logistics optimisation:** Combine satellite data and positioning to monitor food movement from farm to market, reducing waste and improving resilience. Use space-based connectivity and predictive analytics to streamline transport routes and storage, cutting emissions and costs.
- **Sustainable farming practices:** Leverage satellite sensors and AI to optimise irrigation, fertilizer use, and crop rotation, boosting yields while conserving resources. Detect illegal land clearing and promote sustainable practices aligned with global climate goals.

Your Reward

- Up to EUR 75,000 zero-equity funding each (for a project scope of max. EUR 100,000)
- Personalised support from a member of the ESA team
- Technical & commercial guidance

DLR German Space Agency at DLR · Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space · INNO space · esa · AIRBUS · OHB · IQIB · DLR Projektträger

Resilient Energy Systems

- **Continuous power supply for citizens and industry:** Use satellite data and AI to monitor power networks, predict outages, and balance loads, ensuring uninterrupted electricity for homes and businesses and grid resilience and optimisation. Apply Earth observation and predictive analytics to anticipate solar and wind availability, improving grid stability and reliability.
- **Protection of critical energy infrastructure:** Combine satellite surveillance and AI to identify physical risks, unauthorised activities, and cyber vulnerabilities near power plants and transmission lines, ensuring a timely threat detection. Use space-based monitoring to anticipate natural hazards and coordinate rapid response for critical energy assets. Implement geospatial tools and GNSS to verify infrastructure integrity and adherence to environmental and safety standards.
- **Energy sovereignty and sustainability:** Use Earth observation to identify optimal sites for solar, wind, and hydro projects, supporting national energy independence. Leverage satellite connectivity to enable local energy generation and reduce reliance on imported fuels. Apply geospatial analytics to model renewable potential and grid integration, accelerating the shift to clean, sovereign energy systems.

Finance and Insurance for a Resilient Society

- **Climate risk resilience:** Use satellite data and AI to help insurers design coverage that shields farmers from droughts, floods, and pests, strengthening food system stability.
- **Rapid recovery through verified claims:** Apply Earth observation data and GNSS to validate losses quickly, enabling fast payouts that keep farmers operational after natural catastrophe events.
- **Infrastructure resilience planning:** Use geospatial analytics to assess risks to power plants and renewable installations, enabling insurers to offer protection that supports continuity of energy supply. Apply satellite-based hazard models to forecast disaster impact and support preparedness efforts.
- **Performance-linked insurance coverage:** Integrate space-enabled monitoring of renewable output to design insurance products that stabilise revenue streams and encourage investment in resilient energy systems.

The Evaluation Criteria

- **Relevance of the proposed service/application:** The proposal clearly defines the service/application and provides concrete evidence of market fit (e.g., user research, problem–solution validation, market data), demonstrating that the solution directly addresses a confirmed market demand. The overall planning and costing of the intended activity is realistic and funding the project is cost-effective (Return on Investment).
- **Market potential and users'/customers' interest:** The proposal presents verifiable evidence of market size, with evidence of initial customers'/users' traction and interest in the proposed solution evidenced through letters of support, with credible USPs that support realistic commercial scalability.
- **Technical feasibility and value added of space data/technologies:** The proposal provides a technically sound solution architecture and a credible plan for assessing its technical feasibility, and a clear justification of why space data and technologies are essential to the solution and what added value they provide.
- **Credibility of the company's commercial roadmap and team capability:** The proposal presents a realistic, time-bound commercialisation plan aligned with the company's strategy, and clearly identify a team that has proven technical, business, and management expertise to develop, deploy, and commercialise the solution.

The Partner

The ESA Business Applications and Space Solutions (BA) programme provides a comprehensive, structured support system for businesses at all stages of their growth. Eligible are businesses from any sector who intend to use space technologies such as satellite navigation, earth observation or satellite telecommunication to develop new commercial services for Earth. The application areas range from health, education and leisure to agriculture, transportation and energy. The goal is to accelerate innovation and collaboration through sector task forces and partnerships.

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 pre-requisites:

Eligible are start-ups, companies, SMEs and research teams

- from space and non-space sectors
- who are registered in **Germany**

Eligible are proposals and ideas which have a

- high technological readiness level,
- utilisation of space technology or data,
- concept for innovative applications or services in terrestrial market,
- and confirmed customer need with a clear business case.

All proposals must be submitted via the INNOspace Masters submission platform:
https://innospace-masters.awardsplatform.com/

Apply now

15 January to 25 March 2026

innospace-masters.de

The timeline – Important dates for you!

Submission Phase	Evaluation Select Finalists	Challenge Finals Select Winners	Winner's Pitch Bonn Select Overall Winner	Final Event Berlin
15 January to 25 March 2026	Until 22 May 2026	25 May to 19 June 2026	30 June to 1 July 2026	12 November 2026