

Mercedes-Benz car2space Challenge 2026 “Space up your Drive”

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

The Challenge

Mercedes-Benz is looking for smart innovation for future mobility enabled by space solutions. Join the Mercedes-Benz car2space Challenge at INNOspace Masters:

- Explore advanced **energy systems** such as battery technologies (capacity, cost, performance and efficiency improvement, cell chemistry, energy management), wireless power transfer, energy harvesting (solar-based systems) and **energy-efficient AI** solutions.
- Innovate **digital tech & AI** like algorithms for artificial intelligence and machine learning, digital twins, simulations, embedded AI, software-defined hardware, and intelligent, connected sensor systems.
- Innovate with cutting edge **sensor technologies & situational awareness** such as integration and fusion of camera, radar, lidar and GNSS sensors, neuromorphic systems, GNSS resilience, quantum-based inertial sensor technology, as well as the development of precise **navigation** solutions and mobility services.
- Leverage stationary and mobile **robotics** and its enabling building blocks (different form factors incl. humanoids/embodyed AI), including fast learning and training methods (sim2real transfer).
- To meet tomorrow’s **connectivity** needs, design hybrid **telecommunication** solutions (terrestrial x orbital), ad-hoc networks and enabling technologies.

Your Reward

- Opportunity to learn about how to meet consumer needs (“downstream”)
- Implement a Proof of Concept co-funded by Mercedes-Benz and supported by inhouse experts
- Opportunity to pitch Proof of Concept to company executives and receive coaching, mentoring and support for creating an automotive product and/or service
- Opportunity to learn about potentials of technology transfer and an industrial scale-up opportunity
- Access to and support from experts at Mercedes-Benz Research and Development departments

- Explore **earth observation** data for autonomous and electric vehicles, leverage weather and climate monitoring.
- Surprise us with unexpected **outside-the-box** innovations.

The Evaluation Criteria

- There is a clear relevance to the topics of the Mercedes-Benz car2space Challenge and it is a strategic fit to the company's position.
- The project course is realistic and the resource planning is appropriate.
- The idea/solution is technically feasible.
- The potential for consumer demand and the chance for commercial success are high.
- The degree of innovation is high.
- Professional expertise and prior experience are fully demonstrated.
- The team members' competences and skills complement each other excellently.

The Partner

Mercedes-Benz AG is part of the Mercedes-Benz Group AG with a total of around 166,000 employees worldwide and is responsible for the global business of Mercedes Benz Cars and Mercedes-Benz Vans. The company focuses on the development, production and sales of passenger cars, vans and vehicle-related services. Furthermore, the company aspires to be the leader in the fields of electric mobility and vehicle software. The product portfolio comprises the Mercedes-Benz brand with Mercedes-AMG, Mercedes-Maybach, and G-Class with their all-electric models as well as products of the smart brand. The Mercedes me brand offers access to the digital services from Mercedes-Benz. Mercedes-Benz AG is one of the world's largest manufacturers of luxury passenger cars.

[Learn more](#)

Eligibility & Submission information

To ensure that your team or 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 as well as start-ups and SMEs

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

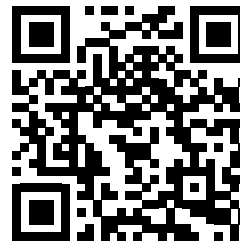
All proposals must be submitted via the INNOspace Masters submission platform:

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

During the submission process you are required to upload a short video presenting your idea.

Apply now

**15 January to
25 March 2026**



innospace-masters.de

The timeline – Important dates for you!

