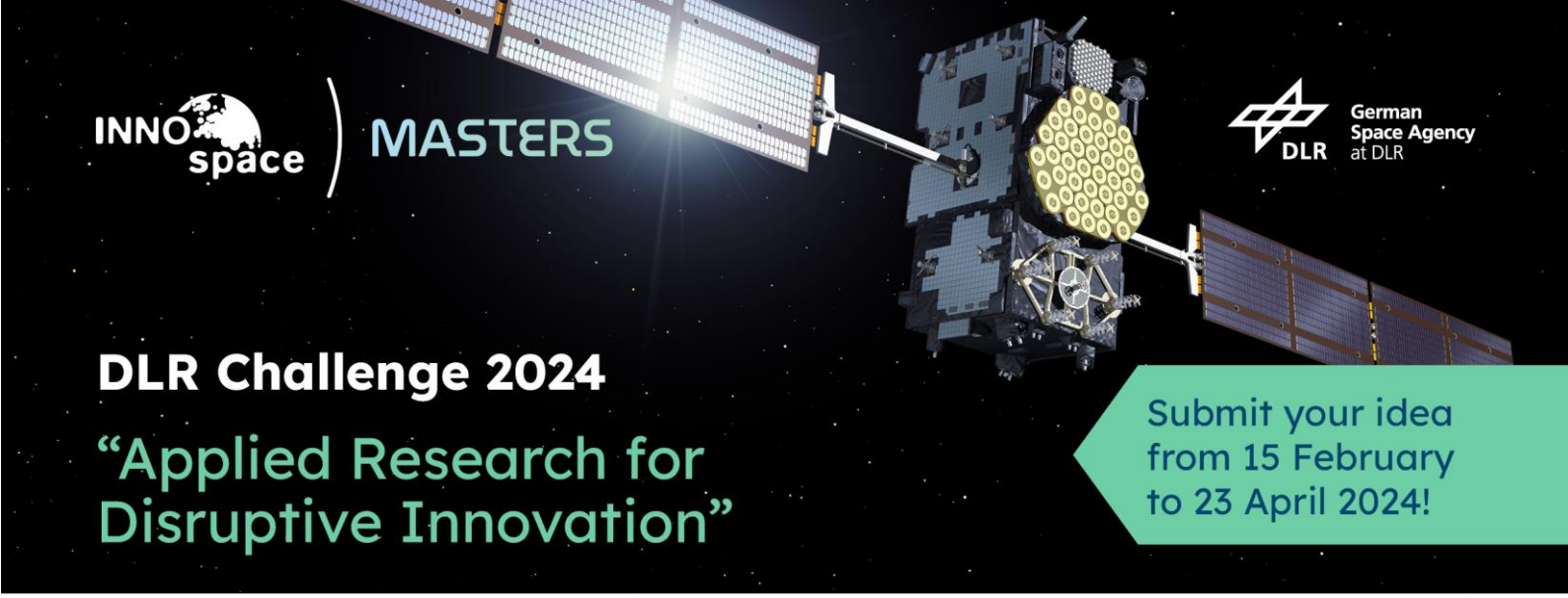

The Challenge

The space industry is in transition: New technologies make concepts like commercial spaceflight or in-orbit manufacturing economically feasible, disrupting the market and opening up space for all earthly innovation sectors – and vice versa. Therefore, the German Space Agency at DLR is looking for smart ideas and concepts for space spin-ins and spin-offs that lead to improved technologies, processes, and applications by transferring expertise between Earth and space. The focus of the DLR Challenge is aimed at technology developments prior to commercialisation. Cross-industry cooperation projects are of particular relevance. So, team up with partners from other industries and submit your idea!

This year’s DLR Challenge impulse topics include, but are not limited to:

- Digital technologies for and from space, e.g. artificial intelligence, swarm intelligence and visual computing; quantum innovation for space; intelligent & connected sensor systems; and more
- On-orbit economy, e.g. development of novel materials or pharmaceutical agents in microgravity; autonomous orbital manufacturing processes; and more
- Sustainability in space and for Earth, e.g. space debris protection and mitigation; advance monitoring of environmental and social sustainability on Earth; and more
- Biotechnologies for space and Earth, e.g. bioprocessing methods for in-space nutrient extraction from crops or (food) waste; tissue engineering in microgravity; and more

Your Reward

- Up to EUR 500,000 in possible funding for each project over a period of up to 2 years (excluding own contribution)
- This funding is subject to the general funding guidelines of the German Federal Government (link to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014)
- The submission of a proposal does not constitute any legal entitlement to a grant

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The Evaluation Criteria

- There is a clear research need and the investigative approach is expedient.
- The project course (work programme, schedule) is realistic, the described milestones and project outcome are achievable.
- Budget allocation and schedule are appropriate to achieve the described project outcome.
- The idea / solution is technically appropriate and feasible.
- The exploitation, application, and expected market potential are high.
- Specific plans for the further application of the project outcome (scientific or economic)
- The degree of innovation of the idea / solution is high.
- There is a high potential for cross-sector technology/knowledge transfer.
- Professional excellence and previous experience are sufficiently demonstrated.

The Partner

On behalf of the Federal Government, the German Space Agency at DLR designs and implements the German Space Programme, which integrates all German space activities at national and European level.

The German Space Agency at DLR has started the INNOspace® initiative to promote innovation, technology transfer and new 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 companies, SMEs, universities and research institutions

- from space and non-space sectors
- with a registered office or branch in **Germany**

For the **submission** of the proposal, the use of the ISM submission platform is mandatory: https://innospace-masters.awardsplatform.com/

Please note: The submission of a proposal does not constitute any legal entitlement to a grant.

Apply now

15 February to
23 April 2024

innospace-master.de

The timeline – Important dates for you!

Submission phase	Evaluation	Online Pitches	Evaluation in	Final event
15 February to 23 April 2024	**Select TOP 8** Until 14 June 2024	**Select TOP 3** 14 June to 30 June 2024	**Bonn Select TOP 1** 8 July to 9 July 2024	**Berlin** 9 October 2024

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