

ESA's 2025 Big Data Foundations for Earth Observation Training Course

ESA BIC Latvia – Ignite Space Innovation

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ESA BIC Latvia
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European
Commission

researchLatvia[★]
Value Through Knowledge



Ministry of
Education and Science
Republic of Latvia





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Co-funded by
the European Union

2027
National
Development Plan

IGNITE SPACE INNOVATION

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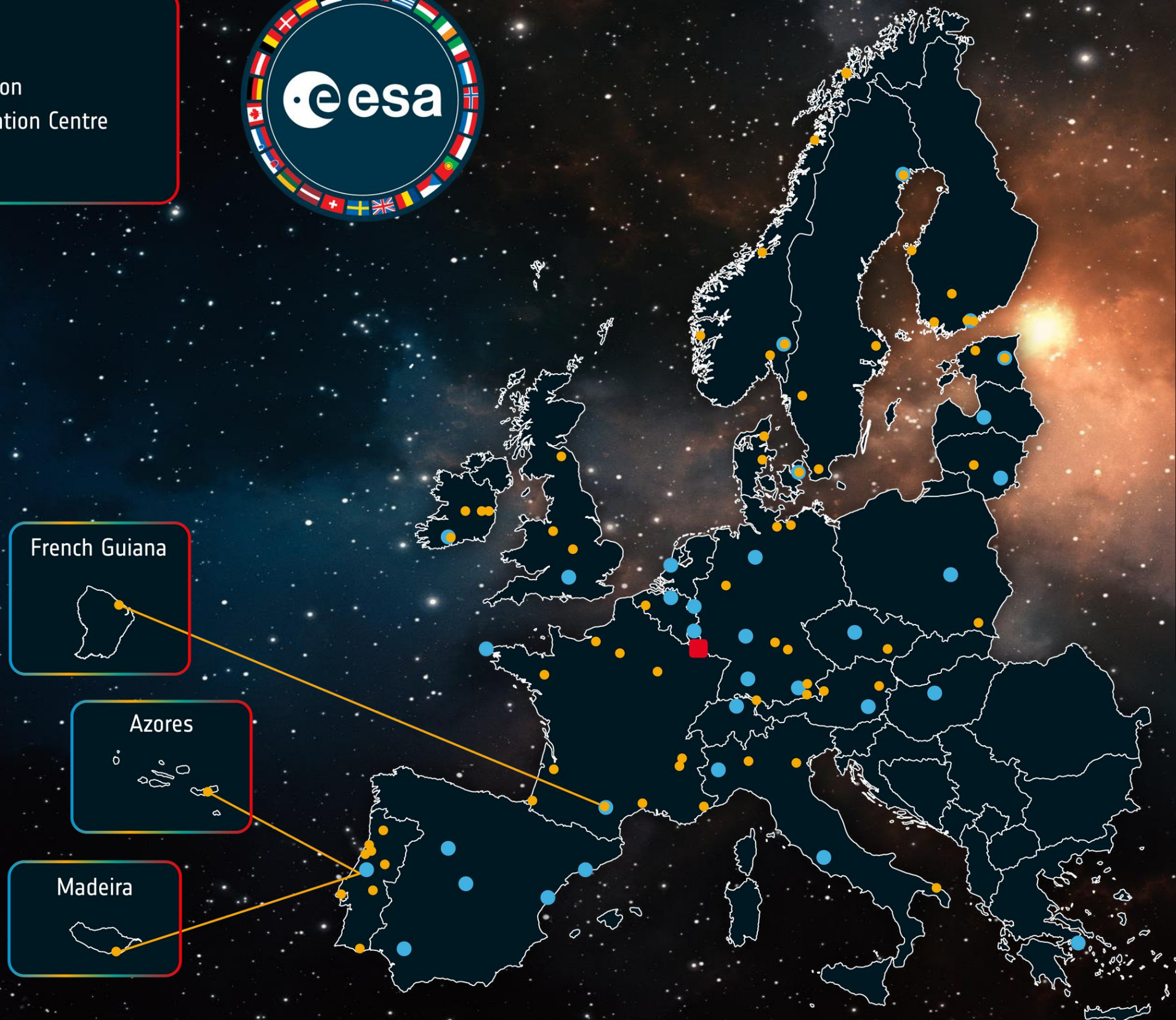


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ESA BUSINESS INCUBATION CENTRES MAP

LEGEND

- Prime ESA BIC location
- ESA Business Incubation Centre
- ESRIC



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The ESA BIC network now consists
of 32 ESA BICs in 22 countries,
covering over 100 locations.



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Munich, Feb 2025

ESA BIC Latvia opening, Nov 2024



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ESA BIC Network Unicorns



Develops and manufactures small and medium launch vehicles to provide affordable, flexible access to space.



Builds reusable spacecraft capsules for cargo and eventually crew transport to low Earth orbit and the Moon.



Delivers turnkey small satellite missions, from design and manufacturing to launch and data services.



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ESA BIC Latvia portfolio

Down-stream domain



Up-stream domain





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Main application criteria



**Innovative space-related
technology related:**

- 1) up-stream
- 2) down-stream
- 3) spin-off for non-space market
- 4) defense and security



**Your company is
less than 5Y old
OR you are going to
start a new company.**



**The founders are residents and
the company will be registered in
Latvia.**

CR METHODOLOGY

**BRILLIANT NON-ENTREPRENEURIAL
SCIENTISTS**

+

**ENTREPRENEURS
FROM NON-ACADEMIC WORLD**

+

CR SUPPORT & INVESTMENT





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- Support a minimum of **15 startups** in the coming 5 years
- Funding up to **€ 80'000** (per startup) for product development and IPR **(equity-free funding)**
- ESA funding **€ 40'000**
- ERDF funding **€ 40'000**
- Incubation term for each startup **up to 2 years**
- Technical support up to **80h**
- Business support up to **50h**
- IP support up to **10h**
- Right of use of **ESA BIC brand**
- Access to the international network of **ESA BICs community**



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Eligible Costs for ESA BIC Incubates

- 🔧 **Prototyping & Development:** Hardware, software, prototypes
- 👤 **Personnel Costs:** Salaries for project-related work (not to owners)
- ⚖️ **Legal & IPR:** Patent filings, legal consultations
- 🔗 **External Services:** Subcontracted technical/business activities
- 🔧 **Equipment & Materials:** Purchases essential to the project

Conditions:

- 🇱🇻 **Expenses must be spent in Latvia**
- ❌ **Excluded:** Overheads, unrelated administrative expenses, salary to owners



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Our local partners



INSTITUTE OF SOLID STATE PHYSICS
UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA



SORAINEN

UniLab

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ESA Partnership Initiative for Commercialization (EPIC)

Established in 2022, EPIC empowers ESA verified startups with mentoring, special access to satellite data, industry contacts and networking.

CURRENT MEMBERS

AIRBUS →	ALTAIR ENGINEERING GMBH →	ELLIPSIS DRIVE →
EUROCONSULT →	ICEYE →	IDAERO SOLUTIONS →
OVH CLOUD →	PLANET LABS GMBH →	SINERGISE →
THALES ALENIA SPACE →	UP42 GMBH →	



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Permanent open call



Apply
(2x per year).
The next application deadline
January 19th 2026



Download and read the
Permanent Open Call
documents.



Founders become residents of
ESA BIC Latvia.

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Validation is fast - 1 month MAX



1. The 3rd tender evaluation Board is planned for February 2026. Deadline for the proposal submission is January 19th, 2026
2. Shortlisted companies will pitch their ideas in front of the Board.
3. The decision will be made fast & the contract signed promptly
- max 1 month for the whole process.



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Application documents

Open Call documentation:

1. Cover Letter including Requirement Checklists
2. Business Plan
3. Incubation Proposal
4. Draft Incubation Contract (for the review only)

***The application needs to have a valid space connection (check the space connection document)**



All documents are here: <https://www.esabic.lv/apply>

How to apply to ESA BIC Latvia:

- 1 [Download and read the Permanent Open Call documents.](#)
- 2 Complete and sign your Business and Activity Proposal (BAP).
- 3 Submit your application documents electronically in PDF format (maximum of three files—one for each required document) to info@esabic.lv with the subject line "ESA BIC Latvia Open Call".
- 4 Always read the [ESA BIC Latvia - Update Note](#) to check if there have been any changes in the documents before submitting your proposal.

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Application documents

Incubation Proposal (max 10 pages)

1. Activity Proposal

- 1.1. Milestone and Task Planning
- 1.2. Task Descriptions
- 1.3. Deliverables to the ESA BIC

2. FINANCING and Funding Request

3. Support Request

- 3.1. Technical and IPR Support
- 3.2. Business Support

Business Plan

The **maximum** size of this Business Plan is **25 pages**, including any annexes:

- The core section should ideally **NOT exceed 15 pages, with 20 pages as a maximum** (which you may want to use e.g. if you already have a detailed business plan for your company).
- Any **annexes you chose to add should only have an informative character** (e.g. sales brochures, CVs, or copies of Letter of Support).

Business plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Team & Company Setup

2.1. Team.

2.2. Company

3. Value Proposition

4. Product/Service Description in Depth

4.1. Space Connection

4.2. Technology

4.3. Readiness Level

4.4. Research & Development (R&D) strategy

4.5. Intellectual Property

5. Market Analysis

opportunity 5.1. Context

5.2. Demand

5.3. Competition

5.4. Competitive advantages and Growth

6. The Business Model & Risks

6.1. Business Model

6.2. SWOT Analysis

6.3. RISK Analysis

7. Cost Structure, FINANCING & Financial Projection



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Application documents

<https://www.esabic.lv/apply>



ESA BIC Latvia Open C...

Nosaukums ↑

	00_READ HOW TO APPLY - BIC-0008 - ESA BIC Open Call Template v1.6.pdf
	01_ESA BIC Latvia DRAFT INCUBATION CONTRACT V3.1.pdf
	02_FILL IN TO APPLY - BIC-0003 - ESA BIC Application Template - Cover Letter and Requirements Checklist v5.3....
	03_FILL IN TO APPLY BIC-0005 - ESA BIC Application Template - Incubation Proposal v5.2.docx
	04_FILL IN TO APPLY - BIC-0004 - ESA BIC Application Template - Business Plan v5.1.docx
	05_BIC-0006 - ESA BIC Application Template - Tables & Figures v5.1.xlsx
	06_BIC-0007 - Innovation Readiness Level.pdf
	07_BIC-0009 - Space Connection Assessment v1.1.docx
	ESA BIC Latvia - Update Note

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ESA BIC evaluation criteria and weighting factors

Criteria	Weighting factor
Background and Experience • Experience and team composition • Support entities • Vision	25%
Technology/Service • Space Connection • Technical feasibility of the product/service to be developed • Production development strategy • Intellectual Property strategy	20%
Value proposition & Market • Value proposition • Market • Competition	20%
Business Modelling and Risk • Revenue model • Finance • Risk	15%
Activity proposal • Quality of the application • Milestones/Cost-planning • Work break-down • Management • ESA BIC investment opportunity	20%



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I HAVE A DREAM...

**Mēs kopā dzirdēsim reiz ziņas par to,
Ka pirmais latvietis nokāpj uz Mēness...**

**Someday we'll all hear in the news
That the first Latvian has stepped onto the Moon**

(c) Renārs Kaupers "Brainstorm"

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