

# ESA'S DISCOVERY ELEMENT OF THE BASIC ACTIVITIES OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUNGARY VIA OSIP

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# Basic Activities

**enablers** of all other activities  
**roots** on which missions and programmes grow

## Innovation

Discover and prepare future missions & technologies

## Infrastructure

Technical labs & operation infrastructure

## Knowledge

Develop, preserve, disseminate, educate

## ESA Transformation

Commercialisation, Digitalisation, Cybersecurity, Green Agenda

## Disruptive Ideas

- Taking risk
- Low budget
- Fast and Open
- Novelty driven
- Commercialisation
- Research, studies and tech.dev
- Outside driven (OSIP)
- Open competitive

Discovery

## Future Missions

- Solid baselines
- Smart Customer
- For all domains
- (Pre-)Phase A
- MBSE, ODebris, LCA
- Commercialisation
- ESA driven
- Open competitive

Preparation

## Technology

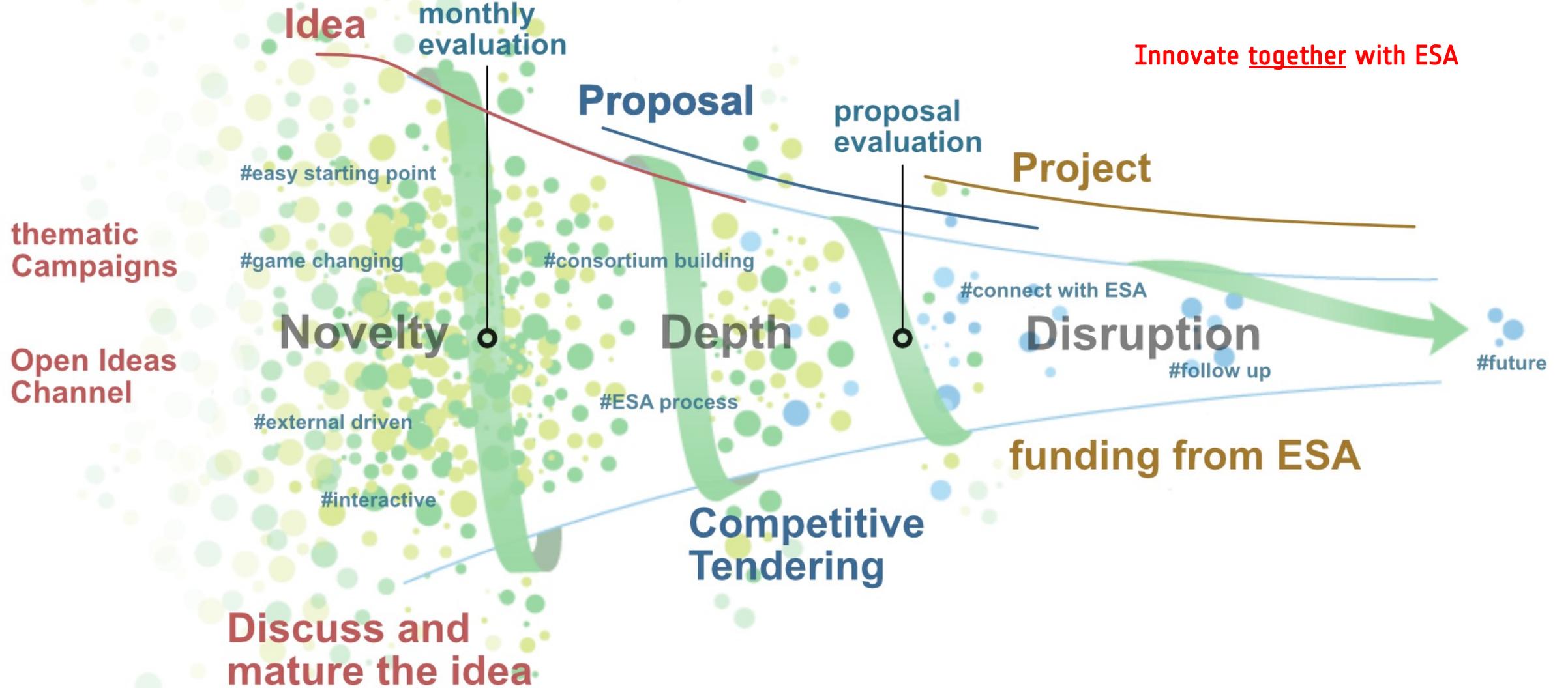
- low TRL
- Generic
- Missions enabling technology
- 2yr Work plans
- SME focus
- ESA driven
- Open competitive

TDE

- higher TRL up to 9
- Support
- Competitiveness
- Work plans and industry-driven
- SME focus
- Delegation support
- 3 Elements: *develop, make, fly*

GSTP

# THE INNOVATION PROCESS ON OSIP



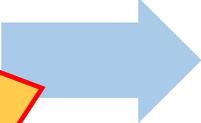
# FIRST STEPS FOR NOVEL IDEAS – DISCOVERY ELEMENT PROCESS STEPS



## Your Novel Idea

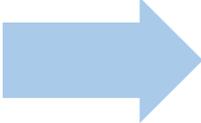
**Your action**

- You focus on describing your idea in form of an abstract
- No need for formalities
- Submit any time to Open Discovery Channel on OSIP
- Ideas for future commercially viable activities welcome



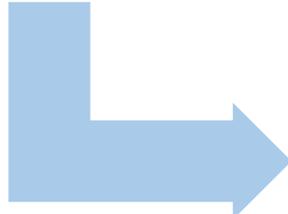
## OSIP (ideas.esa.int)

- ESA gives you feedback
- ESA channels ideas to best implementation path
- Monthly evaluation for Discovery channel ideas
- Best ideas invited to be matured into proposals



## Discovery Contracts

- Following competitive evaluation
- Co-sponsored research (<90k)
- Study (<100k)
- Early Technology Development (<175k)



## GSTP, InCubed, ARTES, NAVISP ...

- Programme specific

### OSIP Channel

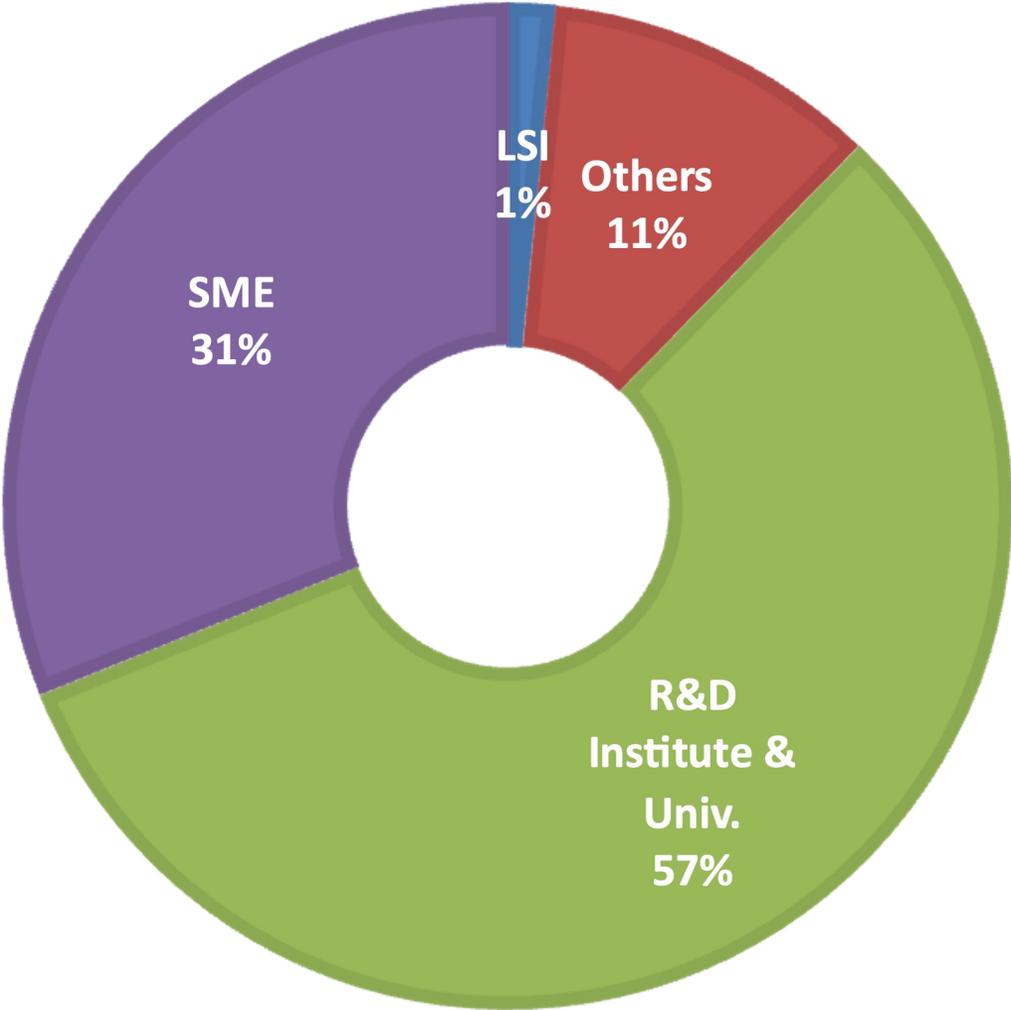
- Permanently open
- All novel space ideas welcome

### OSIP Campaigns

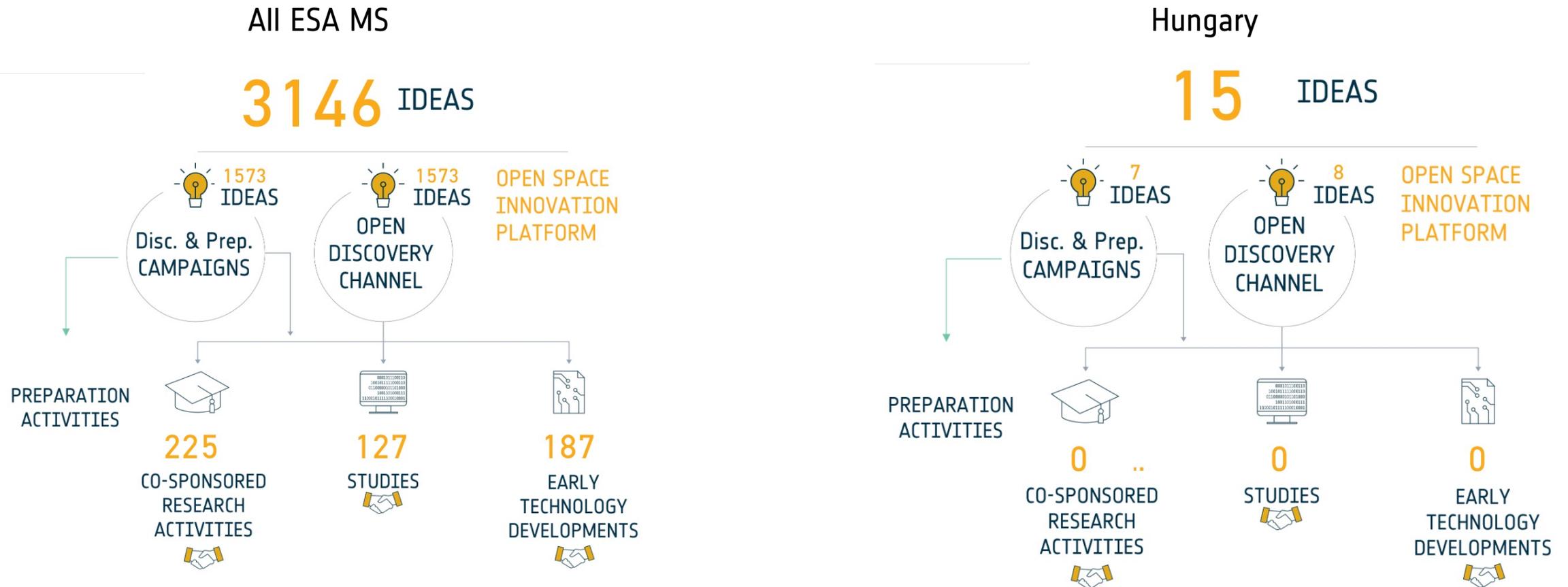
- Time limited
- ESA defined challenges / topics



# TYPE OF ENTITIES FOR COMMITMENTS IN 2023



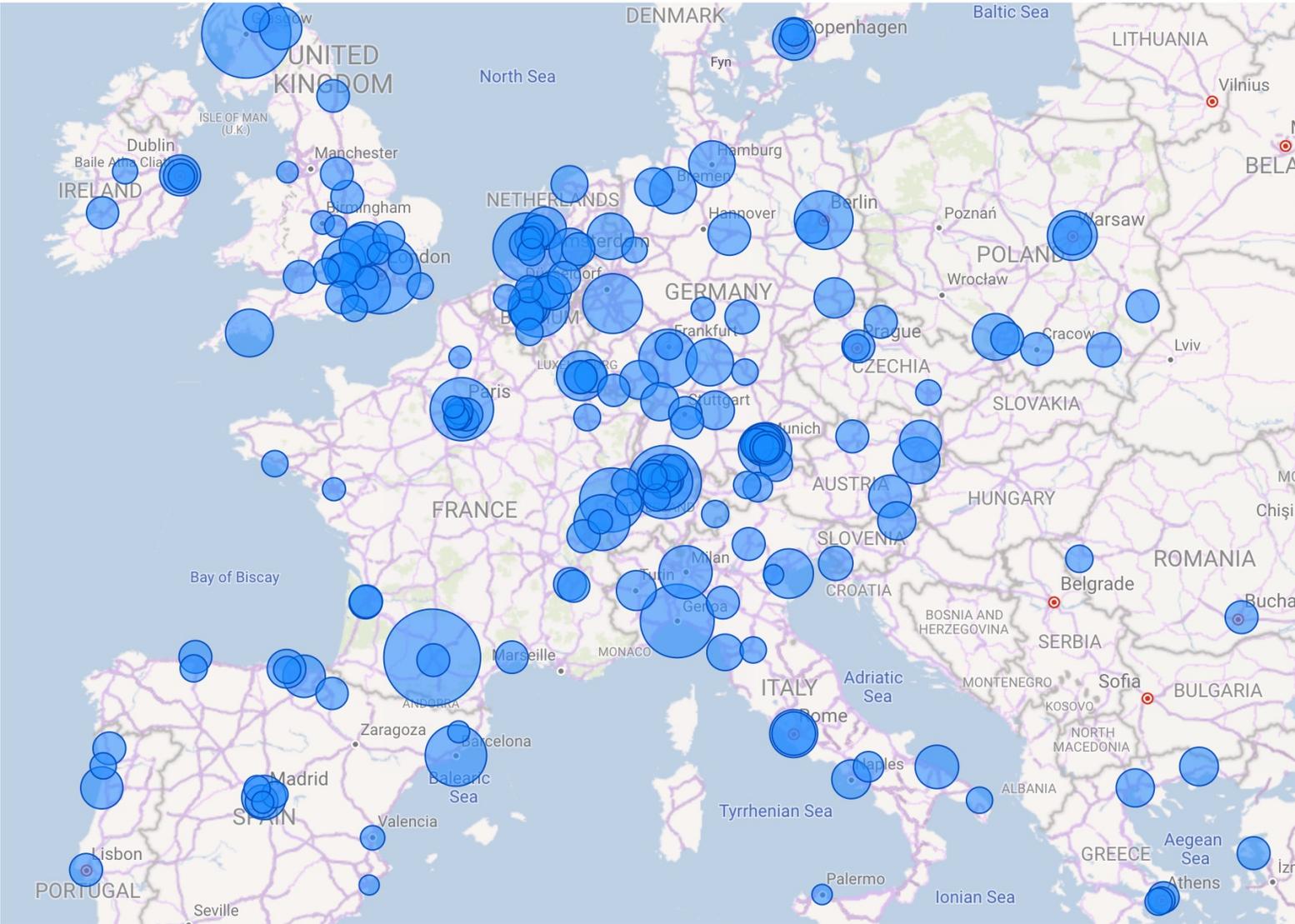
## Few and rather poor quality ideas from Hungary



# SUBSTANTIAL UNTAPPED POTENTIAL IN HUNGARY



Institute for Nuclear Research (ATOMKI)
Institute for Earth Physics and Space Science
Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME, global)
Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME, Faculty of Civil Engineering)
Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME, Department of Mechatronics, Optics))
Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME, Department of Broadband Infocommunications)
Research Center for Astronomy and Earth Sciences (ELKH, Institute for Geochemical Research)
Research Center for Astronomy and Earth Sciences (ELKH, Konkoly Observatory)
Research Center for Natural Sciences Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience
University of Debrecen (UD, global)
University of Miskolc, Materials Science Research Group
Eszterházy Károly University
Eötvös Loránd University, Department of Astronomy
Eötvös Loránd University, Space Research Group
Centre for Energy Research
Lechner Knowledge Centre, Satellite Geodetic Observatory
Lechner Knowledge Centre, Remote Sensing Division
Óbuda University, Institute of Geoinformatics
Hungarian Meteorological Service
University of Szeged, Non-linear Dynamics and Kinetics Group
University of Szeged, Department of Aviation and Space Medicine
Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics
Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Institute for Solid State Physics and Optics



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# RUNNING DISCOVERY ELEMENT ACTIVITIES – ACTIVITIES.ESA.INT PLATFORM



Discovery activities serving space sector at large – not ESA need driven  
 Activities serving all directorates and followed by experts from all directorates  
 Demand from industry and academia

<https://activities.esa.int>

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Search Activities

579 results found

- Search
- Prime contractor
- Activity Type
  - co-sponsored Research
  - Early technology development
  - Study
- Organisational Unit
- Country
- Main application area
  - EO
  - Exploration
  - Generic for multiple space applications
  - Navigation
  - NEW
  - Operations
  - Science
  - Space Safety
  - Space transportation
  - Telecom
- Status
  - Running
  - Closed
- Related OSIP Campaign
- CD Area
- Topical cluster
- SEARCH CLEAR

Activity 1: Characterisation of Single Chip Adaptable Radio Platform (15/03/22, IROC TECHNOLOGIES SA, Study, FR)

Activity 2: Distributed, scalable and reliable onboard system software based on commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) onboard computers (OBCs) (18/04/23, University of Strathclyde, co-sponsored Research, UK)

Activity 3: Tackling the next generation of debris hiding in orbit: Carbon fibres (02/01/20, TECHN UNIV BRAUNSCHWEIG, co-sponsored Research, DE)

Activity 4: Non-invasive vestibular prosthetics for use in altered gravity: Ascertaining practical utility and neuronal integrity (02/12/22, Karolinska Institutet, co-sponsored Research, SE)

Activity 5: Definition of a European Lunar Materials Handling and Geotechnics Payload (10/12/20, Cranfield University, Study, UK)

Activity 6: Definition of a European Lunar Materials Handling and Geotechnics Payload (10/12/20, Cranfield University, Study, UK)

## Activities Portal

This activities portal is in a beta development stage. It provides basic information of running ESA activities being implemented under different ESA programmes and domains. For the time being, these include only activities funded by the Discovery Element of ESA's Basic Activities. These have been initially submitted as ideas to the Discovery Channel on OSIP or any of the Discovery element topical campaigns on OSIP.

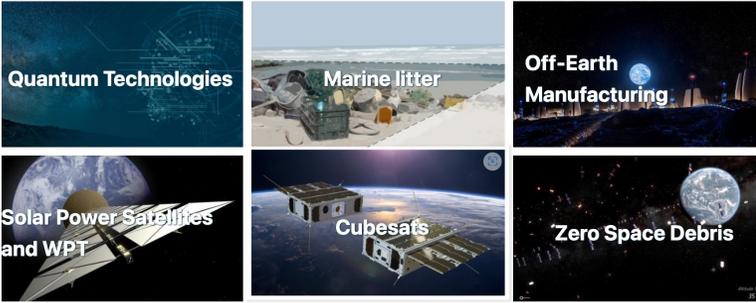
Activities are searchable, and grouped into Topical Clusters. Based on user needs and feedback, ESA intends to add further information and functionalities to the portal.

341 Running Activities



## Topical Cluster

Topical clusters group activities. For the time being, these are activities that come from the Discovery element campaign on OSIP with the same title.



# RUNNING DISCOVERY ELEMENT ACTIVITIES – ACTIVITIES.ESA.INT PLATFORM



## ACTIVITY

### ENABLING LUNAR IN-SITU AGRICULTURE BY PRODUCING FERTILISER FROM BENEFICIATED REGOLITH

Overview Events

**RUNNING**

Prime contractor: Solvys Mining

Organisational Unit: TEC-GEE

Activity Type: Study

Implementation progress: 50%

START/Commenced date: 22 December 2022

ESTIMATED END: 22 December 2023

DURATION: 12 MONTHS

#### Objective

To sustain a long-term presence on the Moon, plants need to be cultivated in-situ, preferably using materials available in the lunar environment. This minimizes costs and risks associated with transporting materials from Earth. Lunar mission soil sample research shows that essential minerals for plant growth appear to be present in sufficient quantities, except reactive Nitrogen. However, lunar soil compacts when saturated with water, which is very challenging for germination and root growth.

Hydroponic systems avoid this, as plant roots are fed directly with nutrient-rich growth without the use of soil. In order to facilitate this, as well as the removal of compounds, an additional step is needed: beneficiation - the concentration/processing of ores from feedstock, performed utilizing several different processes including chemical, biological etc.

Our idea is to develop a process architecture for extracting nutrients from lunar regolith suitable for a hydroponic growing system inside a lunar greenhouse, seemingly focused on either lunar plant growth or ISRU, whilst our proposed synergies in combining both of these fields.

The main objective of this study is to assess what processing steps would be required to beneficiate regolith in order to increase nutrient bio-availability. We are currently collaborating with Norway's Geotechnical Institute (NGI) and Centre for Space Research in Space (CIRIS) on a project titled "Lunar Regolith Simulant Nutrient Preliminary Study".

In addition, SolSys has already designed, produced and sold exo-agriculture systems following hydroponic principles and has been used extensively for growing tomatoes. Earlier SolSys experiments using lunar highlands simulant as a substrate succeed when growing beans.

#### NEWS

[European Space Agency intends to grow food on the Moon](#)

UK newspapers The Sun and The Mirror, as well as Spanish broadcaster La Sexta and Italian Tech on the ESA project "Enabling Lunar In-Situ Agriculture by Producing Fertilizer from Beneficiated Regolith" to help grow food in a space farm on the Moon. As regolith compacts when water is added for plant germination and root growth, the project is aiming to grow plants directly in nutrient-rich water. Nonetheless, it is still planned to use regolith to produce fertilizer to help crops germinate. ESA male engineer Małgorzata Hołynska said the project "is essential for future long-term lunar exploration" and that the presence on the Moon will involve using local resources and gaining access to nutrients present in it. "The current ESA study is a proof of principle that uses available lunar resources to help cultivate plants." The current ESA study is a proof of principle that uses available lunar resources to help cultivate plants. "The current ESA study is a proof of principle that uses available lunar resources to help cultivate plants," she added.

<https://activities.esa.int/4000140280>

## ACTIVITY

### MARSCROP - MARTIAN REGOLITH SALIX CO-CROPPING FOR PERCHLORATE

Overview Events

**RUNNING**

Prime contractor: University College Dublin

Organisational Unit: TEC-AMG

Activity Type: co-sponsored Research

START/Commenced date: 10 July 2023

ESTIMATED END: 10 July 2027

DURATION: 48 MONTHS

#### Objective

A nutritious, resilient and safe food source is essential for safe human metabolism. Findings from Viking and Phoenix Mars landers have shown that perchlorates in Martian regolith at concentrations toxic to human bacteria [1-6]. The MARSCROP project will explore the use of plants to remediate perchlorates in association with phytoremediation and periphyton. The project will explore the use of plants to remediate perchlorates in association with phytoremediation and periphyton. The project will explore the use of plants to remediate perchlorates in association with phytoremediation and periphyton.

## ACTIVITY

### DEEP-SPACE FOOD PRODUCTION BASED ON SINGLE-CELL PROTEIN PRODUCTION BY MEANS OF GAS FERMENTATION

Overview Events

**RUNNING**

Prime contractor: Solar Foods

Organisational Unit: TEC-SF

Activity Type: Early technology development

START/Commenced date: 19 January 2023

ESTIMATED END: 19 July 2024

DURATION: 16 MONTHS

#### Objective

Future human exploration missions beyond Low Earth Orbit will result in unprecedented constraints on the supply and re-supply of food to meet the energy requirements of the crew. For very long missions (with no opportunity to pre-deploy food depots or re-supply from Earth), it may be impractical or even impossible to launch and store all the food required with the crew and alternative approaches will be required.

Solar Foods uses gas fermentation technology to produce single-cell protein called Solein®. Its production disconnects food production from agriculture, i.e. from fertile land use and photosynthesis. No agricultural inputs are needed as raw materials either. Main ingredients are CO2 and H2. Solein is a naturally occurring hydrogen oxidising bacteria that is nutritionally close to dried soy and meat. It is a powder that can be integrated into meals to provide animal like nutrition including many vitamins (B, A) and micronutrients. Also it can be used in the growth media for cultivated meat production through or patented platform. Solein is approximately 65% protein, 8% fat, 15% dietary fibres and 5% minerals. It is a complete protein with excellent digestibility and functionality.

In gas fermentation closed loop system no waste products are grown, unlike in the case of plants where there are large proportion of non-edible parts. No tillage or soil maintaining is needed. The method is highly promising candidate for food production system for human space exploration, and has the potential for Salt and nitrogen recovery through waste management, enabling a closed nutrient loop.

The purpose of the project is to carry out a feasibility study as the initial step towards a technology demonstrator of a space-borne food factory. Video about the concept is here: <https://bit.ly/3z0oP3L>, and a Space concept is shown here <https://bit.ly/3NiqJ64>

<https://activities.esa.int/4000140412>

## ACTIVITY

### PASSIVE PROTECTIVE SHIELDS FOR LUNAR AND MARTIAN OUTPOSTS

Overview Events

**RUNNING**

Prime contractor: Université libre de Bruxelles

Organisational Unit: HRE-RS

Activity Type: co-sponsored Research

ESTIMATED END: 16 May 2026

Moon and Mars represent promising candidates for preceded by the robotic exploration of a swarm of semi-autonomous vehicles. Several technologies should be developed to support these missions. One critical challenge is the high temperatures, which can damage the payloads and the instruments. To overcome this challenge, we have been focusing on the use of passive protective shields. One critical challenge is the high temperatures, which can damage the payloads and the instruments. To overcome this challenge, we have been focusing on the use of passive protective shields. One critical challenge is the high temperatures, which can damage the payloads and the instruments. To overcome this challenge, we have been focusing on the use of passive protective shields.

<https://activities.esa.int/4000141524>

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# NEBULA FINISHED DISCOVERY ELEMENT ACTIVITIES

All finished activities available on nebular studies database:

<https://nebula.esa.int>

Ongoing addition of also TDE and GSTP publicly available deliverables.

Integrated in ESA KM Environment

API ready

*“One of the best accessible databases for final deliverables”*

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ESA DISCOVERY & PREPARATION STUDIES LIBRARY TIMELINE HELP

## Discovery & Preparation

The studies library NEBULA provides access to all publicly available final deliverables of past activities run by ESA's Discovery and Preparation elements of the Basics Activities. (former General Studies Programme - GSP)

### Studies library

Title	Description	Keywords	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	GNC <input type="radio"/>	- Any - <input type="text"/>
Contractor	Start Year	End Year	Running year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Format: 2021	Format: 2021	Format: 2021

**Order by end date.** Desc  Apply Reset

**High performance avionics solution for advanced and complex GNC systems (HIPNOS)**

The objective of this document is the presentation of the final synthesis of the activity "HIPNOS", Development of a representative HW/SW solution for a high-performance processing platform for Active Debris Removal missions.

Spain  
GMV

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2016 - 2017

**Assessment of a Methodology for the Certification of Safety GNC Critical Space Systems**

The project is aimed at investigating and assessing methods for the certification of the design and development of Guidance, Navigation, and Control (GNC) systems for autonomous space missions.

Germany  
Fortiss

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2016 - 2017

**Assessment of onboard DA state estimation for spacecraft relative navigation**

The goal of this study is two-fold. First, to identify and develop a DA- based high-order filter for relative pose estimation. The application considered is the rendezvous with an uncooperative target, modelled after ESA's e.deorbit mission.

Italy  
POLITECNICO DI MILANO

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2016 - 2017

**Mission analysis and detailed GNC definition in support of PRISMA "IRIDES" experiment**

Sweden  
OHB Sweden

### Advanced filters

Select the filter criteria and click the apply button. The list of studies matching all criteria will be shown.

Search does not criteria require exact match, except Contractor and Keywords which has necessary to have exact match.

Running year includes studies while the duration of the study includes the running year, e.g: 2018 will show the information about one study that starts at 2017 and ends at 2018.

# ACT RESEARCH AREAS

## Fundamental Physics

Impact of new ideas in physics

## Artificial Intelligence

Engineering of intelligent computer systems

## Advanced Energy Systems

Innovating energy systems

## Molecular Engineering

Manipulate and control the properties of molecules for space

## Advanced Propulsion

Explore and review breakthrough propulsion concepts



## Nanotechnology

Benefitting from control at micro/nano scale

## Biomimetics & Bioengineering

Benefitting from Darwinian evolution to solve engineering problems

## Neuroscience

Brain, sleep and microgravity

## Mission Analysis

Mathematical techniques for future mission analysis

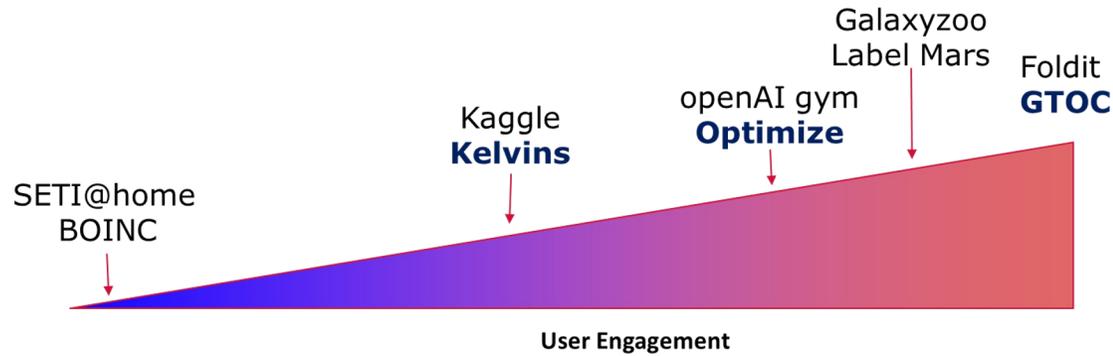
## Computer Science & Applied Mathematics

Fast, efficient and parallel optimisation techniques

## Space economics/Space architecture

Novel architecture & economic concepts for space sector

# OPEN SCIENCE AND COMPETITIONS



- Promoting **Open-Source** Paradigm -> Culture change
- Creating and managing ESA' GitHub and GitLab open accounts
- **Open collaboration** and **competitions** for scientific research
- **Web platforms** to organize innovation on space problems
  - Kelvins (data driven) -> <https://kelvins.esa.int/>
  - Optimize (gym) -> <https://optimize.esa.int>
  - Open Space Innovation Platform-> <https://ideas.esa.int>
- **10+ competitions** organized since 2016
- **500+ international teams** participating
- **Pushing the boundaries** of research



## SpOC 3: Orbital Megastructures

SpOC 3.0 contains three distinct problems centered around a futuristic space mission.

Starting from 1 April 2024 you have three months to tackle these challenges to secure a spot on the leaderboard.

Your objective is to propose and implement metaheuristic algorithms to solve the proposed optimisation problems.

To validate your solutions, we will provide you with Python validation code for each of the three problems.

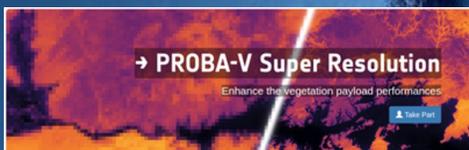
This code includes problem definitions in the Pygmo user-defined problem (UDP) format, examples of solutions, and visualisation tools.

You have until 30 June 2024 to submit your entries via the dedicated portal Optimise.



# New Working Methods

Kelvins Portal: compete to excel



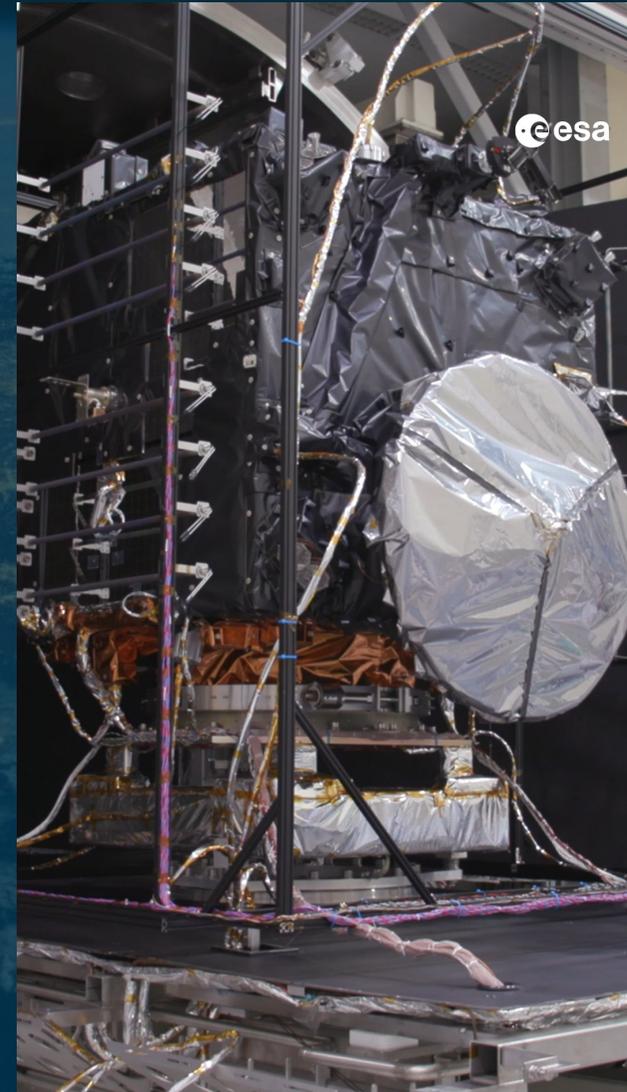
<https://kelvins.esa.int>

- Open science to foster competitive spirit and healthy scientific competitions
- Dedicated competition portal: Kelvins, reach the absolute zero (error)
- Importance of asking the right questions
- Started 2015
- Competitions:
  - Mars Express Power Consumption
  - Star tracker Identification
  - Space Debris Removal Tugs (GTOC9)
  - Proba V Superresolution
  - Satellite Pose Estimation
- [weblink](#)

# HERA IN ESTEC TEST CENTRE



## HERA Planetary Defense



# Backup slides

Open Space Innovation Platform OSIP: <https://ideas.esa.int>

Running Activities Platform (beta version): <https://activities.esa.int>

Finished Activities reports: <https://nebula.esa.int>

Discovery and Preparation ESA pages: <https://www.esa.int/discovery>

Discovery pages on TEC B2B website: <https://technology.esa.int/program/discovery>

Monthly news stories on new activities:

[https://www.esa.int/Enabling\\_Support/Preparing\\_for\\_the\\_Future/Discovery\\_and\\_Preparation/Ideas\\_implemented\\_through\\_the\\_Open\\_Space\\_Innovation\\_Platform](https://www.esa.int/Enabling_Support/Preparing_for_the_Future/Discovery_and_Preparation/Ideas_implemented_through_the_Open_Space_Innovation_Platform)

ESA Advanced Concepts Team pages: <https://www.esa.int/act>