

Keeping the European space sector at the leading edge

Eurospace high level guidelines for Space in Horizon Europe

Space is one of the few industrial sectors where Europe remains extremely competitive against traditional (USA, Russia) and rapidly emerging (China) powers: with 4% of the global industrial workforce (43,000 jobs in Europe), the European space industry has accounted for around 20% of worldwide industrial space production over the last five years. This is the result of several decades of fruitful European cooperation and thanks to an ambitious Research & Innovation policy put in place by the European Union.

In this context, the European space industry, represented through Eurospace, aspires to efficiently support European institutions in addressing societal challenges while generating growth, competitiveness and benefits to citizens. It is of paramount importance that the strategic specificities of the European space sector as well as its needs will be reflected by strong political action, allowing to continue reaping the benefits of the Europe Union's efforts in space at the service of European society, economy and citizens.

Therefore, as the final discussions for the next Framework Programme, Horizon Europe, are coming into an end, Eurospace wishes to highlight three guidelines of major importance if Europe wants to keep its leading edge in terms of innovation, competitiveness and readiness.

1) A game-changing budget for Space Horizon Europe

First, the European space sector needs to rely on an ambitious R&I budget at the level of the aspirations of the European Union for space. Indeed, a significant budget for research and innovation shall aim at a four-fold objective: maintaining the technological readiness of the EU-owned strategic infrastructures (EGNOS, Galileo, Copernicus), preparing the development of the new components of the EU space programme (SST, Govsatcom), establishing an efficient and sustainable common technology base for European space systems as well as ensuring the necessary technological leadership to be able to compete on open markets.

With 4 Billion budget for Space in Horizon Europe the EU would be a game changer.

2) Support the emergence and adoption of a detailed SRIA for space technologies, a cornerstone of Horizon Europe's upcoming Space Workprogrammes

Second, it is more than important to support the emergence and the final adoption of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for competitiveness and technology. Eurospace is from the beginning fully engaged and committed, alongside other stakeholders (i.e. the European institutions, Member states, space agencies, research and technology organisations, labs and academia), to the elaboration of a detailed SRIA for space technologies. All the consented efforts must ultimately deliver its expected outcome to form the stepping stone to build the Horizon Europe Workprogrammes for space.

3) Give the possibility to the European space sector to benefit from a co-programmed partnership, the working arm of the SRIA

Finally, Eurospace positively welcomes the possibility to manage and implement the SRIA in the context of a Co-Programmed Partnership, with the private sector as a strong partner, and for which the governance and the conditions still need to be defined and discussed with all the potential interested stakeholders – our industrial community is in this respect looking forward to working hand in hand with the EU institutions in the next few weeks and months.