

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA)
GENERAL SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME (GSTP)
DE-RISK 2017/18 CALL

GSTP is a complex, but very valuable, ESA programme which the UK has used effectively over many years to further its space technology capabilities and the strength of its supply chains in many key areas. A recent independent evaluation of the programme has underlined the impact that it has delivered in the UK, the potential it has for the future, but also the need to try and make initial access simpler and quicker. Given the range and ambition of many of the larger GSTP projects, getting the best value for UK will still need careful discussion and negotiation, but we are also keen to develop new ways of engaging with the programme through smaller 'entry level' projects capable of de-risking technologies, and where appropriate defining future routes for development.

UK Space Agency has been working with ESA's GSTP Programme Office to develop such opportunities. Following successful pilots in Germany and Austria we now propose to do the same in the UK. The core innovative elements that have been developed here are, first, a streamlined 'de-risk' format for projects of up to 200k euros and, second, issuing periodic dedicated calls for individual tranches of such projects. We are now issuing a pilot call of this new for GSTP De-risk projects in the UK, with a **closing date of 5 March 2018**. The application forms and further details are set out below.

Please note that that this new mechanism is additional to all the existing GSTP project opportunities and activity in the UK, and does not preclude engagement with these wider and deeper aspects of the programme either now or in the future. The purpose of this call is to allow those interested in the programme to propose a project development in their area of interest directly to UK Space Agency and ESA, for us in turn to fund some of these new ideas straight away, and where appropriate form a basis for future discussion on support for continuing development of promising ideas.

There are two application documents, which will need to be completed and submitted in accordance with the notes provided no later than 9am on Friday 9 March.

You may wish to note that the longer ESA form which is circa 30 pages is aimed to form the basis for discussion of a work programme should your project be selected. We are seeking project proposals which have the potential to make a substantial impact and where a short 'de-risk' project can help define a clear way forward. Although GSTP is a very flexible programme, it does not cover Telecommunications. Consequently, this Call excludes any activity proposals targeting opportunities in the satellite Telecommunications value chain (for which ARTES funding is designed).

We have imposed a relatively short timescale on the bid process to get things moving quickly and to ensure that we can get an early indication of the levels of interest and the character of the ideas brought forward. Depending on this we plan to consider further calls, but we would emphasize again that this present call is additional to the other routes into GSTP projects, and in no way precludes or replaces discussion in the normal way.

We are delighted to announce that there are collaboration opportunities with German companies on offer through this Call.

Please note the following:

- Such collaboration is not a requirement: it would not be considered in marking (or providing a higher mark to) a proposal;
- Activities proposed in collaboration shall be UK-led (UK company prime contractor, German company sub-contractor);
- In case of collaboration, the maximum amount for a proposed activity remains 200 k€ (80 k€ for an activity not including experimental work - i.e. breadboarding/testing);
- Collaboration shall be for technology development work (i.e. not consist in mere testing, procurement of equipment or hardware, etc.).

We look forward to receiving a range of challenging and exciting bids.

Please submit your applications as indicated above no later than 9am on Friday 9 March 2018 to GSTP@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk any queries regarding the application process should also be submitted to this email address.