



Third Call for UK InCubed Proposals

InCubed is a European Space Agency open call programme supporting innovative projects related to Earth Observation.

What is InCubed?

Investing in Industrial Innovation – InCubed – is a European Space Agency (ESA) open call programme supporting innovative projects related to Earth Observation, with the focus of removing barriers to entry of the commercial marketplace. The programme is intended to be the final tranche of funding required to commercialise a technology, or helping to create a new kind market where none existed previously. Unique elements of the InCubed programme include the opportunity for organisations to work with ESA, benefitting from their expertise, as well as the goal of a rapid turnaround time for funding provision; the UK Space Agency and ESA are targeting a period of only a few months between initial proposal submission and the final contract signature. More information on InCubed is available on [ESA's website](#).

What the UK will Support

Companies or consortia applying to ESA for InCubed funding require the support of their national delegation – which is the UK Space Agency for UK organisations. InCubed proposals from international consortia including a UK element are welcome, but not a requirement. Note that whilst the UK Space Agency will need to understand the full scope of the project proposed, UK Space Agency funding approval will cover UK elements only; other ESA member states may have their own processes for approving their respective contributions.

The UK Space Agency is keen to support proposals that see a benefit in working with ESA, and those with a significant degree of technological innovation through InCubed; projects focusing solely on delivery of new EO-related services should consider whether an ESA Business Applications project would be more appropriate – which is also supported by a substantial UK subscription.

The UK Space Agency expects to select 1 or 2 proposals, allocating a total investment of around €0.9 million to the co-funded project(s). N.B. the UK Space Agency approval does not guarantee funding, as successful projects must also complete the ESA evaluation process.

The UK Space Agency is happy to discuss any potential project ideas with UK applicants and how they might align with the InCubed programme. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Alasdair Gow, Industrial Sector Lead for Earth Observation, on UKSAEOT@ukspaceagency.gov.uk **before 5pm on Friday 17 July.**

Application Process & Timescale

UK organisations interested in submitting a proposal to InCubed must complete and submit the UK InCubed pitch form on [ESA's Ideas website](#) by **5pm on Sunday 26 July 2020** in order to be considered in this round of evaluations by the UK Space Agency; applications received after this time will not be considered.

Following a preliminary evaluation, those proposals deemed to have met the basic criteria for consideration under the InCubed programme – that is, proposals on developing a commercially-focused, space-related Earth Observation product/service capable of reaching a sustainable position in the marketplace without further public funding, seeking a level of support within the available funding envelope and which follows the guidelines on co-funding levels – will be invited to give a short pitch via videoconference to representatives of ESA and the UK Space Agency to outline the proposed development and providing the opportunity to answer any questions posed by the Agencies. It is anticipated pitches will be invited within 1-2 weeks following the submission deadline. N.B. proposals for activities that are considered to fall outside the scope of the InCubed programme will not be invited to the pitch session.

Applications must take the form of a completed pitch questionnaire on [ESA's Ideas website](#) - proposers **MUST** use the UK version of the pitch submission form, those using the basic form will **NOT** be considered.

Following the pitch organisations can expect to be contacted within a few weeks regarding whether they have been successful at the pitch stage and that they may proceed with submission of an outline proposal to ESA; they must submit their Outline Proposal to ESA **within 4 weeks** of this notification. Following notification of a successful evaluation of the Outline Proposal by ESA, a more detailed Full Proposal must be completed **within a further 8 weeks**; assuming a positive evaluation it is anticipated that activities will begin 2-3 weeks after submission of the Full Proposal.

Contact

UK Space Agency: UKSAEOT@ukspaceagency.gov.uk

ESA: incubed@esa.int