

Below you will find questions and answers related to ESA BIC Portugal Open Call. If the information you are looking cannot be found please contact us at space@ipn.pt or +351 239 700 900.

Who can apply?

- Natural persons (entrepreneurs, individually or in teams) with no company yet established (but with the obligation to form a company if the project is selected).
- Companies up to 5 years old (according to the Portuguese Commercial Registration Form - "Certidão Permanente de Registo Comercial").

What do you mean by using space assets in non-space markets?

ESA BIC is a support mechanism where space assets are used or transferred to another market. Except for defense and military, you may develop your business idea for any market. Agriculture, tourism, maritime operations, renewable energy, you name it! Thus, a space technology (hardware or software), know-how, procedure, patent, process, methodology or system created for space missions can be reused in an innovative manner in a terrestrial market, creating new products or services or improving existing ones. Additionally, there are several types of satellite data available for a plethora of applications, and it's also considered space technology!

What are space assets? Where can I find information about them?

In order to be eligible, your business idea must involve the use of at least one space asset. This means recurring to at least one of the following types of items, and turning them into added value for your business offer:

ESA Technology Transfer website: <https://spacesolutions.esa.int/technology-transfer>

This website introduces you to space technologies gathered by ESA Technology Transfer Brokers and that showcase technologies that were developed by space entities across Europe. These technologies have non-space application potential. To know more about these technologies, please contact us at space@ipn.pt, we can put you in direct contact with the technology provider.

ESA Intellectual Property for commercialization:

www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Engineering_Technology/IP_for_commercialisation trocar pelo link infra

<https://spacesolutions.esa.int/patents>

Year after year, ESA develops a vast array of innovative, highly sophisticated technologies and applications to support its space programmes and make Europe's space endeavors happen. Many of these developments result in intellectual property (IP) for the finest technologies. ESA owned IP often boasts significant commercial potential for non-space applications. Please contact us for further information regarding possible downstream applications and the licensing process.

Earth Observation: <https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/home>

Human Spaceflight: www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Human_Spaceflight

Launchers: www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Launchers

Navigation: www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Navigation/About_satellite_navigation2

Space Science: www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Science/About_Space_Science

Space Engineering & Technology:

www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Engineering_Technology

Operations: www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Operations/About_Operations

Telecommunications & Integrated Applications:

www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Telecommunications_Integrated_Applications

<https://business.esa.int/>
Satellite Data: <https://www.ip-sentinel.com/>

Please note: ESA BICs accept proposals to use space assets from space agencies other than ESA (e.g. NASA, JAXA, etc.), as long as the Applicant proves the ability to access and explore that asset.

May the funding from ESA BIC Portugal be used to pay the office space and services at the hosting incubator?

No. The incentive can only be used for IPR and product development.

Which costs are qualified to be paid with the incentive money?

The incentive covers prototyping expenses (services and consumables), Intellectual Property Rights and licensing.

Does the evaluation process involve a presentation in front of the jury?

Yes. If your proposal is considered eligible by the Tender Opening Board (TOB) of the ESA BIC Portugal call, the team/company will be invited to present their business idea to the Tender Evaluation Board (TEB) for 15 minutes followed by a Q&A session of about 30 minutes about the project.

Who composes the Tender Evaluation Board?

The TEB is composed by representatives of ESA, FCT, IPN, CCDR-C, UPTEC, DNA Cascais and other business/technical experts.

When and where do the Tender Evaluation Board meetings take place?

There are three selection campaigns per year. The TEB meetings may take place at one of the ESA BIC Portugal locations: IPN (Coimbra), DNA Cascais (Cascais), UPTEC (Porto). The applicants invited to present their business idea will be notified of the schedule/location in advance.

How long does it take to sign the ESA BIC contract?

The contract should be signed within a six months period after the proposal submission. The expected time to sign the contract is between 1 to 3 months after the acceptance communication.

When signing the contract, ESA BIC incubatees agree to provide basic information about the company's performance for 10 years. Why?

A few reasons:

- Incubatees benefit from ESA branding from the start of their incubation period and for as long as the company exists, as alumni;
- ESA (or the countries, which invest money in ESA) are interested in evaluating the impact of the initiative in their countries, namely, the impact on job creation and economic activity;
- Providing information on how the company performs is a miniscule burden when compared with the numerous benefits of being supported by such a unique programme.

The Draft contract mentions an "Acknowledgment of Receipt", what is it about?

It is a declaration issued by the startup, informing IPN that the Incentive Scheme amount has been duly received in the startup bank account. IPN provides the startup with a template to be filled in, to facilitate this process.

When will the startup receive the payments?

The first payment is due once ESA BIC PT held all the required documents properly signed, namely ESA BIC PT Contract, Tenancy Agreement and minutes of kick off meeting. Note that the startup will have to legally demonstrate that the headquarters are within one of the 3 locations centers (UPTEC, IPN or DNA Cascais).

The following payments will be performed only after acceptance of the due deliverables (technical and financial reports), as well as the minutes of the corresponding meeting are signed by both parties.

The final payment will only be performed after the full closure of the project.

Note that before each and every payment the startup should make proof of full compliance with social security and tax authority.

I am not sure if ESA BIC Portugal programme fits my business idea.

No problem! As managers of ESA BIC Portugal, IPN will help you figure out the best instruments to support your business ideas, please contact us space@ipn.pt!