

The European Space Resources Innovation Center: A unique excellence Center with Commercialization Programmes dedicated to early-stage ventures

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Abstract

The European Space Resources Innovation Centre (ESRIC) Commercialization segment provide an extensive set of national and international business initiatives including a Business incubation module and a Business Accelerator.

The Start-up Support Programme (ESRIC SSP/Business Incubator) is the first worldwide technology business incubation programme dedicated exclusively to early-stage ventures (research spin-off, SME & Corporate venturing, start-ups) focused on space resources, making it a unique technology business support initiative located in the Luxembourg commercial space hub. As a Center of Excellence in the field of space resources the Programme offers a comprehensive suite of resources, including expert mentorship for business support, technical assistance related to disruptive technologies, access to a state-of-the-art laboratory and equipment, including networking opportunities with industry leaders and investors and a unique non-equity-based funding support. Aimed at nurturing innovative solutions in the prospecting, excavation, extraction, processing, and utilization of space resources from asteroids, moons, and other celestial bodies, the ESRIC SSP supports to transform technology concepts into viable commercial use-cases. Designed in three specific stages, incubatees benefit from tailored workshops and direct involvement in their dedicated projects, equipping them with the tools needed to lead the future of space resource utilization (SRU). As a gateway towards the Moon, and beyond, the programme is designed to equip incubatees with the relevant commercial space specific B2B and B2G practices to generate opportunities and cutting-edge pilot projects. The ESRIC Start-up Support Programme not only support commercial space development but also contributes to sustainable space exploration and the expansion of human presence beyond Earth.

The ESRIC Start-up Support Programme is run in Partnership with the Technoport, a leading technology business incubator which has the mission to promote and support the development of innovative technology companies from Luxembourg. The ESRIC SSP is strategically supported by the European Space Agency (ESA), the Luxembourg Space Agency (LSA) and the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST).

In addition of the ESRIC SSP, which is focused on early-stage ventures, another major Luxembourg initiative lead by ESRIC in partnership with ESA is the future European Space Resources Accelerator (SRA). The SRA is currently in a design phase and will be an advanced support programme designed for more mature space resource ventures, facilitated by private investments and funding from the European Space Resources Innovation Centre (ESRIC). The initiative will serve as potential platform for businesses ready to scale up their operations and enhance their technological capabilities in the space resources field (prospecting, excavation, space manufacturing, etc). The SRA will offer substantial financial support, cutting-edge research facilities, and an expansive network of industry experts associated with industrial and commercial partners' support. The participants shall receive focused support to refine their business models, enhance operational efficiency space resource utilization activities. By providing these mature ventures with the tools and connections necessary for significant growth, the SRA aims to fast-track the commercialization of lunar business activities in the short term.