

# Space Estonia



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Enterprise Estonia  
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# Outline and reasoning

**Space related projects require many unique skillsets and capabilities; we would like to:**

1. **display** the prevalent activity directions in the Estonian space sector
2. **highlight** openness for greater cooperation
3. **describe** some more significant planned activities for 2026-2028

## Useful links:

- <https://startupestonia.ee/startup-database/>
- [https://issuu.com/eas-estonia/docs/estonian\\_space\\_directory\\_2024](https://issuu.com/eas-estonia/docs/estonian_space_directory_2024)
- <https://eis.ee/innoveeri-ja-kaitse-ari/space-estonia/>



# Estonian Space Policy and Programme 2020-2027

## High-focus development areas:

- Public sector services (ESThub)
- High-tech Industry and businesses
- Science and education

## Key directions in industrial policy:

- **Cybersecurity and security**, including mission control, cyber ranges and e-government services
- **Artificial intelligence**, especially in remote observation, autonomous robotics, predictive maintenance
- **Innovations** in optics, energy systems and materials technology

**Activities are organised with the support of the Estonian Space Office**

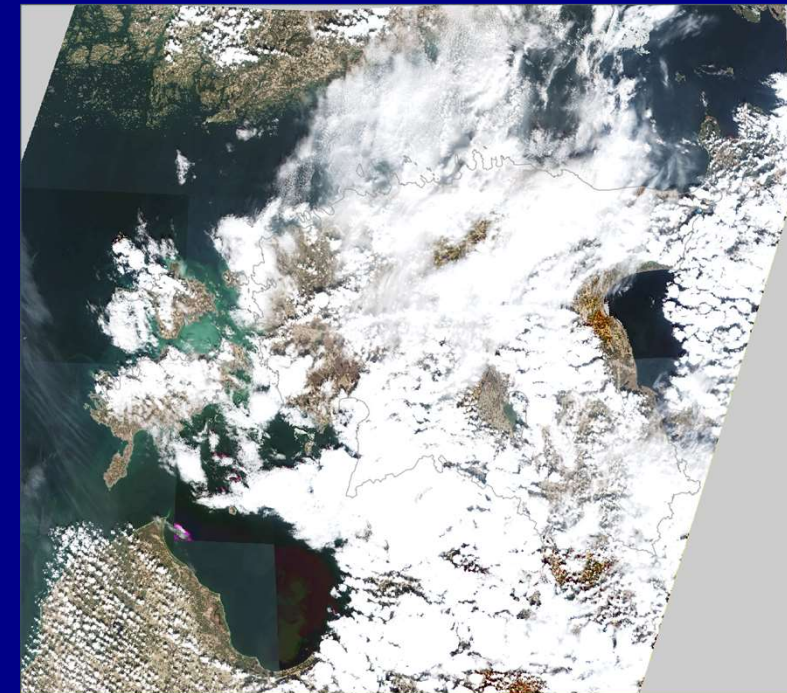


REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
AND COMMUNICATIONS

Estonian  
Space Policy  
and Programme  
2020-2027

Currently active directions in the Estonian Space Sector are largely derivative from the Estonian Space Policy and Programme 2020-2027

**Space Policy Roadmap 2027+ under preparation**



Estonia on 13.04.2026; picture from ESThub  
(<https://esthub.maarium.ee/>)

ESThub gathers information from Estonia from Copernicus and Landsat-8 satellites and provides them freely for public use.

ESThub serves a basis for ice monitoring, flooding and waterways monitoring, detection of illegal forest cutting, detection of topology shifts, agricultural activity monitoring etc.

# Estonian Space Office

**Raison d'être:** Development of Industry through institutional high-tech export to ESA, CERN, EUSPA, EUMETSAT

## More specifically:

- Fulfilling the objectives of the Estonian Space Policy and Programme
- Mediate and channel business and R&D opportunities
- Advise on rules and technicalities on engaging with ESA
- Coordinate international collaborations, and respective education and career opportunities



- Estonia is a Member State since 2015
- Over 200 contracts between EE entities and ESA since 2011, totalling ca 48,5 MEUR
- 132 registered companies in ESA procurement database
- 7 Estonian employees in ESA
- 2026 – 2028 annual Estonian subscription at least 10 MEUR/a
- ESA contracts generate secondary business with 2,9 EUR per each 1 EUR invested through ESA

# Estonian Space Office - team



## The core team is within the R&D and innovation division in Enterprise Estonia:

- Easy to build on synergies with R&D programs, chips and defense initiatives
- Team's activities enhanced through extended team activities
- Note – the Space Office Team is not the entire delegation of Estonia in ESA



**Madis Võõras**

Head



**Elise Olt**

Head of  
International  
Relations



**Sander Sipilgas**

Head of Business  
Development

*Impending Vacancy*



**Robert Aare**

CERN ILO  
ESA JCB



**Helen Asuküla-Tökke**

SNE ESA



**Gerda Kuum**

SNE EUSPA



**Aire Olesk**

Tartu Science Park  
Industry Adviser



**Sven Lilla**

Tartu Science Park  
ESA BIC Administrator

## *Extended Space Office team members*

# Major ongoing activities

## **Estonian industry's highlight ongoing activities:**

- Space Cyber Range
- Dynamic Threat Detection System (AI)
- Earth Observation (3D-SAR)
- Space cameras and on-board electronics

## **Note about subscriptions:**

- There is a margin of uncommitted subscription over CM22 and CM25
- There may be additional funding available, pending special approval

**We are well positioned to accommodate additional activities**

**We have a special interest to gather ideas for new activities in E3P and GSTP in particular**

CGI guardtime 

SKELE+ON  
TECHNOLOGIES

  
KRATES

 CYBERNETICA

TAL  
TECH

SKUDO

PROEKSPERT

 Spaceit

  
LightCode  
Photonics

  
FACT  
INDUSTRIES

GENERIC TECHNOLOGIES

KAPPAZETA

CGI  UNIVERSITY OF TARTU  
Tartu Observatory

  
TARTU ÜLIKOO...  
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1632


Reachu

GOLBRIAK  
SPACE 

 DATEL®  
EMPOWERING SMART COMMUNITIES



TAL  
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Taara Robotics


 MILREM  
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SPACE


HUMAN AND ROBOTIC EXPLORATION

MODESAT


 PORT OF  
TALLINN

 Earth Linnuudakeskus  
Estonian Research Institute

guardtime 

 Spaceit

CGI 

 CYBERNETICA

TELECOMMUNICAT...

SPACE SAFETY

# Research and Education

**Estonian Space Research is primarily concentrated in University of Tartu and TalTech:**

- Space technology
- Earth Observation
- Astronomy, cosmology, galaxies and stars
- Cybersecurity in space

## Standalone programs:

- ESERO – next up CanSat Estonia 2026 (28.04)
- Estronaut – application deadline in 2 weeks



## Student projects:

- Estonian Student Satellite – Current missions: SUTS (2028) and ESTCube-3 (2029)

### ESTCube 3 (20 x 30 x 10 cm):

- *Cyber Range in Space*
- *Electric Solar Wind Sail (300 m tether, 5-10 kV, 75 uN)*

### SUTS (5 x 5 x 17.8 cm) payload:

- *Hardware encrypted optical communication*
- *Moon regolith based solar panel tests in space*

- Estonian Student Rocket

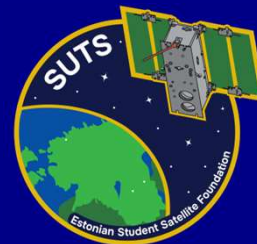


Photo: Viljo Allik

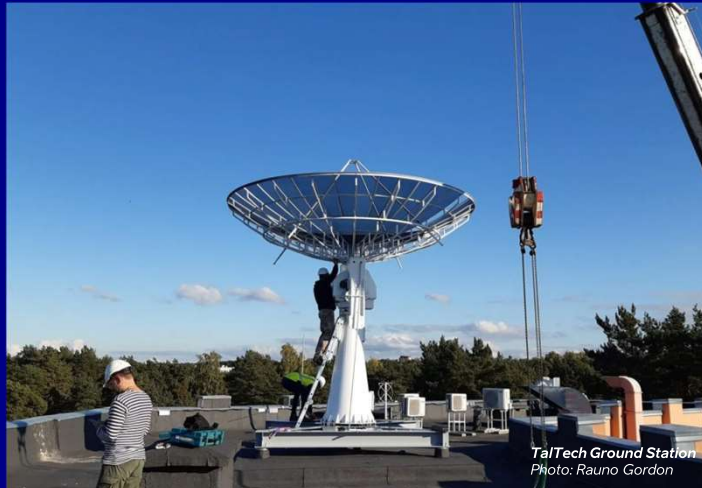
Tartu Observatory



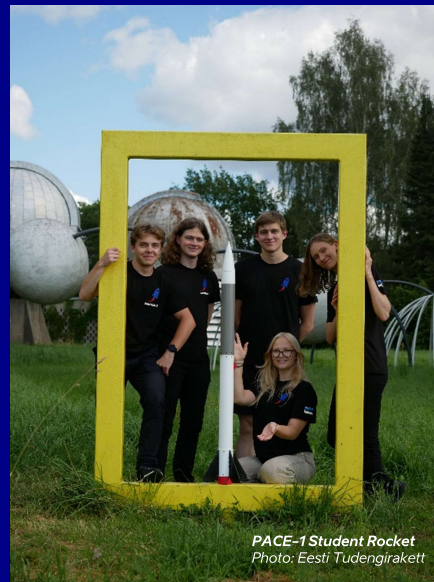
<https://gag.ee/gag-estronaudid/>

Estronaut program finalists are taken on a Zero G flight

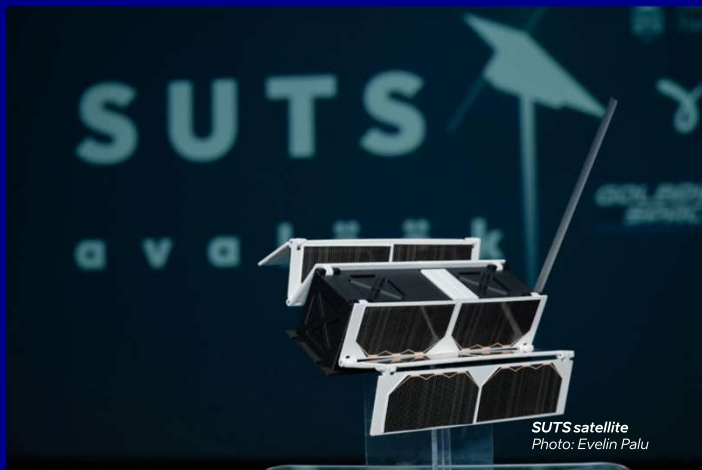
# Research and Education – some images of activities



TalTech Ground Station  
Photo: Rauno Gordon



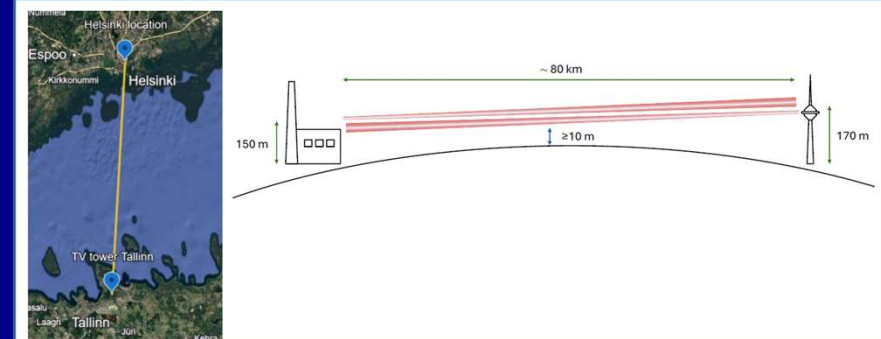
PACE-1 Student Rocket  
Photo: Eesti Tudengirakett



SUTS satellite  
Photo: Evelin Palu



<https://liberalpraktik.fi/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/balticconnector-and-data-cables-Location-of-the-Balticconnector-pipeline.webp>



**THOR project idea – a free-space optical link between Tallinn and Helsinki as one backup to vulnerable undersea fibre-optical communications.**

**The Balticconnector pipeline and the Elisa and EE-SE1 data cables were damaged on October 8, 2023.**

**ESA** ESA Connectivity and Secure Communications  
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**Invitation to Tender: Space and Terrestrial-based Backup Digital Services for Submarine Fibre Networks**

Contract worth: €1.5 million  
Clarification request deadline: 8 May 2026  
Closing date: 22 May 2026

The objective of the activity is to specify, design, develop and test a satellite communication-based solution aimed at ensuring service continuity of a critical subset of the traffic impacted by an interruption in the submarine fibre infrastructure. It will rely on pooling and sharing platforms to enable the seamless allocation of a bundle of satellite communications capacity, possibly coming from multiple providers and different orbits, and on re-routing and traffic prioritisation mechanisms.

More information and how to apply here <https://lnkd.in/e-HX9aYB>

# ESA BIC Estonia in a nutshell

- Opened in 2017
- Two major locations: Tartu and Tallinn
- 7 partners in consortium
- 93 applications,
- 78 pitches in TEB's
- 17 Selection campaigns
- 39 selected start-ups
- 10 active
- 27 alumni
- 2 default



# Socio Economic impact

TOTAL					
Start-ups	ESA BIC funding*	Additional funding*	Number of employees	Labour Taxes*	Turnover*
39	1 740 000 €	96 956 289€	312	17 370 778 €	56 556 763 €

Spin-off multipliers	
Revenue	32,5
Funding	55,7
Jobs	40
VC Funding	24,1

# Meet the Estonian community

## Software Defined Space Conference

- 27–29 October 2026, Tallinn
- No participation fee
- [www.sdsc.ee](http://www.sdsc.ee)
- Abstract submission until 1st of May

## Startup and investor focused events:

- Latitude59, Tallinn, 21–22 May
- sTARTUp Day, Tartu, 27–29. January 2027



# Conclusions



- Estonia is well positioned for new initiatives in the space sector
- We have uncommitted funds
- We are happy to connect you directly to entities in the Estonian ecosystem
- You are very welcome to join the Estonian space sector events
  - **Reminder:** Software Defined Space Conference ([www.sdsc.ee](http://www.sdsc.ee), 27-29. October, Tallinn) abstract submission deadline is 1. May. Participation is free.

## Contact us:

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