

ESA PRODEX programme for Spanish Entities (ES PRODEX call 2026)

Call for ideas

The Spanish Space Agency has allocated **up to 21,6 M€** to support Spanish entities space related projects, through the ESA PRODEX Programme.

1. Summary - Purpose of the Call.

This call for ideas, open only to Spanish entities, is organised by ESA at the request of the Spanish Space Agency (AEE). After evaluation, successful outline proposals will receive an AEE's Letter of Support that will initiate the full proposal evaluation and procurement process by the PRODEX Office of ESA (see section 4). The proposed activities will be funded via the Spanish Slice of the PRODEX Programme.

An overview of the call for proposals organization is provided hereafter.

Text in [blue italics underlined](#) is a hyperlink, either to another part of this document or to external resources.

• **First step: Call for outline proposals**

1. Submit an outline Proposal via the [OSIP Platform](#), according to the requirements listed in the present document.
2. The call is open to entities **registered in Spain**, see eligibility criteria in section 3.
3. Proposals for implementation will be selected based on the ESA assessment, according to the evaluation criteria listed in this call, and AEE objectives.
4. [Lead proposers](#) of the activities selected for implementation are entitled to receive an AEE's letter of support that will be sent to PRODEX. This letter authorises proceeding with the procurement and contractual implementation of the activity, subject to successful procurement process and contractual negotiations after full proposal positive evaluation.
5. The list of the proposals awarded with a letter of support will be published on the AEE website: <https://www.aee.gob.es/>

• **Second step: Activities procurement process**

1. ESA will initiate the procurement activities for the proposals having received AEE's letter of support.
2. Procurements will follow the [ESA procurement rules and methodology](#). The procurement process will include the request for a full proposal, to be submitted in response to a Statement of Work, as part of the ESA Procurement action.

2. Call for proposals – Approach, call schedule, including deadline for submission of proposals.

2.1. Call Opening and Closing Dates:

- Call publication: 10 July 2026
- Call briefing to proposers*: July 2026
- Proposals submission closing date: **16 September 2026**
- Proposals selection: December 2026**

* The time and agenda of the briefing session will be indicated in the AEE website

** Call results, publication date and other call-related data are TBC in function of the number of proposals that will be received; information will be published in due time on the AEE website, see sections [13.4](#) and [13.5](#).

2.2. Call logistics.

- Call details and conditions of participation are addressed in the call platform website and in document “[OSIP-General Conditions of Participation v3.pdf](#)”, available from the OSIP ES PRODEX Call 2026 download area.
- Questions about the procedure can be addressed to the mailbox: prodex2026@aee.gob.es. All questions and answers received will be published anonymously in AEE website.
- Submitted proposals will receive an acknowledgement of receipt.

2.3. Proposals selection.

- The proposals evaluation approach is addressed in sections [12](#) and [14](#).
- AEE will notify the applicants with the results of the process. A summary evaluation report will be provided to all applicants.

3. Applicants.

The Call is open ***solely to entities registered in Spain*** and previously registered in ESA (see [ESA Star Registration process](#)) ***and for activities to be performed in Spain***.

Proposals can be submitted by a single entity or by a consortium. If submission is made by a consortium, a lead proposer shall be identified. See lead proposer function under “Lead proposer” in section [11](#). In the case of a consortium, all members shall be jointly and severally liable for the obligations arising from this call and, where applicable, from the subsequent contractual implementation of the activity.

Funding requests can only be considered for proposals submitted by entities registered in Spain, and for activities to be performed in Spain, with Spanish 100% GeoReturn (GeoReturn requirement applying to the budget requested to be covered by Spain). It is indeed possible to consider proposals for collaborative project of Spanish and non-Spanish entities (projects in collaboration). In that case, the non-Spanish entities shall secure the funding for the part of the activity falling under their responsibility. If proposals are eligible for funding, the funding will only be confirmed and the project implementation considered after the conditions laid out in section [12](#) and section [13.3](#) are met.

4. PRODEX.

PRODEX is an optional Programme of ESA devoted to the development of science experiments. Details can be found in the links below.

<https://sci.esa.int/web/prodex>

<https://sci.esa.int/web/prodex/59651-doing-business-with-prodex>

5. Activities typology.

Activities to be considered for an AEE's letter of support shall be under the following two categories:

PRODEX TYPE 1 (Studies and Definition Phase 0/A/B1, or up to formal adoption)

Projects to carry out definition-phase activities prior to the formal adoption of a mission (Phases 0/A/B or up to formal adoption). Activities may cover, totally or partially, the platform, instrument, experiment and/or ground segment (or any element thereof) of a space mission with scientific and technological objectives foreseen by ESA, or by other Space Agencies for which collaboration agreements are established with ESA and/or AEE.

PRODEX TYPE 2 (Phase B2/C/D/E or after formal adoption)

Projects to carry out development-phase activities (Phases B/C/D/E) for the platform, instrument, experiment and/or ground segment (or any element thereof), as well as mission operations, for a space mission with scientific and technological objectives that has been formally adopted by ESA, by one of its Member States, or by another Space Agency (e.g. NASA, JAXA or others) with which ESA maintains cooperation agreements in the space domain.

Exceptionally, where duly justified by the ambition of the mission and the specific circumstances, partial projects within the development phase may be considered. Priority will be given to the funding of advanced phases for contributions to ambitious

missions in which a significant prior Spanish contribution has been made and funded through public calls.

Up to one project under Spanish-led scientific mission that has already secured substantial funding commitments from Regional Governments (Comunidades Autónomas) or other regional funding agencies may also be supported under this type, provided that PRODEX funding is complementary in nature and does not result in double funding of the same activities or cost items. The total cost of the Spanish mission funding through PRODEX ES shall not exceed EUR 10 Million.

The project under Spanish-led scientific mission shall, where relevant, include a fully documented Cost at Completion, itemised by Development Phase. AEE may decide to award funding on a phase-by-phase basis. In such cases, funding would typically be initiated for the coming phase(s), with continuation to subsequent phase(s) subject to: (i) the successful completion and results of the current phase; (ii) confirmation of the scope of work for the next phase(s); (iii) confirmation of the availability of a flight opportunity; as well as (iv) overall programmatic considerations and the availability of funding.

TYPE 1 and TYPE 2 proposals may include proposals for contract changes, considered to supplement the development of activities endorsed in former ES PRODEX calls, to maintain the experiments development for a longer duration and / or adapt the activity to new flight opportunities.

The applicable project typology shall be determined based on the mission status/phase at the time of the call deadline. Should the request for funding go beyond the mission phase applicable at the call deadline, the validity of the Letter of Support is conditional upon formal mission adoption, or an equivalent approval milestone for non-ESA missions, prior to contract commitment.

6. Project duration.

PRODEX TYPE 1: up to 12 months. Duration can be up to 24 months if duly justified by the ambition of the project. Longer duration could be accepted in exceptional cases if justified by the contributed mission calendar.

Proposals must include the estimated duration of the whole development phases (0/A/B/C/D/E).

PRODEX TYPE 2: up to 36 months. Longer duration could be accepted if justified by the contributed mission calendar.

7. Eligible costs.

- Eligible costs are the ones relative to studies, to the H/W and S/W development and to operation services to be carried out by Spanish entities.
- All proposals requesting budget just for a part of the development (partial Phase or Phases) **shall also include a documented cost at completion for all the phases of the activity object of the proposal** (Phases 0/A/B/C/D).
- Eligible costs are further defined in ESA-STAR, <https://doing-business.sso.esa.int/> in section “Esa-star Publication”, “General Clauses and Conditions for ESA Contracts”.

Marketing and commercialization costs are not eligible.

8. Maximum funding.

The maximum supported funding is 100% of the eligible costs of the project.

The Evaluation board may however propose a lower percentage of the funding than the one requested by the proposer.

9. Incompatibility with concurrent funds.

Double funding is not allowed. The proposal will not be eligible if any activity has got previous funding. If further funding is requested and accepted, the public contribution will never exceed 100% of the total budget considered for the activity.

10. Financial framework.

The available ESA funding for this call is 21,6 M€, distributed as follows for the two development categories:

- a) PRODEX TYPE 1: up to 2,5 M€.
- b) PRODEX TYPE 2: up to 19,1 M€

Minimal justified budget for each type of activity is 50 000 Euro.

After the evaluation process, the evaluation board can reallocate remaining funds to any other category in case the budget for a category is not totally allocated.

11. Content of the proposal package.

The proposal package shall include the following elements:

- P1- The data of the applicant and the activity (including the budget), and all the information requested in the OSIP submission page.
- P2- An outline proposal in English. For enabling ESA fast implementation of the supported proposals, the proposers shall include in the proposal at least the elements requested as per [ANNEX I](#). The proposal shall in addition contain all the information required to allow a clear assessment of the eligibility (see requirements in section 12).
- P3- Specific administrative and legal information, as per [ANNEX II](#).

Other dispositions:

- Incomplete proposals with respect of the requirements P1, P2 and P3 here above will not be further considered for evaluation.
- All documents of the proposal will have to be signed electronically by a legal representative of each entity.
- Entities that wish to request the confidentiality of the submitted application must explicitly indicate this in all submitted documents. However, the name of the applicant, the title of the application, the score obtained and the authorized budget, in the event that the proposal receives the support letter, are public information that will be published.
- All proposals will be shared with AEE and ESA for evaluation and possible implementation. Likewise, in the event that the proposed project is related to a mission of a space agency of another country, the information and documentation presented may be shared with said agency and related entities (i.e. entities implementing the space experiment).
- Lead proposer: The activity lead proposer will be responsible for presenting the corresponding documentation from each of the entities participating in the proposal.
- Personal data protection:
 - The ESA-OSIP conditions apply, see the document “OSIP-Privacy-Notice.pdf” in OSIP ES PRODEX Call 2026 document repository.
 - In addition: Personal data provided in the framework of this call will be processed by the Spanish Space Agency (AEE) as data controller, for the purpose of managing and resolving the ES PRODEX Call 2026 call, in the exercise of its public interest functions pursuant to Regulation (EU)

2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation) and Ley Orgánica 3/2018, de 5 de diciembre, de Protección de Datos Personales y garantía de los derechos digitales. Data may be shared with ESA and, where the nature of the mission so requires, with space agencies of third countries with which ESA maintains cooperation agreements, for technical evaluation purposes. Data subjects may exercise their rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction and objection through the AEE Electronic Office at <https://sede.aee.gob.es/> and may also lodge a complaint with the Spanish Data Protection Authority (<https://www.aepd.es/>).

12. Eligibility criteria.

Only will be considered for evaluation and further processing the proposals meeting the eligibility criteria listed hereafter:

- a. The applicant is a recognized entity as described in section [3](#).
- b. Proposals submitted shall be as per the typology described in section [5](#).
- c. The duration of the activities must be maintained within the limits described in section [6](#).
- d. The requested funding must be within the limits and available budget specified in sections [8](#) and [10](#).
- e. The application includes all the required and validated documentation detailed in section [11](#).
- f. The application includes all the required and validated documentation detailed in [ANNEX II](#).
- g. Activities proposed for PRODEX TYPE 2 shall be in the frame of at least one space mission with scientific-technological objectives determined and planned by ESA or collaborating agencies.
- h. PRODEX TYPE 1 for activities targeting missions for which the completion of the selection or adoption processes and the mission funding confirmation are pending will also be eligible. In such case, the confirmation of the project funding will be conditional to the confirmation of the approval of the mission and its funding, to be obtained within a period of less than 12 months from the project Letter of Support issue date, after which the request will be understood as rejected (resubmission could be possible to a future call when the status of the mission is clarified).
- i. GeoReturn shall be 100% Spanish.

Failure to meet one or more of these requirements will result in the proposal to be rejected.

Rectification Period:

After the call closure, AEE will publish the provisional list of accepted applications.

Applicants who have not met the eligibility criteria and/or the formal and administrative requirements shall have ten (10) working days, starting on the day following the publication, to submit the required rectifications through the AEE Electronic Office: <https://sede.aee.gob.es/>. Rectifications may be submitted in Spanish or English. The outline proposal is not subject to correction or modification during this period.

Submissions made through any other channel, including email or the OSIP platform, shall not be considered valid. The AEE Electronic Office will generate an acknowledgement of receipt upon successful submission.

Failure to submit the required rectifications within the established period may result in the AEE declaring the proposal being withdrawn, by means of the corresponding resolution, in accordance with the provisions of Article 68 of Law 39/2015 of 1 October.

13. Proposals evaluation.

13.1. General considerations.

- The proposals will be evaluated with a maximum score of 100 following the criteria in [Table 1](#) hereafter.
- AEE may propose budget adjustments per proposal category.
- AEE will issue the letters of support based on ESA technical evaluation.

AEE reserves the right to request and use evaluations from competitive public research and innovation calls, conducted under international peer-review standards and managed by structures established under international treaties or agreements signed by Spain, or by national public funding bodies of the Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation.

13.2. Evaluation criteria.

The evaluation is based on three criteria clearly differentiated:

- **Excellence** → innovation, ambition, and the team's capabilities.
- **Implementation** → project planning, management, and allocation of resources.
- **Impact** → strategic, socioeconomic, and technological benefits.

Table 1: Proposals evaluation criteria.

1. Excellence (50 points) - Minimum 35 points
1.1 Ambition and Scientific/Technological Quality (15 points) Clarity and ambition of the proposed mission, innovation level and advancement beyond the current state of the art.
1.2 Coherence of Objectives and Approach (25 points) - Consistency between objectives and proposed technical approach. Appropriateness of methodology, engineering solutions, and work plan structure. Evaluation criteria: <i>Understanding of requirements and objectives</i> <i>Adequacy of technical content and engineering approach</i>
1.3 Competence of the Team (10 points) - Relevance and track record of the team and proposers' organizations. - Appropriateness of expertise and experience to achieve the objectives. Evaluation criteria: <i>Proposers' background, experience, and heritage – (economic operator and team) and adequacy of the facilities.</i>
2. Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (25 points) - Minimum 15 points
2.1 Resources, Work Plan and Project Management (20 points) - Adequacy of project resources (personnel allocation, facilities, equipment, budget) to achieve objectives. - Quality and clarity of the implementation plan, work packages, milestones, and schedule. Evaluation criteria: <i>Management, costing and planning.</i> <i>Technical, schedule and financial risk assessment and mitigation strategy.</i>
2.2 Feasibility (5 points) Realistic planning and likelihood of completing activities within proposed timeframe and budget.
3. Impact Assessment (25 points) - Minimum 15 points
3.1 Scientific and Technological Impact (10 points) - Leadership role of the proposer's company and/or of the scientific groups associated in the proposal, expected contribution to scientific knowledge or technological capabilities. - Potential for follow-on missions, spin-off technologies, or new markets. - Interest of the activity and willingness of the proposers to reinforce existing collaborations between industry and research institutes/universities/technical centres.
3.2 Strategic and Socioeconomic Impact (15 points) - Relevance for the Spanish space sector and contribution to Spanish space priorities. - Contribution to Spanish space autonomy and leadership in critical technologies and infrastructures. - Improvement of national industrial competitiveness (e.g., SMEs, start-ups). - Consistency of the proposal with the strategic plan or goals of the proposer's company and/or of the scientific groups associated in the proposal. - Leveraging effect of ESA funding. - Markets or programmes that can benefit from the output of the present activity, especially scientific mission and interest/potential interest of the programmes- and markets.

- Contribution to education, STEM engagement, public outreach, citizen science, etc.
- Contribution to policy goals and priorities.

13.3. Elements of proposal selection

- Only the best ranked proposals will receive such an AEE's letter of support, subject to funding availability.
- Preference will be given to proposals leveraging Spanish science relevance and technology competitiveness in the global market.
- Funding of advanced stages of development phases of ambitious missions with substantial Spanish contribution with previous public funding will be prioritized.
- For TYPE C activities awarded under the ES PRODEX Call 2024, preference will be given to proposals for updates that demonstrate progress towards the identification and exploitation of flight opportunities where compatible with the experiment development.
- Projects in collaboration with other countries/space agencies: funding will only be confirmed when the selection and financial support by partner agencies is effective.
- Projects with countries presenting export restrictions: confirmation of the project will only be possible after verification by AEE and ESA of the compatibility of the activity with respect export control regulations enforce.

13.4. Granting and denial of letter of support.

After the evaluation process, an evaluation board will decide on proposals to be supported and the funding to be considered for the activities to be implemented.

The result of the evaluation will be communicated to all applicants. For the selected proposals, AEE will send the letter of support to the entities and to ESA. This letter is necessary for ESA to consider requesting and evaluating the full proposal, initiating the procurement process of the activity and to proceed with the potential signature of a contract subject to successful procurement process. Further budget adjustments could be made by ESA within the limits specified by AEE.

In parallel, the list of those operators awarded with a letter of support will be published at AEE website: <https://www.aee.gob.es/>

Following the publication of the results, a 10 working-day period will be opened for the submission of appeals. Those appeals shall be submitted exclusively through the AEE Electronic Office.

Procurement of supported proposals will follow the ESA procurement rules (see

section 4). The procurement process may include the request for a full proposal, to be submitted in response to the ESA Procurement package.

13.5. Publication of the results of the call for ideas assessment.

The result of the process will be published in the AEE webpage <https://www.aee.gob.es/> including the name of the proposer entity, title of the project proposal, the score and the awarded budget.

14. Revocation of the letters of support.

Expiration of the AEE support letter: the letter of support will expire after 6 months from the reception. If duly justified, it can be extended for an additional period of up to 6 months.

15. References.

Reference to ESA contractual documentation, Price Breakdown Forms (PBF) forms etc. can be found in [ESA-Star](#).

ANNEX I

CONTENT OF THE OUTLINE PROPOSAL

Proposals outlines shall be self-standing and **shall not exceed 30 pages** (including front page, index, list of references, list of acronyms, etc.).

Price Breakdown Forms (PBF) are not counted in the 30 pages and shall be provided as annex. PBF forms, as well as the online proposals must be submitted in PDF format and signed electronically by the Lead proposer.

Proposals shall include all the elements that will allow their evaluation as per the criteria of section [13.2](#).

Proposals shall include, in a concise form:

1. Title, acronym, and Summary of the proposed project

2. Contributed mission and proposed contribution

3. Executive summary (1 page max.)

4. Ambition and complexity of the contributed Mission

5. Progress beyond the state of the art

6. Experiment or technical proposal

6.1. Objectives

6.2. Requirements

6.2.1. List of requirements considered for the activity (can be provided as separate document; for TYPE 2 activities it is mandatory to provide this list, or the applicable documents considered)

6.2.2. Discussion of the requirements and objectives of the activity, discussion of problem areas, trade-offs if relevant

6.3. Proposed engineering solution and programme of work, demonstration of programme of work adequacy to meeting objectives and requirements

7. Project management plan

7.1. Project break down, schedule tasks and responsibilities

7.2. Work logics, work-package description, deliverables per work-package

7.3. Schedule

8. Research Data processing & data exploitation activities

This section shall be filled out only for proposals including data processing and exploitation.

8.1. Research data processing and data management plan

9. Financial proposal

9.1. Documented costing including Resources allocation and resources allocation and GeoReturn distribution

9.2. Budget overview

PBFs to be provided in annex: PBF-0 (corresponding to former PSS A1), PBF-1 with exhibits A to D (corresponding to former PSS A2), PBF-2 (corresponding to former PSS A8).

See:

<https://esastar-publication.sso.esa.int/supportingDocumentation/details/18>

9.3. Cost at Completion (CaC) of the activity in case the proposal focuses on a subset of project phases is mandatory. The CaC shall be itemised (granularity to be estimated by the proposer) and a justification of each cost element provided (costing hypotheses, risk mitigation etc)

9.4. Complementarity of funding from other sources. Official documents should be provided annexed to the outline proposal. [Only for project under Spanish-led scientific mission that has already secured substantial funding commitments from Regional Governments (Comunidades Autónomas) or other regional funding agencies]

10. Identification of the risks (including technical, schedule, financial) and mitigations proposed

11. Proposers experience and background related to the proposed activity (Company/Institute, facilities, personnel proposed to execute the project)

12. Strategic and socio-economic impact (1/4-page max. per topic, within the 30-page limit)

12.1. Mission context and relevance for the Spanish Space Sector

12.2. Contribution and role of the involved scientist in the contributed mission

12.3. Expected science output led by scientists involved in the proposal and plans to reach it

- 12.4. Specific measures put forward to reinforce existing collaborations between industry and research institutes/universities/technical centres for the proposed activity
- 12.5. Project contribution to leveraging the Spanish competitiveness in the global market and to developing Spanish space autonomy and leadership in critical technologies and infrastructures
- 12.6. Consistency of the proposal with the strategic plan or goals of the proposer's company and/or of the scientific groups associated in the proposal
- 12.7. Previous funded actions related to the proposed activity
- 12.8. Coherence of the proposed activities with the proposers' capacities and strategy
- 12.9. Markets and programmes that can benefit from the proposed activity mainly in scientific missions. Feasibility of those markets and strategy of the proposers to reach them
- 12.10. Contribution to education, STEM engagement, public outreach, citizen science, contribution to policy goals and priorities

ANNEX II

Additional requested documents (AEE)

Documents requested in Annex II can be provided in Spanish.

Proposers are requested to provide:

- The signed subcontracts or cooperation agreements or letters confirming the terms of the cooperation with the consortium members or subcontractors.
- Any existing documentation showing reliably an interest of future customers or collaborations either for acquiring / exploiting the developed technologies or for exploiting scientifically the outputs of the project
- Certified Statement (see template in Annex III) from the lead proposer and each consortium member who would directly receive funding if this activity would be contracted stating that:
 - The entities have not filed for bankruptcy and have not been declared insolvent;
 - Are up to date with payments and comply with obligations regarding Taxes and Social Security, as imposed by current Spanish Regulations;
 - Are not in situation of delinquency with respect ES administration and ESA;
 - Are not already receiving public funding for the development tasks object of the present proposal.

These additional requested documents shall be provided in the corresponding OSIP channel together with the submission of the outline proposal in PDF format and electronically signed.

ANNEX III

Responsible Declaration Accreditation of Compliance with Obligations

Haga clic o pulse aquí para escribir texto., holder of National Identification Number (D.N.I.) **Haga clic o pulse aquí para escribir texto.** in his capacity as **Haga clic o pulse aquí para escribir texto.** of **Haga clic o pulse aquí para escribir texto.**, with VAT number **Haga clic o pulse aquí para escribir texto.**, hereby declare, for the purposes of the application to the **PRODEX PROGRAM** that:

1. The company has no filed for bankruptcy and has not been declared insolvent.
2. The company is fully compliant with its tax and social security obligations, in accordance with Spanish legislation.
3. The company is not in default with respect to the Spanish Administration or the European Space Agency.
4. The company is not receiving any public funding for the development activities covered by the present proposal.
5. The company undertakes to provide any additional documentation required by the call for proposals, including signed subcontracts, cooperation agreements, and letters of intent from prospective clients or collaborators, as applicable.

This declaration is issued for the record and for the purposes stated above.

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Signature

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