

Latvia's RPA call to open on April 15



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On March 31, the annual seminar on Latvia's participation in the European Space Agency (ESA) national programme (Requesting Party Activities - RPA) took place at the Space Exploration Centre. During the event, ESA representatives provided practical guidance on developing project proposals, the structure of the RPA programme, funding opportunities, and participation mechanisms.

The seminar was also attended by Airbus Defence and Space's Head of Strategic Development and New Markets, Matteo Emanuelli, to introduce the company's main activities in the space sector and to establish contacts and potential partnerships with Latvian companies and scientific institutions.

"I have found a vibrant ecosystem of companies across the entire space value chain, ranging from interesting downstream solutions leveraging Earth observation, top-notch subsystem suppliers, to companies working on potentially disruptive research. Airbus is well-placed to support the growth of the Latvian space ecosystem. Our data can help downstream companies gain an edge, and our large programs can support the" shares Mateo Emanuelli, Head of Strategic Development and New Market Development at Airbus Defence and Space.

The RPA programme provides an opportunity for Latvian companies and organisations to compete with one another, making it particularly suitable for participants applying for ESA funding for the first time. This year saw strong interest from attendees, with more than 60 participants gathered in person. Following the seminar presentations, companies and research institutions had the opportunity to meet individually with representatives from ESA and Airbus Defence and Space, as well as visit the Space Exploration Centre.

RPA programme presentations:

- Introduction: 7 th Call for Proposals under the Requesting Party Activity (RPA) in Latvia
- 7th Call for Proposals under the Requesting Party Activity (RPA) in Latvia
- Call for Proposals for Co-Sponsored Research Activities (G2 - PhD Theses) under the Requesting Party Activity (RPA) in Latvia
- OSIP Platform - Activity Type H - Space-related courses (Company employee training)
- Space education proposals under RPA call in Latvia
- The Proposal Template: Hints & Tips
- Exercise: Project cost estimation

About the ESA National Programme in Latvia

Latvia has been an Associate Member State of the European Space Agency since July 27, 2020, and this status provides organisations registered in Latvia with access to the ESA national programme. The RPA programme aims to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of local organisations by supporting the development of innovative space-related products and services, thereby fostering sustainable business opportunities in the space industry.

ESA Latvian National Programme 2026 - main information:

- Announcement of the RPA project competition (Call for Proposals): 15 April 2026
- Deadline for project submission: 27 May 2026, 14:00 (Latvian time)
- Maximum available funding: 1.3 million euros
- Signing of the first contracts is planned for the 4th quarter of 2026

The seminar was organised by the Ministry of Education and Science, ESA and Space Education Centre and it happened within the ERDF Project No. 1.1.1.1/1/24/I/001 "More Efficient Implementation and Management of Latvia's Science Policy".



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