



## SPACE PLATFORM PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issued: April 15, 2021

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- The **gap between** the interconnected, structural and increasingly unpredictable and complex **challenges** we are facing and **the way that government and development planning is carried out is growing**.
- Both the US and Europe are **increasingly dependent on certain third countries for strategic materials and rare earth elements**. Ironically, new investment priorities on both sides of the Atlantic are likely to further increase such dependence.
- The **total number of satellites launched** each year during this decade will likely be **4 x higher** than in the previous decade.
- A **satellite servicer has docked with an in-service commercial satellite** in geosynchronous orbit (GEO) in order to extend the lifetime of the later.

### UNITED NATIONS / GLOBAL



- The Atlantic Council, an international security think tank, released a [report](#) recommending advocating for new global rules for safe activities in outer space. The report suggests adopting a new treaty to replace the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) Impact Standards](#). These standards are available for private equity funds, bond issuers and other entities to integrate the SDGs in their internal decision-making processes and accelerate their achievement.

### EUROPEAN UNION (EU)



#### RECOVERY PLANS

- The European Parliament adopted implementing regulations allowing the €750 billion Next

Generation EU recovery fund to be used following ratification (see below).

- 13 out of 27 EU countries have ratified the law that will set up the recovery fund.

#### EU INITIATIVES

- The Knowledge Centre on Earth Observation, which will serve as a focal point to translate EO data into evidence for policymaking, will be launched on April 20, 2021.
- The EC has issued an [action plan for the development of organic production](#), with 23 proposed actions to which the space sector may contribute.

#### HORIZON EUROPE

The first 4 years program strategic plan was adopted. The plan details in the Cluster 4 - Digital, Industry and Space the space-related projects that may benefit from support under the program. The plan insist on the need for Europe to mobilize to remain competitive and ensure independent and secure access to space.

## EUROPEAN GNSS AGENCY

- The Agency has launched a call for proposals for the acceleration of EGNOS adoption in transport (deadline July 19, 2021).
- The Agency has published an overview of the main characteristics of the [Galileo High Accuracy Service](#).

## EUROPEAN DEFENSE AGENCY (EDA)

The EDA issued its [annual report](#), which highlights the Agency's work on the Governmental Satellite Communication Pooling & Sharing Demonstration' project.

## EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL (EIC)

- The first [calls](#) to identify, develop and scale-up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations worth €1 billion have been released. Space-related applicants having the potential to be global leaders in the area of digital technologies can apply (deadlines are June 9 and October 6, 2021). Other space-related entities may contribute.
- The EIC Pathfinder program to realize an ambitious vision for radically new technology, has been opened and interdisciplinary teams of researchers can apply for research and innovation grants (deadline May 19, 2021).

## INNOVATION FUND

- The first pre-selected large-scale projects (> €7.5 million) for breakthrough technologies for renewable energy, energy storage and carbon capture are invited to submit a full application for the second stage of the call by June 23, 2021. More calls will take place at a later stage in time.
- 232 applications for the € 100 million EU funding for small clean tech projects in the same areas were received and the grants will be awarded in the end of 2021, following evaluation.

## VARIOUS EUROPEAN AGENCIES

- The new European Innovation Council and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Executive Agency

(EISMEA) is responsible for managing the EIC and COSME programs.

- The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), the LIFE program and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency market-uptake activities (CSA) are delegated to the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).



- ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher introduced [ESA Agenda 2025](#), setting out ESA's strategic priorities and goals. The take away message is that Europe needs to be more ambitious to stay ahead in the space race. He expressed the need to work "very closely" with the European Commission and other stakeholders and proposed a number of actions. This will be followed by several discussions and initiatives, including a space summit in 2022 (see also [The Blog](#)).
- The formal application process for the first new astronaut selection in over a decade is open (deadline May 28, 2021).
- The Agency is soliciting ideas for in-orbit servicing activities such as refueling, refurbishment, assembly, manufacturing, and recycling from European industry and academia.
- The Agency signed a contract to study future space transportation solutions.
- New software modules of the [esa-star system](#) have been launched.
- The Agency will host a virtual conference on space debris on April 20, 2021.



## RESCUE PLAN

The \$ 1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 passed by the Congress and was signed into law by President Joe Biden. It will likely deliver relief to families and workers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis in particular in terms of economic impact payments, tax credits, emergency and assistance funding, capital project funding, rental assistance, small business (via the States) and employee credits and unemployment compensation.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

- President Joe Biden's administration [proposes](#) a \$24.7 billion budget for NASA in 2022, representing an historic proposed increase in Earth science and space technology programs spending (6% increase from the 2021 enacted level). No detailed breakdown of the different components of NASA's human exploration program has been provided. More details are expected with the full budget proposal in Q3/2021.
- President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate Bill Nelson to serve as National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Administrator. Steve Jurczyk will serve in acting capacity until US Senate confirmation.
- President Joe Biden detailed a \$2 trillion plan to rebuild infrastructure and reshape the economy, while also addressing climate change and racial inequities and raising corporate taxes and taxes on wealthy individuals. The plan was presented as a rival to the space race in its ambition.
- President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate key members for the Department of Defense (Ronald Moultrie for Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security, Michael J. McCord for Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), and Michael Brown for Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment.

## NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL

President Joe Biden's administration decided to continue the Council's operations without revealing in detail how it will operate. It may be responsible for promoting norms of responsible behavior in space.



- 365 small businesses proposals have been selected for initial funding under the Agency's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.
- NASA is asking participants to build a timeline of at least 30 years that envisions the future of

flights as well as related needs (deadline May 31, 2021). The top 9 idea will be rewarded.

- NASA Joined the White House National Climate Task Force.

## DARPA

Contracts have been awarded to demonstrate a nuclear thermal propulsion (NTP) system in 2025.

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC)

The Commission would like to grant a secondary allocation of S-band spectrum, currently reserved for government uses, for telemetry for commercial launches spectrum for commercial launches.

## US SPACE FORCE

The Space Force is working on its procurement efforts and may soon issue proposals to accelerate its acquisition programs.



A MoU for the construction of the international Lunar Research Station was signed.



China approved a 5-year strategic plan (2021-2025). The plan refers to several sustainable development goals such as the need to increase air quality, become a low carbon economy, prioritize quality over quantity and protect nature and biodiversity. The plan also supports the need for China to become a leading innovative country by 2035, to gradually liberalize the business environment and increase competition. The plan includes several space-related initiatives, such as 11 scheduled missions in the next two years for the building of the first space station.



Bilateral meetings and discussions between JAXA and other organizations such as the Australian Space Agency (ASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) were held to share information on future plans and exchanged views on the possibility of cooperation in the

fields of international space exploration and space science.

South Korea's president Moon Jae-in announced plans to develop the country space program and go to land a robotic lander on the Moon by 2030.

**SOUTH KOREA**



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