

# SP4ESP

## Implementing the European Space Policy: A Coherent European Procurement Law and Policy for the Space Sector – Towards a Third Way

### A THIRD WAY IN SPACE PROCUREMENT

The European Space Policy (ESP) was established in 2007 in a joint ministerial between the Council of the European Union and the Council of the European Space Agency (ESA), meeting as the "Space Council". The project SP4ESP supports its further implementation in the domain of procurement for joint EU/ESA space programmes.

Space is rocket science and in Europe procurement in the space sector is no less complex. At the origin of this challenge, one sees the collision in this field between EU internal market rules based on fair competition, and ESA rules governed by the principle of geographic return.

SP4ESP undertakes a comprehensive study of the state-of-affairs in the field of space procurement in Europe, seeking for creative solutions to these challenges with a view to better implementation of the ESP. In doing so, the study will propose a set of mandatory and facultative criteria for a new European procurement regulation.

Aiming for a "third way" between fair competition and geographic return, the study is set to explore new possibilities for enhanced cooperation between all members of the Space Council, taking the ESP further.

Starting with a profound analysis of current procurement rules, SP4ESP will subsequently carry out an analysis of the space market and industry, gathering opinions from stakeholders on how to best refine the procurement rules. On the basis of such analysis and stakeholder consultation, the study is set to outline a possible third way forward, taking into account also insights obtained from comprehensive comparisons of procurement regimes in sectors that are similar to the space sector.

Solving the procurement challenge is paramount for taking the ESP and Europe further in space.



**STEPHAN HOBE**  
IS PROJECT COORDINATOR



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**SP4ESP provides a study into a third way between EU fair competition rules, and ESA geo-return rules in future space programme procurement.**

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

#### What do you want to achieve with this project?

By drawing up viable proposals for how to reconcile the respective procurement philosophies of ESA and EU, the SP4ESP project intends to further European cooperation in space. Our project is in support of the overall European Space Policy.

#### Why is this project important for Europe?

Europe has come a long way. With ESA and the EU, two distinct organisations came to fruition in Europe. Their origins differ, but Europe has to move forward in a strong, competitive and industrially sound way. A Third Way to procurement is key to such a development.

#### How does your work benefit European citizens?

As a cross-cutting activity in programme facilitation, the SP4ESP project is to harvest efficiency gains throughout the European space sector. Europe benefits from an improved delivery of space services to its citizens and increased global competitiveness of the space industry.

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## LIST OF PARTNERS

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## PROJECT INFORMATION

Implementing the European Space Policy: A Coherent European Procurement Law and Policy for the Space Sector – Towards a Third Way (SP4ESP)

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