



The European Space Agency's Space Solutions programme is about to issue a call in the near future regarding "Responsible Agritech Kick-Start activities"

This call aims to stimulate the development of space enabled agritech value chain applications to tackle in a responsible manner the agricultural challenges of 21st century. Three key objectives are defined, in line with the new Common Agricultural Policy:

- **Sustainability:** agritech applications mitigating impacts on the climate and the environment, landscapes, biodiversity and producing safe and healthy food.
- **Fairness:** Ensuring decent revenues for farmers (especially those with more difficulties), rebalancing power in food chain, promoting rural areas and attracting young farmers.
- **Competitiveness:** develop the agritech sector through innovation, digitalization, new technologies, rural development and infrastructure, efficient advisory systems and continuous training.

ESA Space Solutions can provide funding to perform Kick-Start activities to any company (economic operator) residing in the following Member States: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden.

Applicants must inform the National Delegation of the country they are residing in to obtain a letter of authorisation allowing the funding of the proposed activity. Contact details of each national delegate can be found on ESA Space Solutions website.

Currently, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway and Ireland have pre-approved funding for this kick-start activity. Applications from any other Member State will require a letter of approval from their National Delegation.

Kick-Start activities are funded at:

- 80% by the European Space Agency for a maximum of €64K per contract for SMEs*
 - 75% by the European Space Agency for a maximum of €60K per contract for non-SMEs
- *SMEs, or 'Small and Medium enterprises', are defined here: EU recommendation 2003/361.

The duration of each KS is expected to be 6 months.

Standard ESA regulations that govern the Kick Start Activities calls are foreseen to apply to this particular call as well.

