

The European Space Resources Innovation Centre

A unique excellence centre with ISRU Commercialization Strategy Programmes dedicated to early-stage ventures

Ernestina Binni^a, Lari Cujko^{a*}, Francesco Liucci^b, Olivier Zephir^c

^a *European Space Resources Innovation Centre (ESRIC), 4422 Belvaux, Luxembourg*

^b *European Space Agency (ESA), European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC), AZ Noordwijk, The Netherlands*

^c *Technoport, 4362 Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg*

* Corresponding Author, lari.cujko@esric.lu

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Abstract

The European Space Resources Innovation Centre (ESRIC) Commercialization segment provide an extensive set of national and international business initiatives including a Business Incubation module and a Business Accelerator.

The Start-up Support Programme (ESRIC SSP/Business Incubator) is the first worldwide technology business incubation programme dedicated exclusively to early-stage ventures (research spin-off, SME & corporate venturing, start-ups) focused on space resources, making it a unique technology business support initiative located in the Luxembourg commercial space hub. As a Center of Excellence in the field of space resources the Programme offers a comprehensive suite of resources, including expert mentorship for business support, technical assistance related to disruptive technologies, access to a state-of-the-art laboratory and equipment, including networking opportunities with industry leaders and investors and a unique non-equity-based funding support. Aimed at nurturing innovative solutions in the prospecting, excavation, extraction, processing, and utilization of space resources from asteroids, moons, and other celestial bodies, the ESRIC SSP supports to transform technology concepts into viable commercial use-cases. Designed in three specific stages, incubatees benefit from tailored workshops and direct involvement in their dedicated projects, equipping them with the tools needed to lead the future of space resource utilization (SRU). As a gateway towards the Moon, and beyond, the programme is designed to equip incubatees with the relevant commercial space specific B2B and B2G practices to generate opportunities and cutting-edge pilot projects. The ESRIC Start-up Support Programme not only support commercial space development but also contributes to sustainable space exploration and the expansion of human presence beyond Earth.

The ESRIC Start-up Support Programme is run in Partnership with the Technoport, a leading technology and business incubator which has the mission to promote and support the development of innovative technology companies from Luxembourg. The ESRIC SSP is strategically supported by the European Space Agency (ESA), the Luxembourg Space Agency (LSA) and the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST).

In addition of the ESRIC SSP, which is focused on early-stage ventures, another major Luxembourg initiative lead by ESRIC in partnership with ESA is the European Space Resources Accelerator (SRA).

The Luxembourg-based European Space Resources Innovation Centre (ESRIC) has selected the first cohort of its Space Resources Accelerator (part of the BSGN Industry Accelerators). This cohort includes six ventures with proven technical and commercial capabilities that aim to develop applications to empower ESA's lunar exploration efforts and drive progress across the entire space resources value chain. By joining this acceleration programme, the ventures will begin with a project preparation stage (Phase 1), during which they will refine and strengthen their proposals with in-kind technical, business and engineering/facility support from ESRIC. The goal is to launch a project co-funded by ESA (Phase 2) that will demonstrate their technologies in lunar conditions.

Aligned with this vision, all three joint ESRIC and ESA programmes—the Space Resources Challenge, ESRIC Start-up Support Programme, and Space Resources Accelerator—are integral to ESRIC's lunar exploration commercialization strategy, driving innovation and fostering new business opportunities within the lunar economy.