

SPACE RESOURCES

WEBINAR

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Welcome to the Webinar!

Before we start...

- Please keep your microphones muted during the webinar and make sure your webcam is switched off.
- You can use the conversation function anytime to submit your questions. They will be addressed during the Q&A at the end of the webinar



Agenda

ESA Welcome and **Introduction**

About ESA's **Space Resources** Competition

Mining in Space by Guest Speaker Gavin Gillet, Rio Tinto

How to Apply to the Space Resources Competition

Q&A Session

ESA UNCLASSIFIED



European Space Agency



space transportation



science



human spaceflight



earth observation



telecommunications and applications



navigation



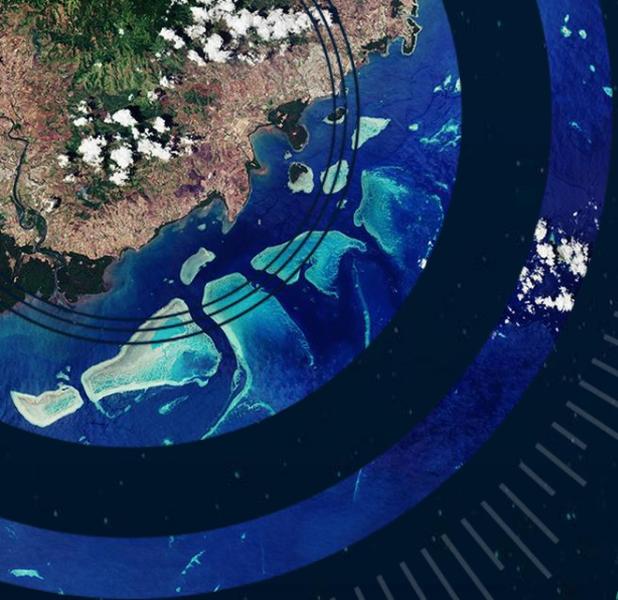
exploration



operations



technology



Supporting the Development of Products and Services on Earth that Involve Space



ESA SPACE SOLUTIONS



Zero-equity funding (from €50k to €2M+ per activity)



A personalised ESA consultant



Technical support and commercial guidance



Tailored project management support



Access to our international network of ESA and partners



Access to our network of investors



Credibility of the ESA brand





SPACE RESOURCES

ESA Competition for Studies

ESA Space Solutions is supporting the development of products and services that are relevant to industries on Earth today but have potential for future application in space

Background

- The future of space exploration depends on humanity's ability to extract resources in space.

...But why is this relevant to sectors on Earth?

- In-situ resources utilisation (ISRU) is a futuristic concept, but it has great potential for creating new opportunities on Earth.
- It can encourage development of technologies that improve sustainability, tackle resource scarcity, and address the Sustainable Development Goals on Earth.



About The ESA Space Resources Competition

- Successful Teams will receive funding and support to run a year-long study
- The aim of the study is to assess the **technical feasibility and commercial viability** of a **product or service** that can be **applied on Earth** today and is relevant to future operations in Space. The product or service must meet the needs of paying customers and other relevant stakeholders.

..... So, which topics are relevant to Earth today and Space resources in the future?

1. Reducing water usage in mining operations
2. Effective Energy generation and storage
3. Remote and autonomous operations
4. Agile and precise mining operations
5. 3D printing, additive manufacturing and other specialised services



Relevant Topics to Consider

#1 Reducing the Use of Water in Mining

On Earth

- Mining operations typically use considerable amounts of water.
- This can create tensions with local communities, cause pollution to local water bodies, and reduce levels of ground water.
- Reducing water usage is a key sustainability challenge for mining operations around the globe



Relevant Topics to Consider

#1 Reducing the Use of Water in Mining

In Space

- Reducing water usage is also a key challenge for future ISRU
- Water is a highly sought-after resource in space but is not easy to access.
- Space mining equipment cannot be reliant on large amounts of water.



Relevant Topics to Consider

#2 Energy Generation and Storage

On Earth

- Mining operations have high energy demands but often take place in remote locations, where it is expensive to connect to power grids.
- Solar energy could offer mining companies a more attractive and sustainable method of generating power.
- However, major challenges still exist for renewable energy at off-grid mines e.g. unstable energy generation of PV plants.



Relevant Topics to Consider

#2 Energy Generation and Storage

In Space

- Mining machinery in space will likely be solar powered, to reduce the need for fuel that would have to be hauled into space.
- Future solar arrays should be manoeuvrable, efficient, light and robust.
- Ideally, future solar panels could be manufactured in space using safe, readily available in-situ materials.



Relevant Topics to Consider

#3 Remote and Autonomous Operations

On Earth

- Remote operations involve monitoring and controlling equipment over considerable distances, often in high-risk environments.
- Autonomous operations can help to make systems safer, more efficient and reliable, and more cost-effective.
- Challenges with automation and remote operations do exist e.g. inability to react to changing scenarios in time.



Relevant Topics to Consider

#3 Remote and Autonomous Operations

In Space

- Autonomous off-Earth mining systems requiring limited human oversight would be instrumental for advancing space mining.
- Exploration and initial sampling in space will likely be carried out by autonomous robots.
- Autonomous equipment would face additional challenges in Space e.g. radiation



Relevant Topics to Consider

#4 Agile and Precise Mining Operations

On Earth

- Mining often involves large machinery, which can be inefficient and wasteful, disrupting the surrounding environment.
- The mining sector intends to change this with low footprint, precision mining, supported by intelligence in mapping, remote sensing and tracking.
- The future of mining could rely on swarms of small, agile mining machines capable of autonomously detecting and extracting the pure deposit.



Relevant Topics to Consider

#4 Agile and Precise Mining Operations

In Space

- High launch costs make transporting large and heavy fleets of equipment into space practically impossible.
- Light, robust equipment capable of operating in the unique space environment are needed e.g. equipment capable of capturing valuable material in spite of low gravity.
- Innovative drilling, mining, tunnelling and water extraction systems developed on Earth could be modified for use in Space.

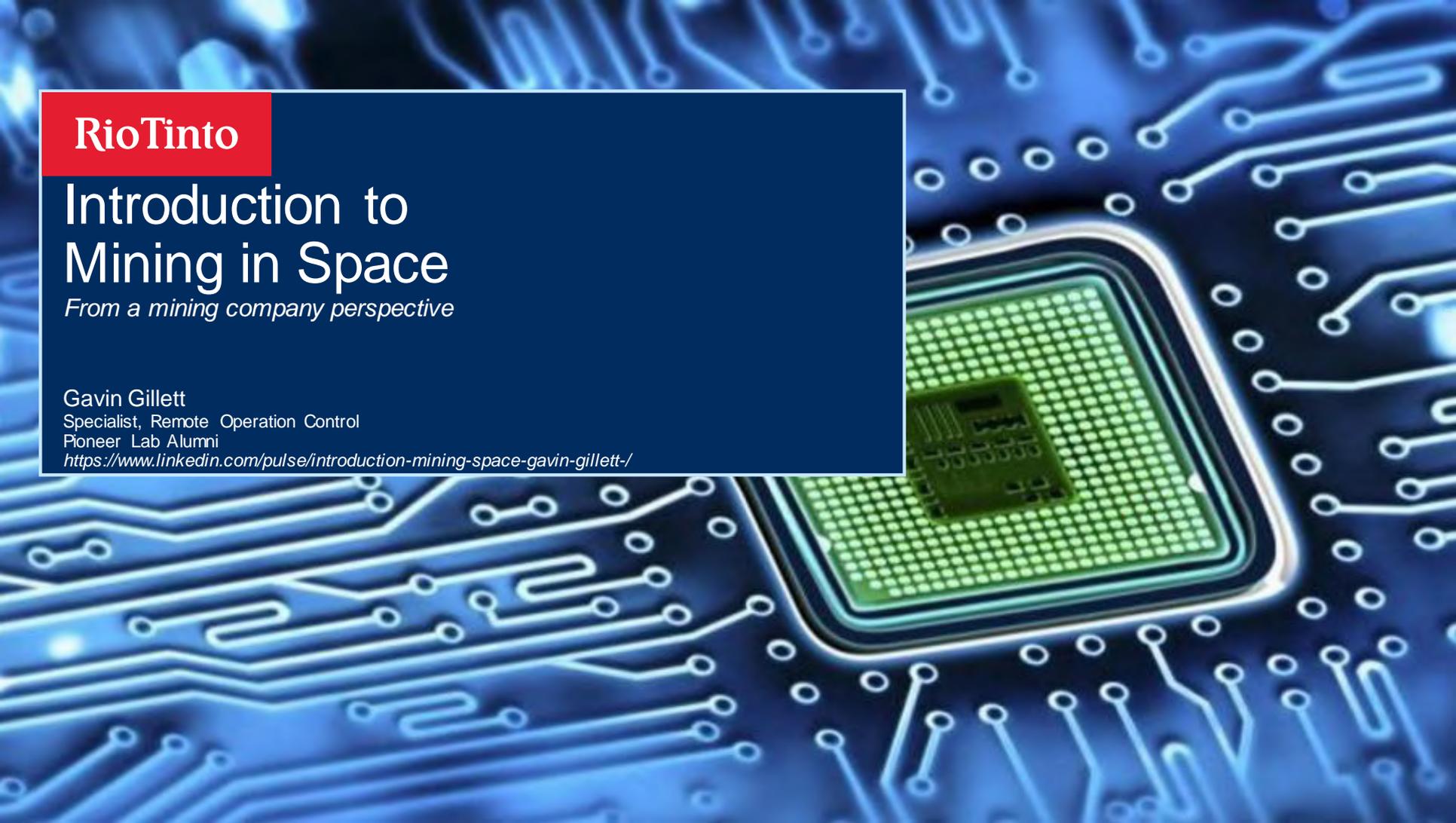


Relevant Topics to Consider

#5 3D Printing, Additive Manufacturing and Other Specialised Services

- 3D printing could transform manufacturing on Earth and the future of space resources.
- 3D printing could lead to sustainability in space, as it would eliminate the need for equipment to be built and launched from Earth, thereby reducing costs and risks.
- Standardised interfaces, compact instruments, or self-cleaning and dust-proof equipment would be beneficial to mining operations on Earth and in Space.



The background of the slide is a glowing blue circuit board with intricate white traces and circular nodes. In the lower right quadrant, a prominent green microchip is visible, featuring a grid of small green dots and a central square component. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and technological.

RioTinto

Introduction to Mining in Space

From a mining company perspective

Gavin Gillett

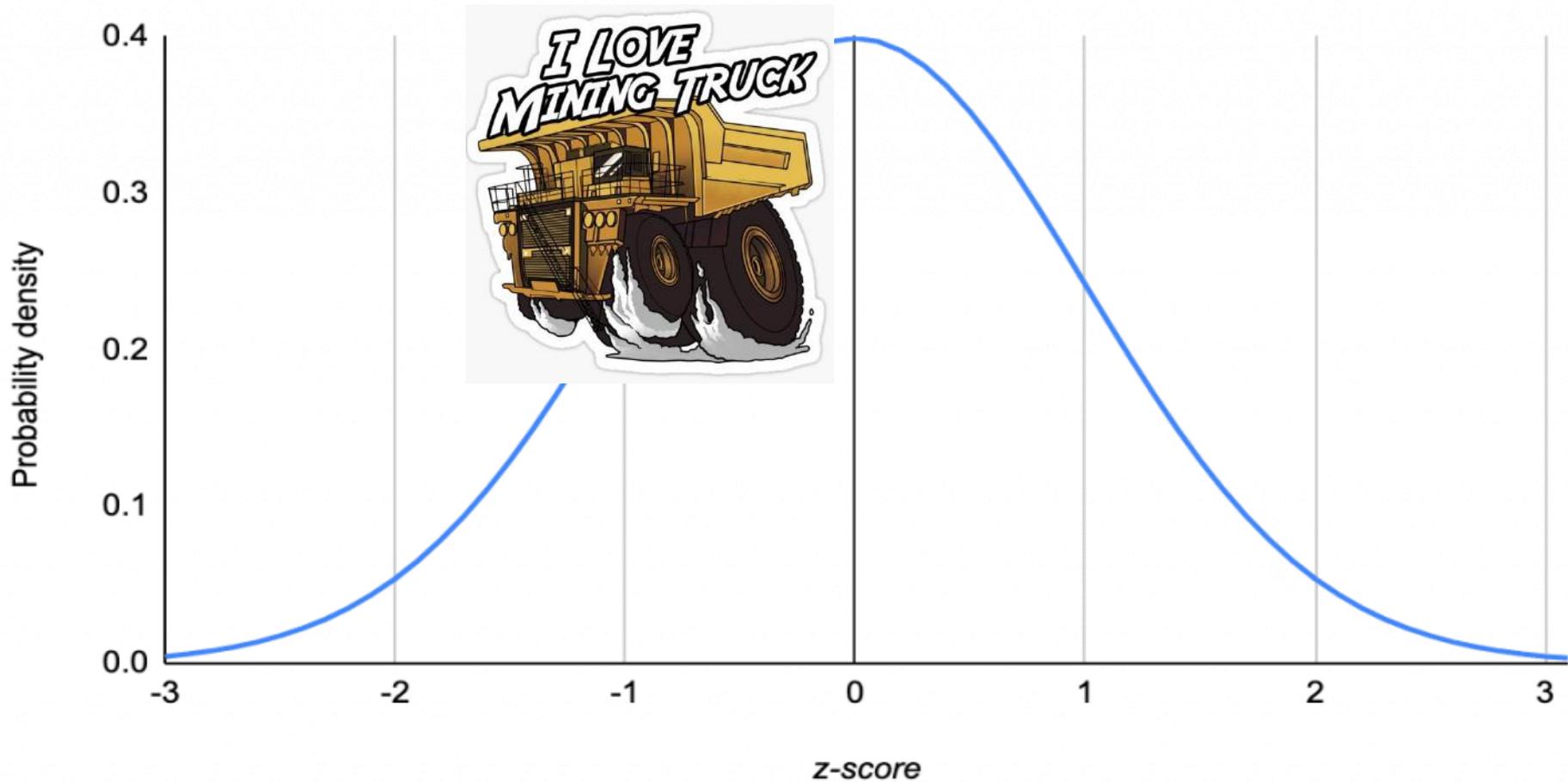
Specialist, Remote Operation Control

Pioneer Lab Alumni

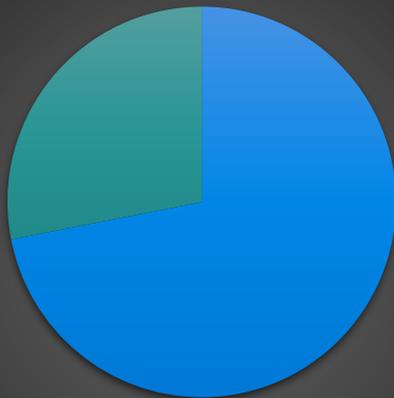
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/introduction-mining-space-gavin-gillett/>



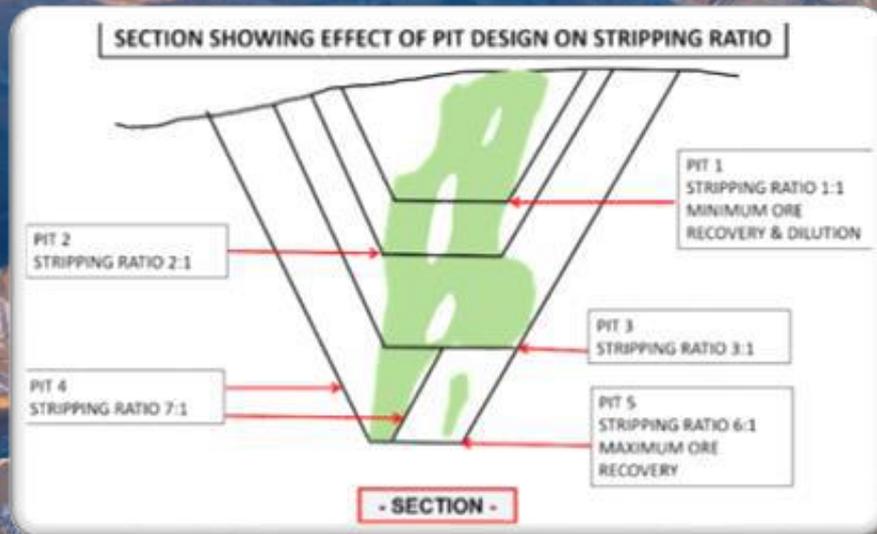
Standard normal distribution

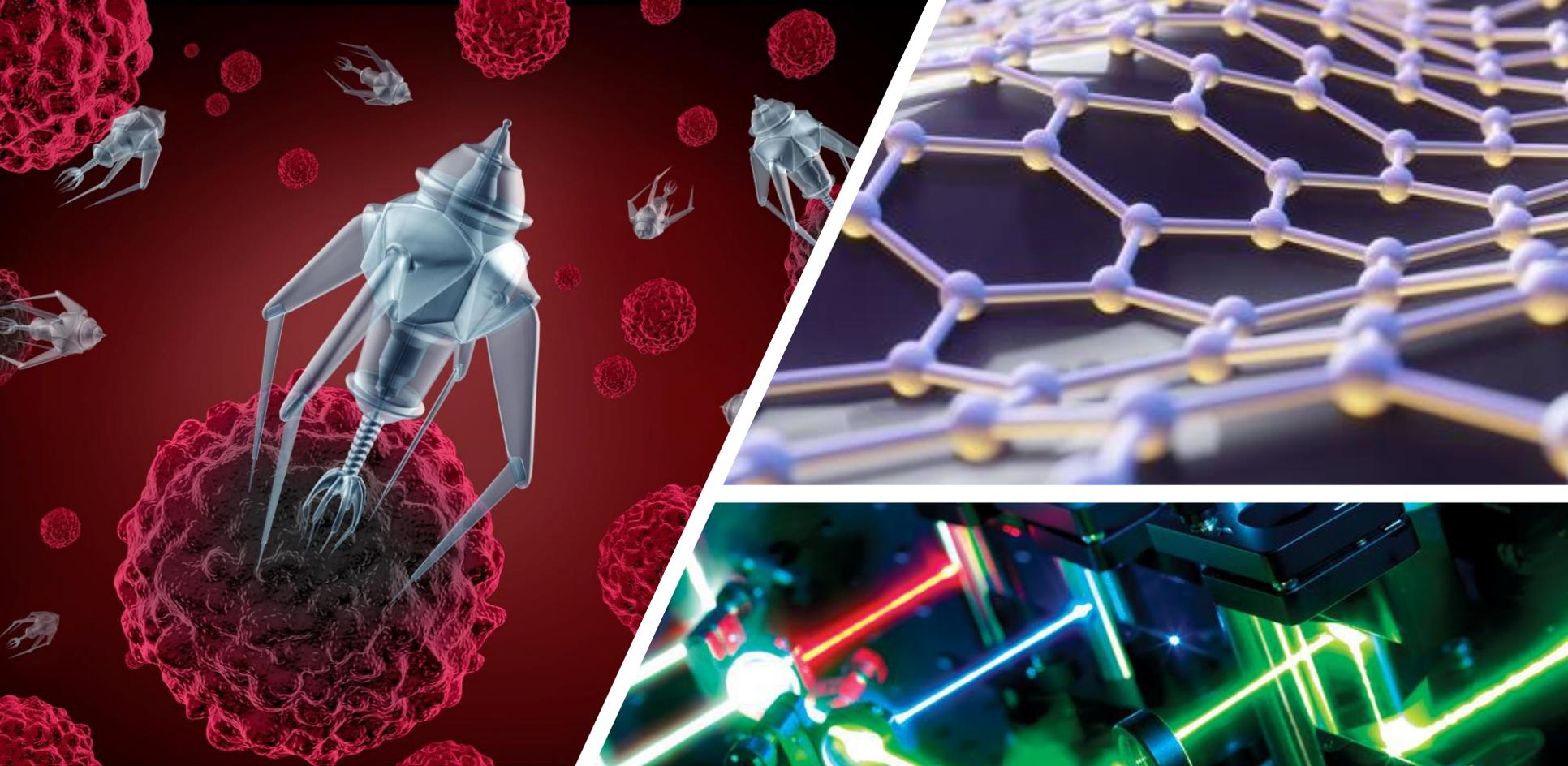


Tackling the WASTE

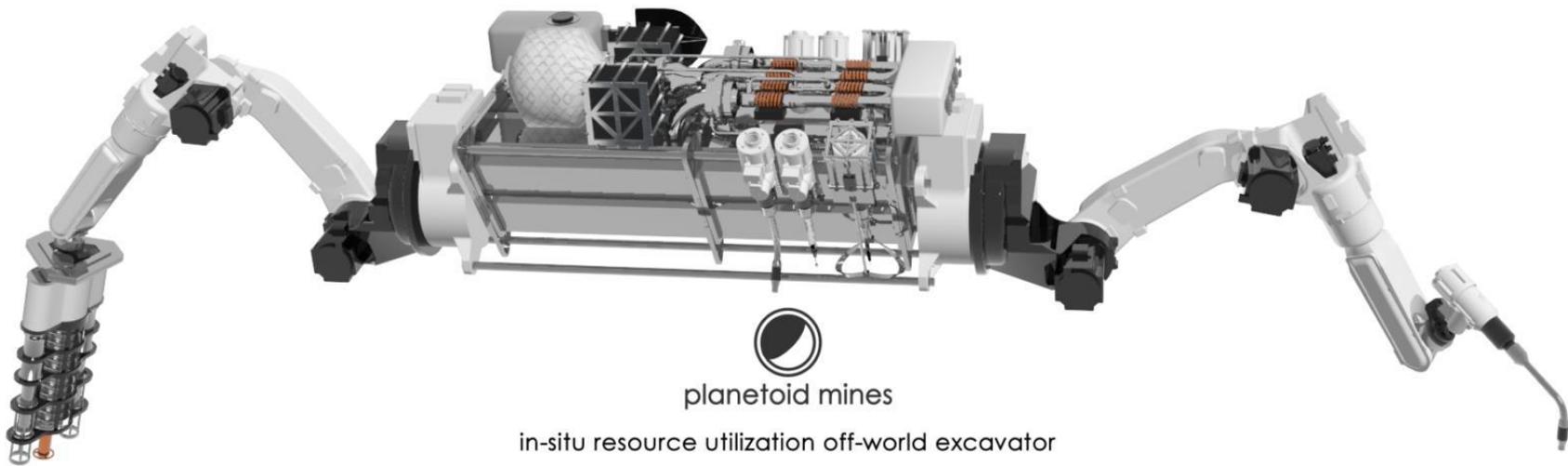


■ Waste ■ Product





Perfect Mining?



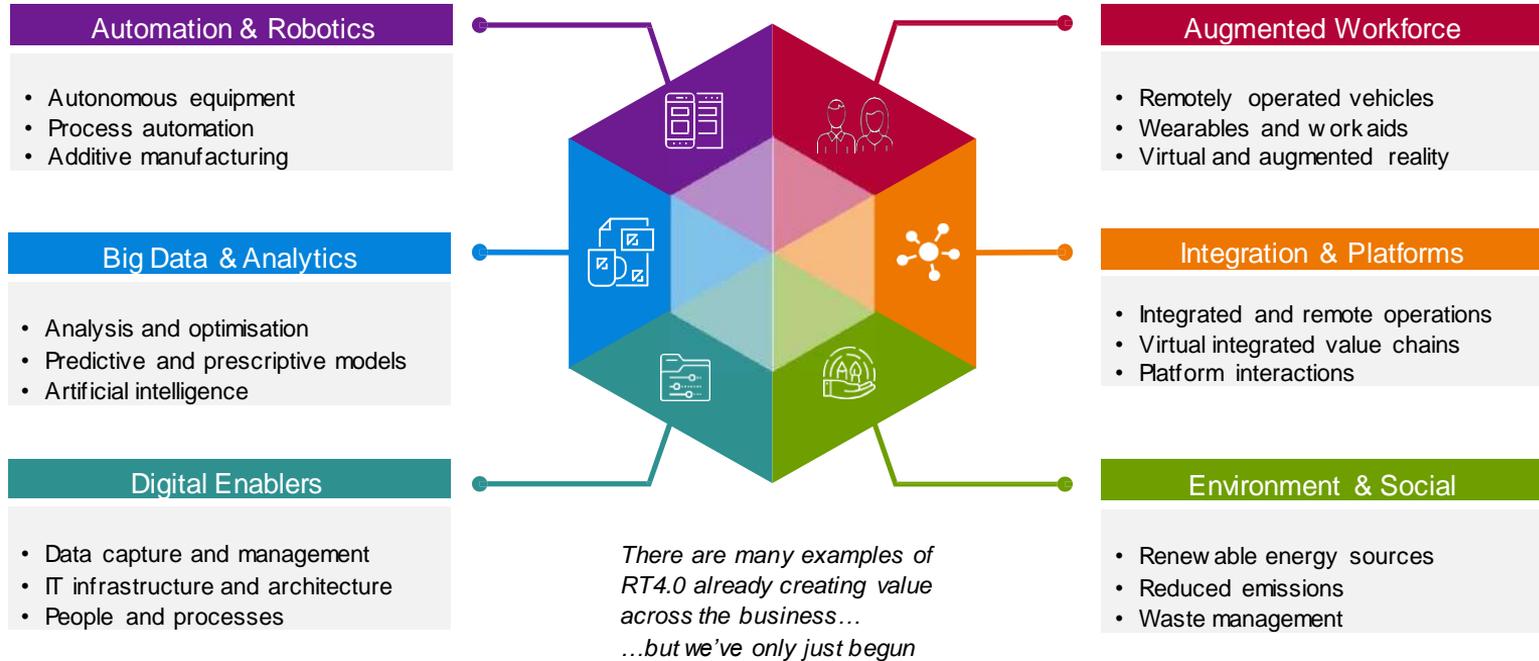
planetoid mines

in-situ resource utilization off-world excavator



Six Core Areas of RT4.0 Development

RT4.0 leverages digital and physical technology to enhance safety and business value





FUSION

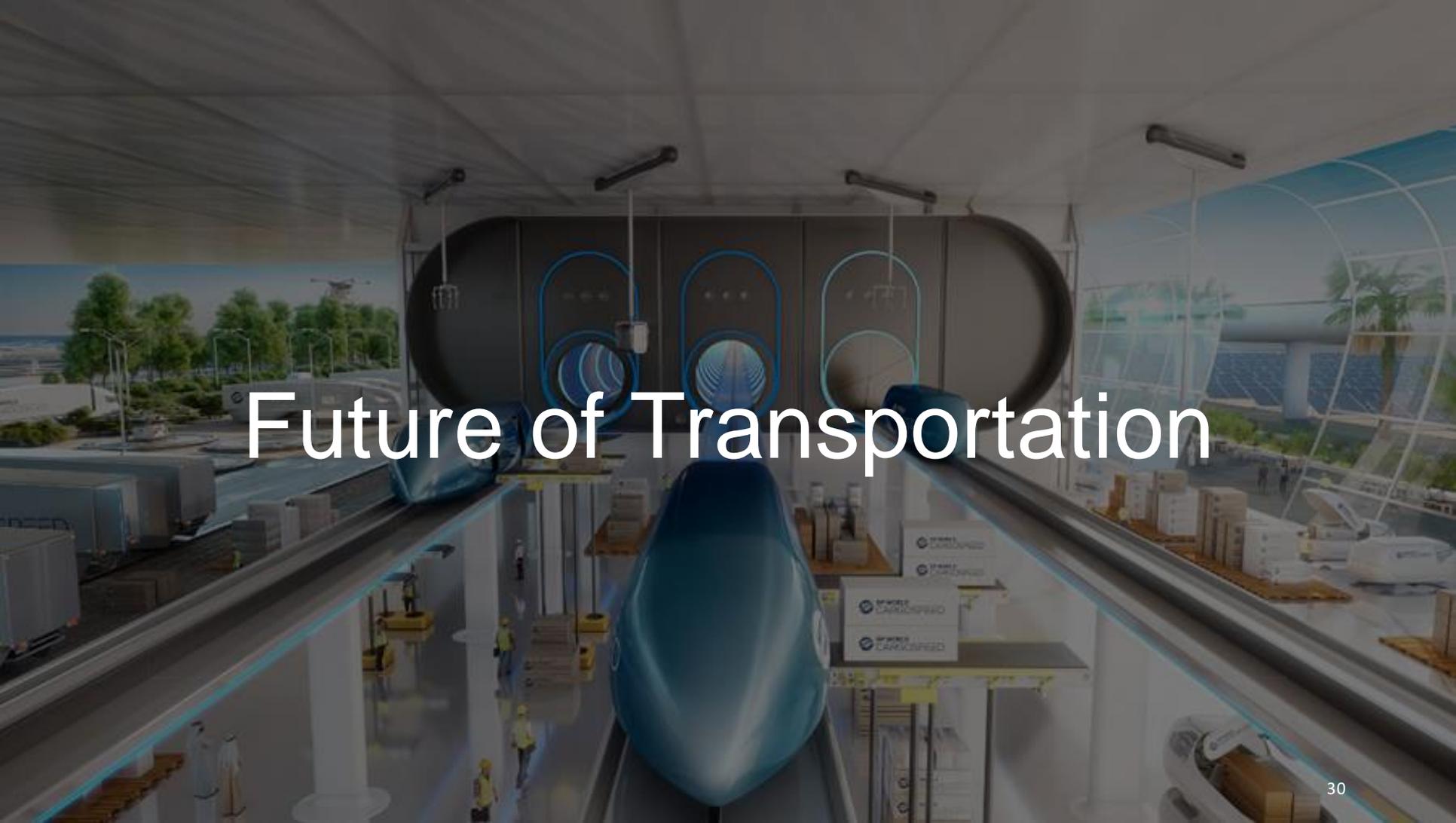
Advantages of nuclear fusion energy are manifold, as it represents a long-term, sustainable, economic and safe energy source for electricity generation

A digital simulation of a military aircraft, possibly a B-2 Spirit, flying over a city at sunset. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, and the city lights are visible in the foreground. The aircraft is silhouetted against the bright sky, with its wings and tail clearly visible. The overall scene is a high-quality digital rendering.

Mirror World Digital Environments

Accurate simulations of the living world



A futuristic transportation hub with a blue train, automated systems, and a large glass dome structure. The scene is set in a modern, brightly lit facility with a high ceiling and large windows. A blue train is positioned on tracks in the center, moving towards the viewer. To the right, a large glass dome structure is visible, housing a complex system of pipes and machinery. The overall atmosphere is clean, efficient, and technologically advanced.

Future of Transportation



1.43 Instability
0.35 Resistance

Laser Transfer: 0.10%
Rock Energy Level: 0.00%

Atacamite Deposit

Mass: 6240.65
Beryl: 4.68%
Turquoise: 0.82%

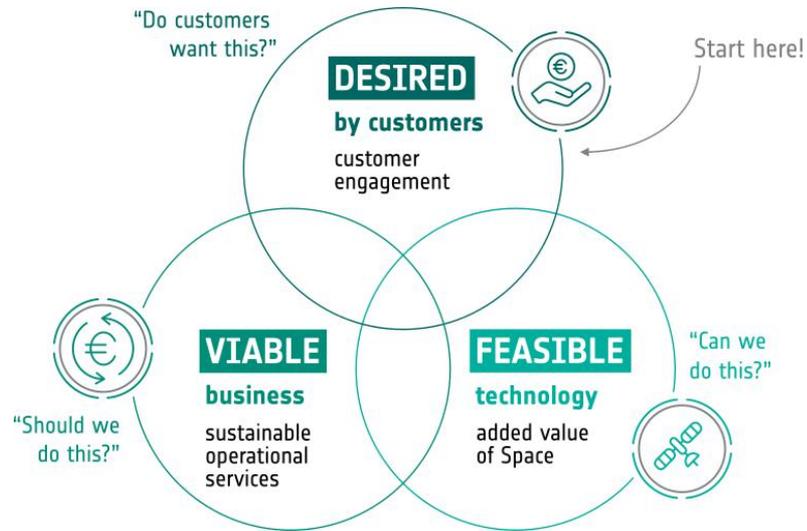
Cargo Capacity

Fracturing Sensor: 0%
Overcharge Sensor: 0.00%

Fracture Mode

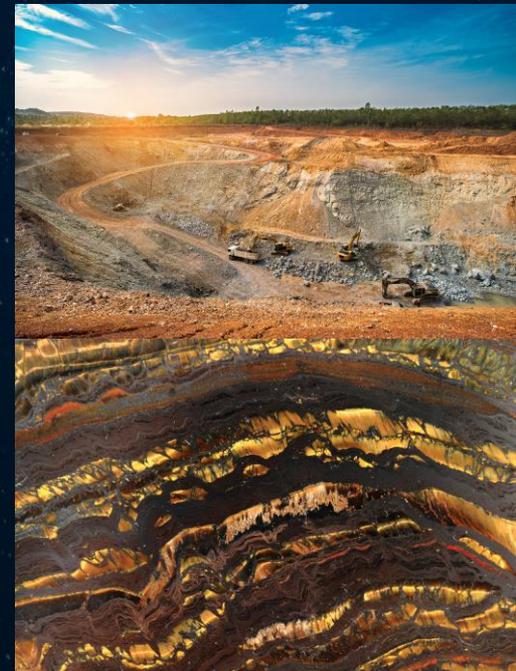
About The ESA Space Resources Competition

- Successful Teams will receive funding and support to run a year-long study
- The aim of the study is to assess the **technical feasibility and commercial viability** of a **product or service** that can be **applied on Earth** today and is relevant to future operations in Space. The product or service must meet the needs of paying customers and other relevant stakeholders.
- The ESA Space Resources Competition opens on **19 April 2021** and closes on **30 June 2021**.
- Successful teams will each receive **100%** funding of up to **€200K** to run a **12 month** study to:
 1. Engage with users/customers
 2. Assess the technical feasibility
 3. Develop a business model and plan
 4. Propose a roadmap, demonstrating how the service/product will be used in space, following successful roll out on Earth



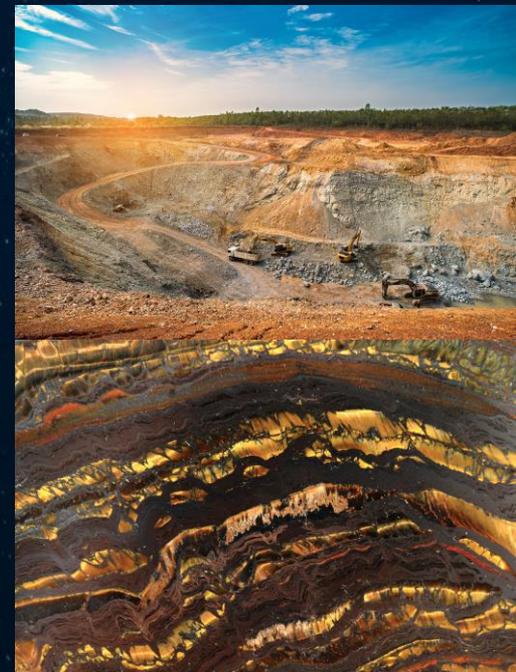
Who Can Apply?

- ESA Space Solutions can provide funding to teams based in the following member states:
Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.
- Please note that teams based in the **UK are not eligible** for funding through this opportunity.
- Consortia are welcome
- Teams can involve non-European entities, but their contribution to the study cannot be funded by ESA.
- If you are considering applying, you must inform your **National Delegation to obtain a letter of authorisation** allowing the funding of the proposed activity. Contact details of each National Delegate can be found here:
<https://business.esa.int/national-delegations-0>



How to Apply

1. Register your team on [esa-star Registration](https://esastar-emr.sso.esa.int) today! If your team is made up of more than one company or organisation, each entity will need to register.
<https://esastar-emr.sso.esa.int>
2. When the Tender launches on 19 April 2021, visit [esa-star Publication](https://esastar-publication.sso.esa.int) and search for this Space Resources opportunity to download the official documents. The official documents will include a statement of work, a proposal template, a draft contract, and additional information about this opportunity.
<https://esastar-publication.sso.esa.int>
3. Use the official documents to prepare your proposal
4. Reach out to your National Delegate to request a Letter of Authorisation. Contact details of each National Delegate can be found here: <https://business.esa.int/national-delegations-0>
5. Submit your proposal via [esa-star Tendering](https://esastar.sso.esa.int) by 30 June 2021 at 12:00 CEST.
<https://esastar.sso.esa.int>



Proposal Template

Your Proposal should include the following information:

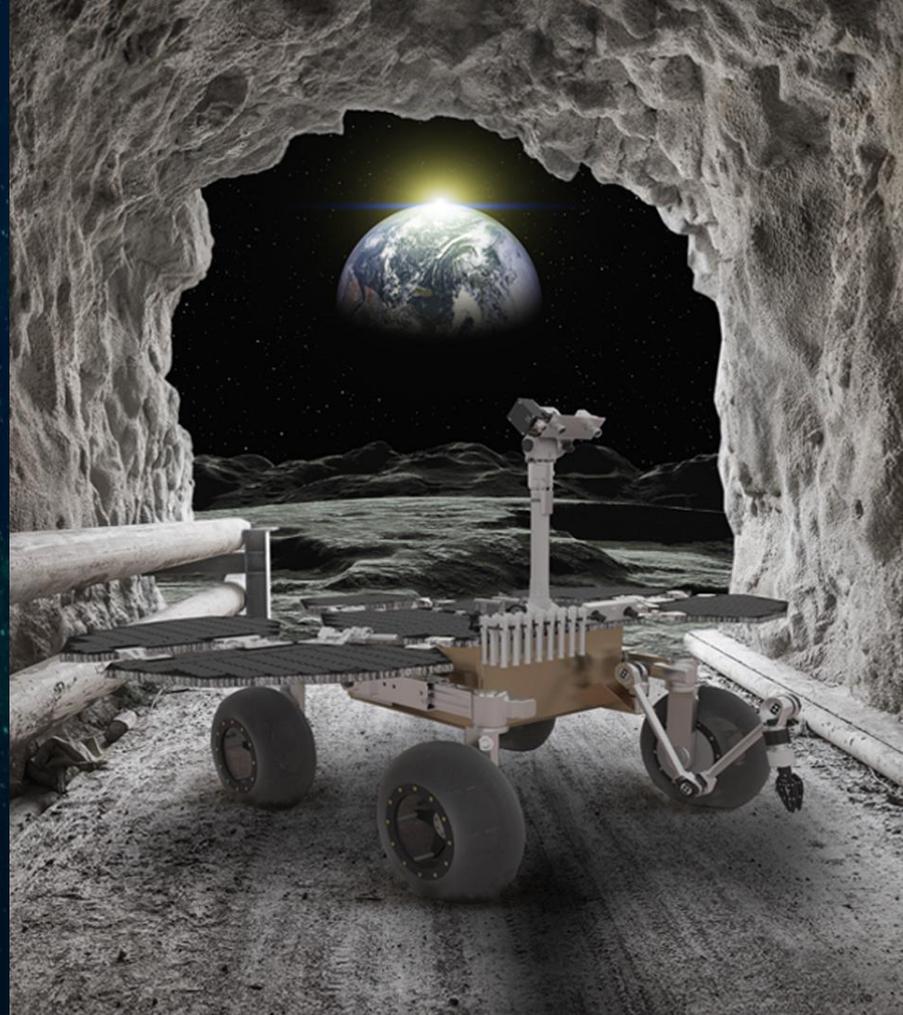
1. Service Description
2. Business Potential including letters of interest from potential users/customers
3. Technical Potential
4. Work Plan
5. Team
6. Financials



Checklist

Before applying, check that:

1. Your team is proposing a product / service that could become operational on Earth in the near future (1-4 years)
2. Your idea is relevant to future operations in Space.
3. Your team is eligible for funding and has attained a letter of authorisation from the National Delegate.
4. Your proposal covers technical and business aspects, as well as a roadmap for the service rollout in Space.
5. There is a market for your service on Earth and potential users/customers will be involved in the study
6. The proposed study is not a pure research and technology development activity.



Q&A Session

We are very happy to take your questions. Please type them in the chat box now!

.... Continue the conversation later by joining the "Space Resources and ISRU" group on LinkedIn:

[linkedin.com/groups/9019547](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9019547)

For more information, visit:

<https://business.esa.int/funding/invitation-to-tender/space-resources>

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European Space Agency

ESRIC Space Resources Week

Join us at ESRIC Space Resources Week!

Registration open until 15 April 2021:

<https://www.spaceresourcesweek.lu/registration>

Registration is free.

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19-22 APR
2021



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AND TECHNOLOGY



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European Space Agency

Additional Slide: Value of Space

The proposed services must have potential for future application in Space. However, these services may also leverage existing space assets like satellite navigation, communication, Earth observation, or human spaceflight technologies and/or technologies that were derived in space. The space assets do not need to be limited to ESA's or European space assets.



Satellite Earth Observation (SatEO) can provide information to aid the mining process, such as feature extraction, elevation models, change detection, subsidence monitoring and hazard mapping. SatEO can also be used to monitor the natural environment, water resources, and rehabilitation of the land.

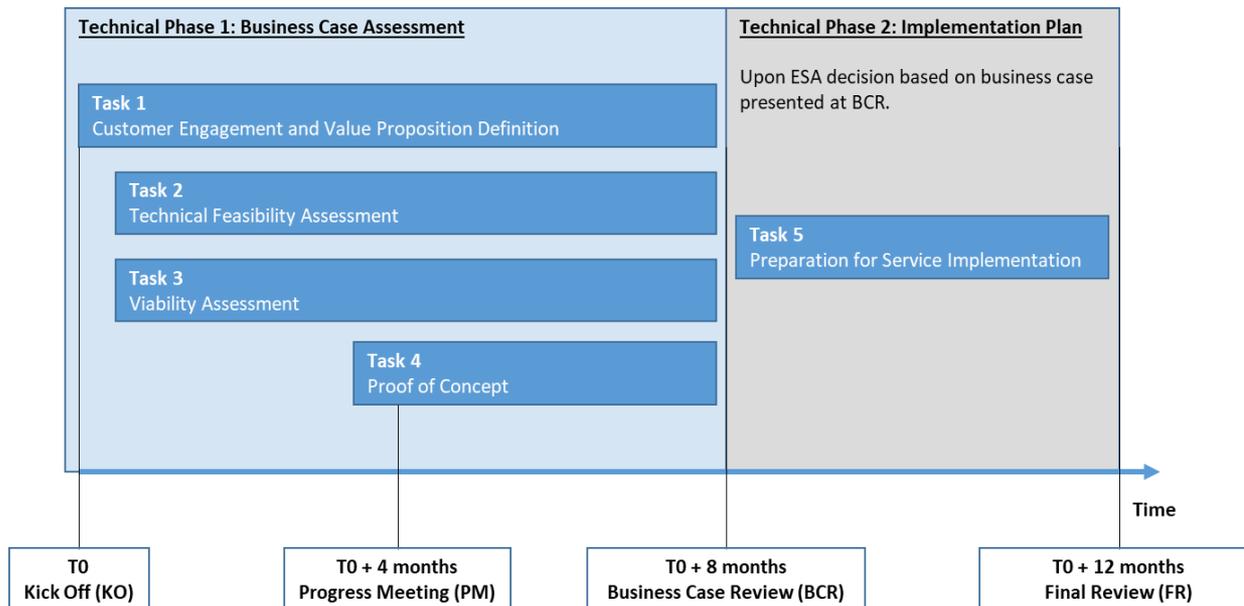


Satellite Navigation (SatNav) and augmented Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) technologies are increasingly important in geospatial systems for the mining and oil & gas industries. Most applications, like mine site surveying, autonomous operation of machinery, machine guidance, environmental surveys, and tracking materials require accuracies of around the centimetre to 10 centimetre level. SatNav can therefore be used to improve precision, efficiency and safety.



Satellite Communication (SatCom): Robust methods to communicate across vast distances without extensive delay are key to coordinating operations on Earth and in Space. In remote areas – like offshore oil rigs and isolated mining sites – and where terrestrial networks are insufficient, satellite communications can provide secure connectivity for data, video and voice communications.

Additional Slide: Work Logic



Additional Slide: Overall Aim

