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SPACE BUSINESS APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEEDS OF CIVIL SOCIETY: AN OVERVIEW OF  
AP-IT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE ARTES BUSINESS APPLICATIONS AND C&G PROGRAMMES

**Abstract**

ESA ARTES Business Applications Programme as driven by Research Consortium Hypatia through the AP-IT platform, in synergy with the Italian Space Agency (ASI), is here discussed. The Programme is now in its third phase having received important subscriptions from ESA's Member States in the last Ministerial Council, going over ESA expectation. ASI has subscribed the programme for a total amount of EUR 19 million for the timeframe 2017-2018 and established the national Ambassador Platform (AP-IT) with Research Consortium Hypatia aiming at supporting the successful path of the past years in term of studies and projects proposed by Italy, for the commercialisation of products and services coming from the value added of existing space assets, i.e. Earth Observation, Satellite Navigation, Satellite Telecommunication and Space Exploration. These space assets, singly or properly combined according to the proposed application and service, represent in most cases a unique enabler without which the service is not feasible or commercially viable for downstream market. The ARTES BA Programme is in line with the technology transfer goal of Research Consortium Hypatia and ASI, aiming at involving interested stakeholders and end users in tailoring services' requirements. Through this collaboration, financial and technical gaps have been identified and the related corrective actions implemented, allowing Italian SMEs, companies and academia to reach so far a relevant role in the New Space Economy. Following ESA initiative of exploring the advantages offered by the emerging High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) platforms, a new component to be integrated on the ARTES BA initiatives arises. This paper intends to make an analysis of the state-of-the-art of ARTES BA Programme in Italy and to present HAPS opportunities with the objective to additionally boost the Italian response to the Programme.