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# EUROPEAN SPACE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

**Abstract**

This paper discusses the overarching strategy behind ESA space transportation activities with a focus on services for space exploration. ESA is working to meet the common European goals for space in a time where the space sector is evolving into a new era: Space 4.0. The definition of ESA's space transportation objectives and actions requires an understanding of the major trends that either will or may reshape the space sector we operate in worldwide, the ambitions of Europe in space, and the role of space transportation activities therein. ESA's space transportation strategy charts a recommended course of action between now and 2030 in a long-term perspective. At the heart of this strategy is the conviction that, in a changing environment characterised by uncertainty, European leadership in providing high added value for the near and further future space transport lies in securing short-term European achievements while developing technological building blocks for space transportation and exploration systems and services, including beyond 2030.