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THE POLISH SPACE SECTOR – THE FINAL STAGE OF THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT PHASE

**Abstract**

In 2012 Poland joined the European Space Agency (ESA) as its twentieth member-state. This event can be considered as the beginning of the space industry in Poland. Since then the country has conducted a special programme with ESA, named the “Polish Industry Incentive Scheme”, in which 5-7 M EUR annually was secured for local space-related projects. The objective of this incentive scheme was to integrate Polish space industry standards with the rest of ESA.

Since 2012 the number of entities active in the Polish space sector has risen significantly. Estimates on the exact number vary, but the Polish Space Sector Association is composed of 65 entities active in the space sector as of February 2019, up from just 12 in October 2012. Also, at the end of 2018 governmental statements quoted even 3000 employees in the Polish space sector.

2019 may be considered as the end of the early development phase for the Polish space industry. The Polish Industry Incentive Scheme programme is finishing. At the same time, the National Space Programme led by the recently established Polish Space Agency is launched, which is based on the adopted earlier Polish Space Strategy. In addition, Polish entities attempt to increase its presence in European Union space-related initiatives.

This presentation at IAC 2019 will present the overall results of Polish space industry development since 2012. It will present the overall participation to ESA calls as well as achievements in the EU-led Horizon 2020 and Polish national programmes. It will also aim to present an outlook to further activities to be expected in the coming years.