

IAF BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Entrepreneurship and Innovation: The Practitioners' Perspectives (1)

Author: Mr. Michal Kunes
Czech Republic, michal.kunes@czechinvest.org

ASTROPRENEURS: SPACE START-UP ACCELERATOR

Abstract

This abstract deals with the Astropreneurs: Space Start-up Accelerator, its first results, lessons learned, mapping of the European space industry and work with the space start-ups. Astropreneurs is a three-month acceleration program that includes business and technical mentorship, support to fund business ideas and access to the “Space Economy Astropreneurs Network”. Through Astropreneurs Accelerator, space start-ups can use mentorship and the “Space Economy Network” of investors, industry and supporting agencies to scale their business and better capitalize target markets and global opportunities. Start-ups have also access to Astropreneurs workshops and initiatives aimed at a wider audience.

This project runs from January 2018 to June 2020 and is supported by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The consortium consists of 8 ESA Business Incubation Centres and Technology Transfer Brokers. After the first 14 months and 2 cut-off days, the consortium has selected 65 mentors and 45 start-ups from 10 countries. Each of the selected start-ups receives 50 hours of mentoring on business, space technologies and funding, 8 workshops/podcast on space technologies and business and 8 workshops/podcast on funding opportunities. The next cut-off days to select new mentors and start-ups will be in April, September and October 2019 and February 2020. Part of the project is also a mapping of the European space industry. The online database has 614 entries including start-ups, SMEs, large companies, space agencies, incubators, business centers, research and innovation organisation, and also 143 funding instruments.