

57th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY, QUALITY AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN SPACE
ACTIVITIES (D5)

Interactive Presentations - 57th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY, QUALITY AND KNOWLEDGE
MANAGEMENT IN SPACE ACTIVITIES (IP)

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IMPLEMENTING THE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SCHEME FOR THE
EUROPEAN UNION SPACE PROGRAMME AGENCY

Abstract

The European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) is tasked with the security accreditation of space program components, managing the exploitation of EGNOS and Galileo, coordinating GOVSATCOM user aspects, promoting market uptake of Galileo, EGNOS, and Copernicus services, and providing expertise to the Commission on space-related research priorities.

In fulfilling its mission and in order to ensure appropriate corporate responsibility and sustainability, the agency has developed a related policy, processes and procedures using the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), which is an instrument developed by the European Commission for organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance, helping organisations to identify direct and indirect environmental issues and assess them. The direct impacts include: (a) air emissions, (b) releases to water, (c) production, recycling, reuse, transportation and disposal of solid and other wastes, (d) use and contamination of land, (e) use of energy and natural resources, and (f) local issues like noise and odours. Indirect impacts include issues related to product lifecycle, capital investments, administrative and planning decisions, and the environmental performance and practices of contractors and suppliers.

Furthermore, the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA) requires the European Commission, the European Space Agency (ESA) and EUSPA to collaborate also on contributing to the goals set by the Green Deal for the EU to become climate neutral by 2050. The EUSPA commitment is through the adoption of EMAS. Over the past two years EUSPA has engaged in building a comprehensive scheme for EMAS certification and the adoption of an environmental management system. This includes the adoption of an environmental policy, development and implementation of processes and procedures, as well as the adoption of an environmental statement. EUSPA has taken up all necessary steps to ensure its EMAS adoption and showcase its commitment to the environment and sustainability.

This paper aims to provide an overview of the developed scheme of EUSPA for corporate responsibility and sustainability through the use of EMAS. It will provide the methodology adopted, the internal and external assessment of its environmental impact, highlights of the procedure and processes adopted and finally elements of its environmental statement for the years to come. This paper is a practitioner's

perspective for those in the space sector interested to adopt EMAS as part of their sustainable corporate responsibility.