

IAF BUSINESSES AND INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Public-Private Partnerships: Traditional and New Space Applications (2)

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ACCELERATING THE USE OF SPACE IN THE PURSUIT OF SUSTAINABILITY: THE ESA
ACCELERATORS

Abstract

Since 2021 ESA has been leading the development of a new approach to the development and uptake of space applications for use cases related to sustainability on Earth and in Space. Three “Accelerators” have been initiated: “Space for a Green Future”, “Rapid and Resilient Crisis Response” and the “Protection of Space Assets”. Each Accelerator focuses on a distinct area of use cases but shares common features. First, an overarching concept of action separates the technology/solution development process into three phases: pathfinder (during which use cases are assessed for their potential for space solutions and key enabling technology developed where necessary), seed (during which a solution is trialled in situ with end users) and scale (where solutions are implemented on an operational basis). Second, in each area, partners at European and global level are engaged collaboratively this process, with a particular priority given – especially in relation to the Space for Green Future and R3 Accelerators – to partners with the ability to engage, shape and support investment - by both public and private actors - in sectors in which space has great potential but so far achieved limited impact. This talk will review progress so far against the original vision for the Accelerators as set out in the resolution passed by ESA’s Council of Ministers in November 2021 (the “Matosinhos Manifesto”), assess the initiative’s success in engaging partners, setting a shared vision and engaging collective efforts towards accelerating the use of space in support of sustainable goals. Key challenges for the immediate future and the potential for a wider application of the concept will be discussed.