



Australian Government



Australian
Space Agency

Consultation – Future Space Industry Missions

Overview

The role of the Australian Space Agency (the Agency) is to grow and transform a globally respected national space industry. We envision an industry that lifts the broader economy, inspires and improves the lives of Australians.

To achieve our broader goal of tripling the size of the space sector to \$12 billion and creating up to 20,000 extra jobs by 2030, the Agency is helping businesses participate in new local and global markets.

The Agency is seeking information on the nature of potential near-term Australian space missions which will be used to inform upcoming opportunities, such as under the Moon to Mars initiative (further details on the Agency's current programs and opportunities can be found at space.gov.au). The responses to the consultation will also be used to shape/inform other potential future opportunities.

The Agency is particularly interested in upcoming projects that are planned for low earth orbit, including those that could be flown on the International Space Station (ISS), through to cis-lunar and beyond. Additionally, missions that involve R&D, develop enabling technologies for space exploration or promote commercial and/or technology transfer potential will also be of strong interest. This includes projects that are self-funded or those that could be supported through industry investment alone. This information is being used to understand opportunities that could relate to the Moon to Mars initiative as well as other opportunities that could arise through the Agency's international engagement activities.

While the consultation is open to all respondents, this consultation is primarily aimed towards Australian Small and Medium Enterprises, universities and research organisations with final products planned for upcoming spaceflight. The Agency expects that consultation responses will provide mission details for final products to be flown in space or on the ISS. This consultation is not intended to capture ground based experimentation and non-spaceflight low technology readiness level (TRL) activities. Please send us your response by 11.59pm (AEST) on the 7th of September 2020.

Why are we doing a consultation?

The purpose of this consultation is to assist in the development of a high level snapshot of industry intended or desired Australian space mission activities specifically those involving spaceflight. This document will enable the Agency to create a database of potential Australian payloads, which can be drawn upon when designing future and existing program opportunities that help support the growth of Australia's space industry in alignment with the [Australian Civil Space Strategy 2019-2028](#).

Background – Current programs

The Agency's current programs include the \$19.5 million Space Infrastructure Fund which aims to increase capability and fill gaps in Australia's space infrastructure, and the \$15 million International Space Investment Initiative which aims to expand the capability and capacity of our space sector.

The Australian Space Agency's flagship program is the \$150 million Moon to Mars initiative which will provide the opportunity for Australian businesses and researchers to join NASA's inspirational plan to go forward to

the Moon and travel to Mars. The first program in the Moon to Mars initiative Supply Chain program is expected to open later in 2020.

In addition to these programs, the Agency has a range of Memorandums of Understanding through which further opportunities for Australian industry could arise.

Frequently asked questions

1. Will the Agency use the responses from this Consultation to select candidates for future procurements/grants?

No, the Agency will not use this information to identify preferred candidates for future procurements/grants or give preferential treatment to respondents over entities that do not respond.

2. Are there any missions that the Agency is not interested in?

The Agency is seeking information regarding any and all desired and intended spaceflight missions planned by the Australian space sector as it shapes the upcoming opportunities for space access under its existing and potential future programs. It includes projects that are self-funded in the sector, or could be supported through industry investment. This consultation is not intended for projects that do not culminate in the launch of a payload to space.

3. Does my company/organisation need to have prior space project experience?

No, this consultation is open to any and all projects, including those involving low TRL technology that will be flown in space as part of the project. For example, a project team looking to perform a technology demonstration in space as part of developing their own flight heritage would be encouraged to submit a response.

4. How mature does my mission concept need to be?

The Agency is particularly interested in those that could be flown within the next 2 years but the consultation is not exclusive to these missions. Responses for projects outside the scope of this timeline are also encouraged.

5. We proposed our mission concept as part of the International Space Investment, can we still respond with the same concept to this consultation?

Yes, applying for the ISI grants, whether your project was funded by the Agency or not, will not restrict you from responding to this consultation.

6. Does this Consultation mean there are new funding programs under development?

No, this information is being requested to inform upcoming opportunities under existing programs, or to shape/inform future opportunities. These types of Consultation are routine practice in other international space agencies.