ESA BIC Noordwijk

The ESA Business Incubation Centres (ESA BICs) are designed to create new business opportunities and jobs for non-space companies and broaden the market for space industry by translating space technologies, applications and services into viable business ideas in the non-space marketplace. The ESA Technology Transfer Programme Office coordinates four ESA BICs throughout Europe, which each offer technical expertise as well as advice and support with business development. The ESA BICs are located at the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESA/ESTEC) in Noordwijk, The Netherlands, at the European Space Operations Centre (ESA/ESOC) in Darmstadt, Germany, the European Centre for Earth Observation (ESA/ESRIN) in Frascati, Italy and in the vicinity of the German Aerospace Centre’s (DLR) site in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany. Moreover, the ESA BICs are linked to a network of business incubators within Europe.

ESA BIC Noordwijk
The ESA BIC Noordwijk is located at ESTEC, the European Space Research and Technology Centre at Noordwijk, The Netherlands. With well over 2000 specialists, it is the largest ESA establishment, a test centre and hub for European space activities. ESTEC has responsibility for the technical preparation and management of ESA space projects and provides technical support to ESA’s ongoing satellite, space exploration and human space activities. Since 2004, ESA’s Technology Transfer Programme Office, together with the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, are running a business incubation centre on the ESTEC premises. More than 50 start-ups have been supported, exploiting space-based technology ranging from satellite application to hard- and software integration. Typical markets addressed are Location Based Services (LBS), ICT, Health Care and Life Sciences, Green Energy and Industrial applications. In 2010, the ESA BIC Noordwijk has teamed up with national partners, such as the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Netherlands Space Office, BVIT Noordwijk, the Rabobank Bollenstreek and TNO. The ESA BIC Noordwijk is managed by BVIT, a private business incubation specialist that is also running a vast innovation network of ICT-companies. A new building next to ESTEC will be opened in spring 2011 which will host the ESA BIC Noordwijk as well as its offspring.

Space 2 Business
The European Space Agency seeks entrepreneurs with innovative ideas for using space technology, applications and services in a non-space environment. ESA Business Incubation Centres (ESA BICs) can assist you in getting your project off the ground by providing technical expertise and business development support.
Open Sky Technologies Fund

To further foster space-to-nonspace start-up companies, ESA has taken the initiative to promote the establishment of the Open Sky Technologies Fund, managed by Triangle Venture Group. The investment focus of the fund is placed on seed-capital investments, start-ups and early-stage growth capital for companies using space-related technologies or satellite applications in non-space fields.

Be a part of a new business dimension

At least 10 start-up proposals from all over ESA's member states are selected each year. The ESA BIC Noordwijk provides start-up companies with business services, finance and know-how in a high-tech environment with easy access to ESA's technical specialists and facilities. Through BViT's renowned network membership service, a one-stop shop of coaches, business experts and services is offered. The service package offered includes:

• Cash incentive to fund product & IPR development by ESA & NSO
• Pre-seed loan from Rabobank
• Expert technical support from ESA
• Hands-on business support from BViT
• Office space and shared facilities at reduced rates
• Preferred suppliers network and networking with entrepreneurs, businesses, potential clients and industry through the membership of the innovation network.

How can we help you?

Entrepreneurs and/or Technostarters
Contact us if you have an innovative idea or a business plan based on using a space technology or system in a non-space environment. If you are ready for commercial development, submit your proposal to join the ESA BIC Noordwijk.

Space companies
Contact us to outsource the spin-off initiatives of your employees in an innovative win-win scheme.

Research Centres and Universities
Encourage your staff to set up their own companies to bring leading-edge research to the marketplace via the ESA BICs.

We’re open to your questions and ideas!
Our experts are available to answer your questions about the ESA Business Incubation Centres. Full details on how to become an incubatee within one of the ESA BICs and the application procedures can be found on the following website.

www.esa.int/bic

We look forward to hearing from you!

CONTACT
ESA BIC Noordwijk
Mr. Toon Buddingh
ESTEC
P.O. Box 299, 2200 AG Noordwijk, The Netherlands

E-mail: esa-bic@bvit.net
tel: +3171 56 56 181
fax: +3184 837 0064

An ESA Technology Transfer Programme Production
Copyright © 2009 European Space Agency