ESA Business Incubation Centres (ESA BICs) are designed to create new business opportunities and jobs for non-space companies and broaden the market for the 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 in business development. The ESA BICs are located at the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESA/ESTEC) in Noordwijk, The Netherlands; the European Space Operations Centre (ESA/ESOC) in Darmstadt, Germany; the European Centre for Earth Observation (ESA/ESRIN) in Frascati, Italy; and near the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) site in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany. Moreover, the ESA BICs are linked to a network of business incubators within Europe.

ESA BIC Oberpfaffenhofen

ESA, the Free State of Bavaria, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), and the local bank Kreissparkasse München Starnberg have opened an ESA Business Incubation Centre (BIC) in Oberpfaffenhofen, a major hub of aerospace research, operations, and industrial activities near the city of Munich, Germany. Oberpfaffenhofen is the fourth ESA BIC site in Europe, managed by Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen (AZO). Oberpfaffenhofen is a major hub of aerospace research, operations, and industrial activities near the city of Munich, Germany. This area is well known for its aeronautics and space research centre. About 1600 people work there for DLR alone in different areas, such as radar systems, communication and navigation, robotics and mechatronics, physics and the atmosphere, and much more.

Space 2 Business

The European Space Agency (ESA) 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.

Before becoming an ESA BIC, AZO has already successfully aided the establishment of 38 start-up companies and created 650 new jobs in the process. At the core of the ESA BIC Oberpfaffenhofen service portfolio is its Start-Up Program, which provides up to two years of financial, technical, and networking support throughout the entire process of company foundation – from formulating an initial concept to opening for business.

During the incubation phase, AZO places its comprehensive infrastructure at company founders’ disposal, including state-of-the-art offices, communication equipment, and corresponding services. The financial support includes both an incentive scheme and an optional loan. Meanwhile, DLR provides technical support and expertise in different fields mentioned above. Last but not least, AZO has a great network for finding solutions to virtually any question regarding company foundation.
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

ESA BIC Oberpfaffenhofen provides start-up companies with operational services like financial and networking support, as well as easy access to DLR and ESA technical specialists. The service package offered includes:

- Pre-seed funding and access to other sources of financing
- Access to expert engineering support from DLR, ESA, universities, and industry
- Access to resources such as test facilities, laboratories, and workshops at ESA, universities, and industry partners
- Hands-on assistance
- Business development support
- Access to strategic partnerships and networking through AZO
- Office space and shared facilities

How can we help you?

Entrepreneurs

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 Oberpfaffenhofen.

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 websites.

www.esa.int/bic  www.esa-bic.de

We look forward to hearing from you!

CONTACT

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