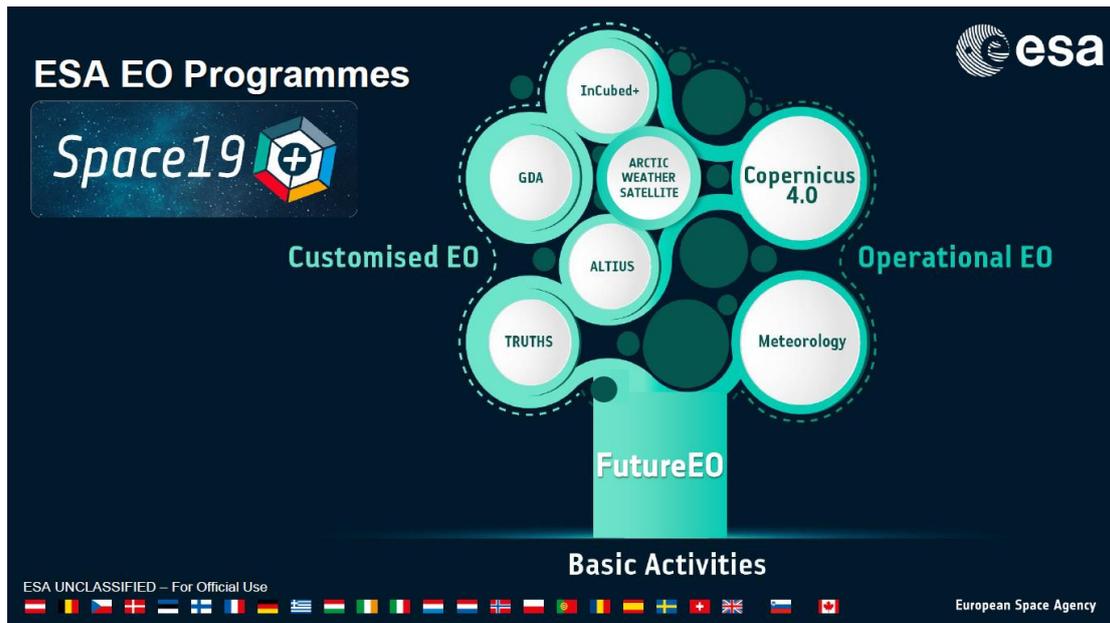


# EARSC

European Association  
of Remote Sensing  
Companies



## EARSC statement on the ESA Earth Observation Proposal for Space 19+



The board of directors of the European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC) is pleased to confirm its unreserved support for the programme of Earth Observation (EO) activities being tabled by the European Space Agency (ESA) at the forthcoming ESA Council at Ministerial Level on 27-28 November 2019 in Seville, Spain – also referred to as **Space19+**. We encourage ministerial delegations from all ESA member states to subscribe to the programmes at the maximum extent possible.

EARSC has members in **22 of the 24 countries** that are either ESA member states or have entered into participation agreements with ESA. A strong subscription from each country gives the European EO services sector the best possible opportunity to bring the benefits of these programmes back to their host nations, benefitting the local government, environment, economy, jobs, research and innovation. Every €1 invested in ESA R&D activities delivers €3.8 of impact in the member state; while every €1 invested in Copernicus delivers €10 in socioeconomic returns for European society. The European EO service industry represented by EARSC is central to delivering these returns.

EARSC sees benefit to its members across the entire suite of EO programmes being tabled, in particular:

**Future EO:** Perhaps the most important programmatic line, this builds on the well-established Earth Observation Envelope Programme (EOEP), and enables the core research and development that underpins Europe's leadership in Earth Observation. Supporting innovation and the exploration of radical ideas, it helps industry test radical ideas and bring new technologies to market.



**Copernicus 4.0:** It is important for industry that ESA completes the development and launch of the Sentinel 4-6 missions and the recurrent Sentinel 1-6 missions, whilst also initiating the development of the next six high-priority Copernicus missions. This programme also ensures the enhanced continuity of the current satellites by initiating development of the next generation of these satellites. The operational availability of free and open Sentinel data has been a massive boost to our industry sector and its continued availability and evolution is of the utmost importance to our member companies.

Complementing this, we also encourage ESA member states to support the definition of a Copernicus 2.0 downstream preparatory program, in order to enable our industry to undertake R&D of future innovative services of Copernicus enabled by the six new missions, in coordination with relevant user communities.

The **Global Development Assistance** programme will give EARSC member companies the opportunity to engage in the operational activities of key International financing institutions and development assistance agencies, putting European industry at the forefront of delivering projects that harness the power of satellite Earth Observation to the benefit of developing countries. This builds on activities previously undertaken in the EOEP framework, in which EARSC members have been heavily involved.

The **InCubed+** programme builds on its precursor InCubed programme which has had substantial levels of interest from EARSC member companies, in the countries that subscribed to that previous programme. It provides the form of public/private partnership that should enable our sector to bring innovative systems and products to market, with ESA's valuable technical support and guidance, in a much shorter timescale than they would be able to achieve on their own.

In addition, the "Customised EO" programmes **TRUTHS**, **ALTIUS** and the **Arctic Weather Satellite** all have potential for industrial participation and exploitation, of interest to our sector, although we understand not all member states will have interest in all of these optional programmes.

All these optional programmes are underpinned by ESA's **Basic Activities**, which also include important elements for our sector, including the *Heritage Data Programme* which ensures long-term availability of previously collected data sets, and *Earthnet* which enables access to third party data sets.

Information on all the programmes can be found at [www.esa.int/space19plus](http://www.esa.int/space19plus).

**The EARSC Board of Directors**  
**Brussels, November 2019**

*The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC) is the European organisation which promotes the use of Earth Observation (EO) technology and represents the interests of the geo-information services sector in Europe. We have 120 members from 24 countries covering the full EO services value chain including commercial operators of EO satellites, data resellers, value-adding companies, geospatial information suppliers, consultancies and system/software providers.*