ESA DACH SPACE INVESTOR FORUM MÜNCHEN 26

German Space Agency at DLR | FFG Forschung wirkt. | Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft, Confédération suisse, Confederazione Svizzera, Confederaziun svizra – Eidgenössisches Departement für Wirtschaft, Bildung und Forschung WBF, Staatssekretariat für Bildung, Forschung und Innovation SBFI | esa EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

28.10.2026
Official Side Events

11:30 – 15:30 **Private Equity for Space: LP & GP Dialogue & Lunch**



17:00 – 18:30 **Swiss Reception**

Location: IHK für München und Oberbayern – Max-Joseph-Straße 2, 80333 München

Mission Partners: BMW GROUP, T, SAP

Capital Partners: Bayern Kapital – Venture Capital für Bayern

19:00 – 23:00

acitoflux CPO New Space Investor & Speaker Dinner



29.10.2026

Forum Programme – Day 1 | Main Stage

08:00 **Registration and Coffee Reception**

09:00 **ESA DACH Space Investor Forum – Opening Address**
Dr. Walther Pelzer, Member of DLR Executive Board, Director General German Space Agency

09:15 **Host Welcome Address**
Dr. Manfred Gößl, Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Munich and Upper Bavaria

09:25 **ESA DACH Space Investor Forum – Partner Opening Remarks**
Karin Tausz, Managing Director, Austrian Research Promotion Agency FFG
Raphaël von Roten, Deputy Head Swiss Space Office, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)
Christine Klein, Director of Controlling, Finance and Operational Procurement, ESA
Dr. Walther Pelzer, Member of DLR Executive Board, Director General German Space Agency

09:55 **Venture Capital Outlook: Upcoming Funds for European Space Tech**
Tobias Schirmer, Founding Partner, Join Capital
Krystal Somaza, Senior Associate, Adara Ventures
Sherpa: Dr. Sabine Hampel, Managing Partner & Co-Founder, Global Resilience and Innovation Fund

10:10 **Session 1: In-Orbit Economy & Advanced Manufacturing**
Curated deal briefing on active rounds, followed by founder panel discussions.
Mika Mänz, CEO & Founder, Acitoflux

AT: Enpulsion, Gate Space | **CH:** Comppair, Pave Space | **DE:** Atmos, Blackwave, DCubed, deltaVision, Fibrecoat, ISPTech, Yuri Gravity | LUX: Exobiosphere, OQ Technology

10:25 **High-performance Manufacturing: Serial Production and Supply Chain in Europe**
Dr. Amaël Cohades, CEO & Co-Founder, CompPair
Bastian Behrens, CEO & Co-Founder, Blackwave
Dr. Robert Brüll, CEO & Co-Founder, Fibrecoat
Dr. Thomas Sinn, CEO & Founder, Dcubed
Sherpa: Christian Teichmann, CEO, Hubert Burda Media

10:45 **Act In Space – Building a Value-Adding, Resilient and Sustainable Space Infrastructure**
René Kleeßen, Director Organisations and Infrastructure, German Space Agency at DLR

10:55 **Unlocking New Orbits: Propulsion & Transportation Infrastructure**
Dr. David Krejci, CSO, Enpulsion
Moritz Novak, Co-Founder & Chairman of the Board, Gate Space
Dr. Lukas Werling, CEO & Co-Founder, ISPTech
Sherpa: Dr. Iris ten Have, Visionaries Tomorrow

11:15 **Building the LEO Economy: Cargo, Microgravity & In-Space Logistics**
Maria Birlem, CEO & Co-Founder, Yuri Gravity
Sebastian Klaus, CEO & Co-Founder, Atmos Space Cargo
Dr. Mathias Link, Director of External Affairs & Strategic Partnerships, Exobiosphere
Alex Plebuch, CEO & Founder, deltaVision
Sherpa: Claas Carsten Kohl, Partner, E2D

11:35 **From Spacewalks to Space Markets**
The Next Era of Human Spaceflight
Tim Kopra, Chief Human Exploration Officer, Voyager Technologies
Sherpa: Nicola Winter, Pilotin, Luftwaffe

11:55 **Building the Path for Future Mobility from Orbit**
Mission Partner: Olaf Eckart, Senior Expert Partnermanagement, BMW
Omar Qaise, CEO & Co-Founder, OQ Technology
Martin Gassner, CEO, VITES
Sherpa: Daniel I-Fan Wu, Senior Open Innovation Manager, Hyundai Cradle

12:15 **Lunch Break & Networking**

13:15 **Session 2: Earth Observation, Space Domain Awareness & Security**
Curated deal briefing on active rounds, followed by founder panel discussions.
Hannes Olbrich, Head of Investor Office, Acitoflux

AT: Another Earth, iSEE | **CH:** Fixposition | **DE:** ConstellR, FlyPix AI, LiveEO, OKAPI:Orbits, Talos, Vyoma | **LUX:** OrbitsIQ

13:25 **Downstream & Analytics: Commercializing Earth Observation Data**
Dr. Sergey Sukhanov, CEO & Co-Founder, FlyPix AI
Felix Geremus, CTO & Co-Founder, Another Earth
Daniel Seidel, Co-CEO & Co-Founder, LiveEO
Henry Jurczek, Junior Investment Manager, Elevator Ventures
Sherpa & Mission Partner: Deepa Gautam-Nigge, VP Corporate Development & Investments, SAP SE

13:45 **Space Domain Awareness & Defence: Trilateral Security Perspectives**
Michael Frick, Verbindungsoffizier, Kommando Luftwaffe der Bundeswehr
Eric Wiesmann, MA Kommando Operationen Bereich Weltraum, Swiss Army
Sherpa: Christian Ziach, Principal, High-Tech Gründerfonds

14:15 **How commercial actors can support the build-up of sovereign SDA capabilities**
Rita Rinaldo, Head of Projects and Studies Implementation Division, ESA
Dr. Stefan Frey, Co-Founder & CEO, Vyoma
Christian Federspiel, Co-Founder & CEO, iSEE
Kristina Nikolaus, Co-Founder & CEO, OKAPI:Orbits
Sherpa: Dr. Christian Reitberger, Founding Partner, Matterwave Ventures

14:35 **Next-Gen Satellite Communications & Precision Navigation**
Mission Partner: Piotr Wesolowski, Public Sector, Space, Aviation & Research, Deutsche Telekom
Katrin Bacic, Chief Commercial Officer, OrbitsIQ Global
Gregor Langer, CEO & Co-Founder, Talos
Dr. Zhenzhong (Mars) Su, CEO & Co-Founder, Fixposition
Sherpa: Rachel Muller, Commercialisation Officer, ESA

14:55 **From Germany to New Orbits – ESA Business Accelerator Germany**
René Kleeßen, Director Organisations and Infrastructure, German Space Agency at DLR
Dr. Gianluigi Baldesi, Head of Ventures and Financing Office, ESA
Dr. Katharina Wollenberg, Space Sector Advisor & Product Manager AI for Supply Chain Planning, SAP
Sherp: Inga vom Holtz, Director Startups & Investments, UnternehmerTUM

15:15 **Transatlantic DACH Investments**
Prof. Dr. Helmut Schönenberger, CEO & Co-Founder, UnternehmerTUM
Paul Lind, Director Business Development & Strategy, CesiumAstro Germany GmbH
Henry Moura, Head of Capital Formation, Chenel Capital
Sonny Cantrell, International Engagement Director, Vantor
Sherpa: Sarah Antor, Managing Director, Helena Capital

15:35 **Venture Capital Outlook: New Growth-Stage Funds for European Space Tech**
Max Ammon, Investment Manager, Armira Growth Investment
Maxime Mallet, Partner, Jolt Capital
Erol Ali Dervis, Head of European Private Equity & Defense Investments, Lennertz & Co
Sherpa: João Falcão Serra, Lead Industry & Finance, European Space Policy Institute

15:50	**Session 3: Access to Space for Constellation Growth** Curated deal briefing on active rounds, followed by founder panel discussions. Lennart Säger, Co-Founder & COO, Acitoflux **DE:** The Exploration Company, HyImpulse, Marble Imaging, OroraTech
15:55	**Access to Space** Dr. Walther Pelzer, Member of DLR Executive Board, Director General German Space Agency
16:05	**State of Launch and Rising Constellations** Dr. Christian Schmierer, CEO & Co-Founder, HyImpulse Dr. Robert Hook, CEO & Co-Founder, Marble Imaging Dr. Axel Roenneke, CCO & Co-Founder, OroraTech *Sherpa: Monika Steger, CEO, Bayern Kapital*
16:25	**Growth, Capital and Cargo: The Exploration Company's Path Forward** Jenny Dreier, Chief CEO Office, The Exploration Company Victor Maier, Lead Germany and Central Europe Business, The Exploration Company Ludwig Scherm, Managing Director, EQT Partners
15 min	**Coffee & Networking Break**
17:00	**The Mittelstand Advantage: Growth Funding & Industrial Scaling for Space SMEs** Christine Klein, Director of Controlling, Finance and Operational Procurement, ESA Dieter Grebner, CEO, Peak Technology Ernst K. Pfeiffer, CEO, HPS *Sherpa: Marco Pagacz, Co-Founder and Partner, SEVEST*
17:20	**Debt Financing for Space** Alvaro Gil Aguado, Senior Loan Officer, European Investment Bank EIB Antoine Broyé, Senior Credit Structurer, Deutsche Bank *Sherpa: Dr. Gianluigi Baldesi, Head of Ventures and Financing Office, ESA*
17:40	**Ministerial Keynote: Germany's Strategic Space Ambition** Dorothee Bär, Federal Minister for Research, Technology and Space, BMFTR
17:50	**DACH Investor Forum – Strength through Cooperation** Livia Leu, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation Margit Mischkulnig, Head of Department, Republic of Austria
18:00	**Closing Remarks** Janusz Heitmann, Programme Head ACCESS, German Space Agency Mika Mänz, CEO & Founder, Acitoflux

Location: IHK für München und Oberbayern – Max-Joseph-Straße 2, 80333 München

Mission Partners
BMW GROUP Munich RE SAP
Capital Partners
Bayern Kapital Venture Capital für Bayern

Moderation: Hannah Klose

Forum Programme – Day 1 | Deep Dives

11:00 **Due Diligence Workshop - Inside a Growth VC**
Daniel Biedermann, Investment Partner, New Space Capital
Martin von Koch, Commercialisation Officer, ESA
Dr. Robert Brüll, CEO & Co-Founder, Fibrecoat

14:30 **Data in Orbit – Rules on the Ground Navigating the Regulatory Landscape of Space Data**
Dr. Carolin Raspé, Partner, YPOG

15:30 **The Future of Microgravity Research**
Michael Boss, CCO Europa, Starlab Space

19:00 – 22:00 **Bavarian Evening Reception**



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30.10.2026

07:30 – 09:00 **Hosted Breakfast**

Forum Programme – Day 2 | Main Stage

08:30	**Registration and Coffee Reception**
09:00	**Capital in Motion – Day 2 Briefing** Janusz Heitmann, Programme Head ACCESS, German Space Agency Mika Mänz, CEO & Founder, Acitoflux
09:05	**Ecosystem Briefing: Early-Stage Space in the DACH Region** Daniel Welz, Head of Finance, ESA BIC Baden-Württemberg / IHK Reutlingen *incl. Philip Thomas*
09:10	**Financing the Frontier: Active Early-Stage Funds & Their Investment Theses** Ted Elvhage, Founding Partner, Expansion Ventures Michael Brehm, General Partner & Founder, Redstone Sven Meyer-Brunswick, Principal, Alpine Space Ventures Christoph Wirth, Senior Investment Manager, Bayern Kapital Jonas Sommer, Principal, DTCF *Sherpa: Martin von Koch, Commercialisation Officer, ESA*
09:40	**Quantum in Orbit: Quantum Communications & Optical Space Infrastructure** Sven Ernst, Co-CEO & Co-Founder, Munich Quantum Instruments Dr. Martin Bohmann, Head of Business Development, Quantum Technology Laboratories Jade Robinson, COO & Co-Founder, Linq Photonic Jakob Lingg, Investment Partner Vsquared Ventures *Sherpa: Lia Hruby, Futury Capital*
10:05	**Pitch Session I: Space Compute, Data & Terrestrial Impact** Aziz Belkhiria, CEO & Co-Founder, DPhi Space Dr. Pablo Ghiglino, CEO & Founder, Klepsydra Manohar Karnal, COO, NeuralSat Sascha Simon, CEO & Founder, Ewia.tech Dr. Andreas Salentinig, CEO & Co-Founder, ubicube Henry Albrecht, Managing Director, TransparenC Tristan Hundley, CEO & Founder, Decen Space

Sherpa: Matthew Edwards, Country Manager Germany, ESA

10:55 **Discover Early Space Dealflow– ESA Business Incubation Centres & Phi-Lab**
Christof Bötschi, Startup Manager, ESA BIC Switzerland / ETH Zurich
Anna Lubowski, Phi-Lab Austria / tecnet
Dr. Andreas Kanstein, Managing Director, ESA BIC Hesse / cesah
Dr. Barbara Cembella, Managing Director, ESA BIC Northern-Germany / Aviaspace
Florian Mrosek, Head of ESA BIC, ESA BIC North Rhine-Westphalia / Eura AG
Sabrina Petutschnig, COO, ESA BIC Austria
Philip Thomas, Head of ScaleUp Programme Division, ESA – European Space Agency
Vishwa Shah, Project Manager, ESA BIC Bavaria / AZO
Sherpa: Dr. Stefan Engelhard, Managing Director, ESA BIC Baden-Württemberg / IHK Reutlingen

11:35 **Origins of European New-Space: From Student Initiatives to Scale-Ups**
Jonas Franke, Coordinator for Partnerships and Future Topics, Bundesverband Studentische Raumfahrt (BVSR)
Jérôme Hildebrandt, CEO & Co-Founder, AnyOrbit
Clemens Riegler, CEO & Co-Founder, Erable Systems
Victor Elliesen, Co-Founder, Stellar Alpina
Moritz Novak, Co-Founder & Chairman of the Board, Gate Space
Sherpa: Janusz Heitmann, Programme Head ACCESS, German Space Agency

12:10 **Networking & Lunch Break**

13:10 **Financing the Frontier: Active Early-Stage Funds & Their Investment Theses**
Jannes K.J. Fischer, Founder, P3A
Aida Khalil, Associate and Community Lead, Seraphim Space
Matthias Keckl, Managing Partner, TT49
Quentin Calleja, Principal, Atlantic.VC
Tim Hos, Investment Associate, Apex Ventures
Sherpa: Martin von Koch, Commercialisation Officer, ESA

13:40 **Pitch Session II: Upstream & Orbital Systems**
Dr. Christian Bauer, CEO & Founder, DeltaOrbit
Dr. Carsten Scharlemann, CEO & Co-Founder, R-Space
Daniela Bezdan, CEO & Co-Founder, Hairy Therapeutics
Marnix Meersman, Co-Founder, Arqus
Andrei Ardelean, CTO & Co-Founder, Novoviz
Dr.-Ing. Christian Schwotzer, CFO & Co-Founder, Solid Air Dynamics
Enno Dülberg, CEO & Founder, Auxsys
Sherpa: Matthew Edwards, Country Manager Germany, ESA

14:35 **Fireside Chat: From Prototype to Industrial Serial Production**
Max Gulde, CEO & Co-Founder, ConstellR
Sherpa: Aurélie Bressollette, Principal, NeuralSat

15:00 **Sustaining Momentum – Forum Outlook 2027 & 2028**
Dr. Franziska Zeitler, Head of Innovation & New Markets, German Space Agency

Elisabeth Fischer, Programme Manager, Aeronautics and Space Agency, Austrian Research Promotion Agency FFG
David Blum, Head Sciences and Innovation Space & Lead Delegate to ESA Industrial Policy Committee, Swiss Space Office SSO
Dr. Gianluigi Baldesi, Head of Ventures and Financing Office, ESA

15:25 **Closing of the ESA DACH Space Investor Forum 2026**
Janusz Heitmann, Programme Head ACCESS, German Space Agency
Mika Mänz, CEO & Founder, Acitoflux

Forum Programme – Day 2 | Deep Dives

11:00 **The Opportunity of Space Data for Financial Institutions and Insurance**
Rita Rinaldo, Head of Projects and Studies Implementation Division, ESA - European Space Agency

15:30 **End of Forum Programme**

Moderation: Hannah Klose

19:00 – 02:00 **The Moonwalker Night**



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