

# A bold vision for Europe



## Much More Than a Space Programme

“What, if anything, can we say that could qualify as a maxim in a state’s drive to attain space power? Probably, only that: a state’s drive to attain space power. When all layers are peeled away, what is left is a state’s political will.”

JAMES OBERG, “SPACE POWER THEORY”, 1999

Europe has all the prerequisites to develop into a full space power, by bringing together, federating and developing the excellence of its European, national and industrial capacities.

However, what is missing is a clear political will and a whole-of-Europe vision beyond the perceived bounds of space systems, which would precipitate policy impact.

To date, European space policy and programme action is mostly concerned with **space capabilities**, such as satellites and launchers, and less so with the **policy impact** of space. This includes how to integrate space into other policy sectors including security and defence, and how to build the required **foundations** in industrial competitiveness, scientific and technological excellence, innovation, talent and finance. Developing the policy impact of space is particularly critical at a time when crises affect policy priorities of public spending.

Through ESPI2040, ESPI proposes a bold vision to European policy makers and institutions in an effort to stimulate debate, form political will, and realise European political ambition.

The ESPI2040 Vision proposes to define and implement policy action on three levels and their interconnections:

POLICY IMPACT

SPACE CAPABILITY & AUTONOMY

FOUNDATION



## POLICY IMPACT

### SPACE POLICY INTEGRATED WITH OTHER POLICY DOMAINS

- Integrate space with other policy domains of governments, political programmes, parliamentary action and policy directions for the development of space for the wider economy.
- Align space policies and programme actions with strategies in other sectoral domains, including digital, green, security and defence, energy, mobility and health.
- Design space policy in support of business strategies beyond the space industry for industries in other sectors, including Fortune500 companies and entrepreneurs in energy, food and agriculture, insurance, automotive, telecommunications, chemistry, finance, health and pharmaceuticals.
- Leverage space for diplomacy as an integral component of European action in international cooperation.

## SPACE CAPABILITY & AUTONOMY

### USE OF SPACE

- Scale-up existing state-of-the-art programmes, for meteorology, Earth observation, navigation, connectivity, and space science.
- Fully engage in human space exploration and space for security and defence.
- Initiate new flagship programmes in transformative application domains and science missions as global undertakings.
- Increase the level of resilience and independence from external supply chains, to ensure unrestricted access to state-of-the-art technologies and disentangle from external political and commercial influence.

## FOUNDATION

### INDUSTRIAL BASE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, TALENT & FINANCE

- Foster a competitive industrial ecosystem, by stimulating intra-European competition, leveraging acquired excellence, and enabling the rise of new actors, through purpose-driven public investment, directed towards policy objectives.
- Ensure the development of enabling space programmes, providing Europe with independent access to space and ensuring the safety and sustainability of operations in the space domain.
- Position technological innovation and scientific excellence as key enablers of all developments in space in support of increased technological sovereignty and complementarity to the procurement of space systems.
- Support the development of new, innovative financing mechanisms, attracting markets driven by demand.
- Prioritise the development of young talent and the best-educated and most productive workforce.



Space policy action of governments and institutions, space programmes of space agencies and related budget structures should be implemented to maximise their impact on all three levels...