

SME**4**SPACE

10
YEARS

2011-2021

THE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION OF SMES IN
EUROPE' SPACE INDUSTRY

Activities
Annual Report
2021

About SME4SPACE

SME4SPACE is a not for profit organisation registered in Leuven under the Belgian Law.

The aim of SME4SPACE is to voice Space SMEs' viewpoint in a coordinated way and to facilitate the access of SMEs to space activities in general and to ESA and EU programmes in particular.

More in details, the organisation pursues the following not for profit purposes:

- defending SMEs with the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Union and its related agencies;
- emphasising the potential of the space SMEs in the supply chain and beyond;
- supporting Europe's industrial policy;
- fostering cooperation within our extended of our members, large companies, research and academia;
- organising seminars and information sessions;
- participating in European and International collaborative projects.

SME4SPACE Statutes foresees 2 different typologies of Membership:

- Working Member (WM) for Space Associations/Clusters;
- Individual Company Member (ICM) for Space SMEs.

SME4SPACE presently have members in **27 different European Countries** and consists of 22 Working Members (Associations/Clusters) and **37 Individual Company Members**, gathering cumulatively more than 700 SMEs.

SME4SPACE is also the premier grouping of start-ups in Europe's space industry. We bring together more than 80 start-ups making us their leading voice.



Check our current footprint in Europe:

<https://www.sme4space.org/sme4space-members>

Governance

SME4SPACE Board of Directors is responsible for the management of the Association and oversight to its activities.

Current composition of SME4SPACE Board of Directors is:

- Hans Bracquené, VRI, Belgium, Chairman – chairman@sme4space.org
- Giovanni Sylos Labini, AIPAS, Italy, Board Member
- Stelios Bollanos, Hellenic ASI, Greece, Board Member
- Steve Greenland, UK Space Association SME Members, United Kingdom, Board Member
- Vesselin Vassilev, CASTRA, Bulgaria, Board Member

SME4SPACE Staff



Rosario Pavone – SME4SPACE Secretary



Kris Vanderhauwaert - EU-Liaison Officer



Danai Bournou – Project and Communication Officer

Surveys and Studies

COVID-19 SME4SPACE SURVEY RESULTS - Results from S4S COVID-19 survey that aimed to assess the current situation and the impact of the actions by ESA and European Commission to support European Space Industry including and specially SMEs.

FINDINGS ON THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AND FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE SMES IN THE EUROPEAN SPACE INDUSTRY. SME4SPACE conducted an academic study where its findings indicated a main challenge: Space SMEs cope with low profitability as a highly capital intensive company. The investigation was done with the University of the KU Leuven (Faculty of Economics and Business) and with the support of the ESA SME Office.

https://www.sme4space.org/wp-content/uploads/Leaflet_Study_onEuropean_Space_SMEs_2021.pdf

SURVEY ON SPACE ACTIVITIES OF SMES IN EUROPE. Second edition of survey regarding the economic activities of space SMEs in Europe. The survey is conducted in cooperation with the KU Leuven university and the support of ESA SME Office.

Position Papers

In 2021 SME4SPACE has produced and circulated 3 position papers:

- [SME4SPACE position paper on ESA renewed industrial policy](#)
- [SME4SPACE position paper regarding recent developments in the governance of space activities in Europe](#)
- [SME4SPACE position on EU review of state aid rules](#)

Webinars

WEBINAR ON THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT OF ESA PROJECTS.

SME4SPACE organised a webinar regarding topics such as the ESA General Clauses, Conditions and contract templates for subcontracting.

Exhibitions and Conferences

FINANCING SPACE: OPTIONS FOR SMES AND MIDCAPS IN EUROPE. SME4SPACE participated in this conference jointly organised by the European Space Agency and the European Investment Bank. <https://atpi.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/financing-space-smes/website>

SPACE TECH EXPO BREMEN. SME4SPACE participated as an exhibitor at the Space Tech Expo in Bremen together with the ESA SME Office, AKRK and ESA Space Solution Bremen in a joint booth dedicated to space SMEs and start-ups.

EMERGING SPACE 2021. Participation of SME4SPACE Chairman, Hans Bracquené, at the 3rd Slovak Space Tech Day that was held online on 30 November 2021 in the session on Emerging space players.

Events, Workshops, Exhibitions

SME FORUM “THE FUTURE OF WORK”. Preparatory digital workshop organised by SME4SPACE and ESA SME Office on 17 June 2021 regarding tomorrow’s space activities, the evolution of skills and competences and also floor given to SMEs for inputs.

TERRAE NOVAE – EUROPEAN EXPLORATION STRATEGY 2030. A workshop organised by ESA with the support of SME4Space and Eurospace on 21 June 2021, a first step dialogue of the industry-institution towards the ESA programmatic proposals for the C-MIN 2022 on the Exploration strategy for 2030 and beyond. Have a look at the workshop programme:

https://www.sme4space.org/wp-content/uploads/esa-exploration-2030-strategy-workshop-programme_v3.pdf

EU H2020 CHEOPS PROJECT FINAL EVENT. Final event of the EU H2020 CHEOPS project, fully organised by SME4SPACE on live via WebEx events on 29 June 2021. During the project execution the Consortium has developed 3 different classes of Electric Propulsion Hall Effect Thrusters. SME4SPACE was the task leader of the dissemination and communication activities.

<https://www.cheops-h2020.eu>

EU H2020 SPACE-UP FINAL EVENT. Final event of EU H2020 SPACE-UP project that was organised in Brussels on 5 October 2021 by SME4SPACE with the strong participation of all project partners to present success stories, best practices, lessons learned and to have also a panel discussion on the issues affecting the start-ups in the European space industry. <http://www.space-academy.eu>

SME FORUM 2021. An annual consultation process jointly organised by SME4SPACE and ESA SME Office, that collects feedback from space SMEs and their associations on factors that affect their business environment. This year edition was organised on line on 21 October 2021 and focused on ESA profit policy, future of work.

ESA INDUSTRY SPACE DAYS 2021. SME4SPACE participated with a virtual booth in the ESA ISD 2021 organised by the ESA SME Office to foster cooperation between different actors in the entire space sector. 2021 edition, in line with the ESA’s Agenda 2025, had a special focus on “Commercialisation”.

Policy

In 2021 SME4SPACE has actively engaged both ESA and European Commission to raise their awareness with regard to the **potential of the European SMEs within the space industry**.

ESA Profit policy was a topic for which SME4SPACE succeeded to make clear the position of European SMEs and also to change a discussion that until our engagement was led by LSIs only. SME4SPACE was particularly involved together with the other European Space Associations in the discussion with the European Commission for the **establishment of a co-Programmed Public Private Partnership (cPPP)**.

Moreover, SME4SPACE was invited by ESA and strongly adhered for drafting first and signing then of a **joint statement for a responsible space sector**. The joint statement will be officially signed in Q4 2022.

Technology

ESA 2021 HARMONISATION PROCESS. Since 2015 SME4SPACE contributes in the phase of technologies mapping and for the definition of the technologies roadmaps within the activities of ESA Technology Harmonisation Advisory Group (THAG) as well as presents the European Space SMEs viewpoint within the activities of the ESA THAG.

ECSS SIMPLIFICATION OF M-BRANCH. SME4SPACE was involved in the ECSS simplification of M-Branch. This was a pivotal initiative leading at make easier the application of the ECSS' standards.

Projects

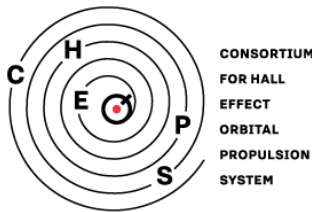


EPIC – Electric Propulsion Innovation & Competitiveness



EPIC is a PSA activity under the Horizon 2020 Space “COMPET-3-2014: In-Space electrical propulsion and station keeping” Work Programme 2014 topic (Grant Agreement n. 640199).

<http://www.epic-src.eu>



CHEOPS is a challenging EU H2020 space project that proposes to develop three different Hall Effect Thruster (HET) Electric Propulsion Systems (EPS), in order to serve different application fields or orbits:

- a low power for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) applications;
- a dual mode EPS for GEO/NAV applications;
- a >20 kW high thrust EPS for exploration applications.

Grant agreement N. 730135. <https://www.cheops-h2020.eu>

SME4SPACE is one of the partners of **SpaceUp** (Assisting European SPACE Start-ups in scaling UP) project, funded under Horizon 2020 framework programme (Grant Agreement n. 776356).

SpaceUp aims at fast-tracking Europe's innovative start-ups in and around the space sector on the road of maturity. The project's key features are 6 Space Academies across Europe, complementing ESA BICs in their work.

<http://www.space-academy.eu>



SME4SPACE is one of the eight partners of the **ASPIRE** (Advanced Space Propulsion for Innovative Realization of Space Exploration) project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N. 101004366.

SME4SPACE is in charge of the Dissemination and Communication activities of ASPIRE that aims at developing a Space High Power Electric Propulsion System of more than 20kW.

<https://www.aspire-h2020.eu>

CHEOPS Low Power and CHEOPS Medium Power are daughter projects of CHEOPS and they aim at further developing 2 Electric Propulsion Systems to serve LEO and Constellations as well as Nav Markets.

CHEOPS LP GA N. 101004331 <https://www.lp.cheops-h2020.eu>

CHEOPS MP GA N. 101004226 <https://www.mp.cheops-h2020.eu>



Working Members

National Associations and/or Regional Clusters



Individual Company Members

Space SMEs from Countries where no Working Members are part of SME4SPACE Membership (or at least there were not at the time of their application)



Contacts

Headquarters

Address: Technologielaan 9,
B-3001 Leuven (Belgium)
E-mail: chairman@sme4space.org
Website: www.sme4space.org
LinkedIn: /sme4space
Twitter: @SME4SPACE

Operational Secretariat (c/o AIPAS)

Address: Via Chiana, 48
00198 Rome (Italy)
E-mail: rosario.pavone@sme4space.org
Mobile: +39 3312258497