

EDF 2024

# SPADER PROJECT NEWSLETTER 01



## Latest SPADER News



### PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING (KOM) 3 – 4 NOVEMBER 2025

On the 3rd and 4th of November, the Kick-Off meeting took place in the beautiful capital of Estonia, Tallinn. Under the excellent hosting of the project coordinator, VAAL Airships, all 9 partners of SPADER gathered in a meeting room in the Technopole facilities of Tallinn and performed a series of interoperable activities to initiate and boost the start of the SPADER project.

Project Officer from the DG/DEFIS was present and advised the plenary about some important issues regarding, workflow, reporting, deliverables and funding. The KO meeting was also connected to a virtual meeting room, where partners' personnel joined and followed the discussions. In this virtual meeting room the DG/DEFIS official and responsible for the project was connected and exchanged some interesting points of the concept.

Workshops were organized for the work plan and administration of the tasks, the dissemination and communication activities. Ethics and Security aspects were presented and organized by the partner specialized on this subject. Decisions were made for the next plenary meeting, the web hosting of the project. Administrator finalized the project workbook and is going to deliver it as part of the general administrative and workflow plan.



The SPADER Consortium

[Check out more](#)

### SPADER PROPOSAL BACKGROUND HISTORY

#### 30 April 2025

The DG/DEFIS announces the results of the evaluation procedure for calls that were submitted up to 5th of November, 2024. Proposal SPADER is of those selected for funding.

#### 27 October 2025

During summer period the PO of the Committee and the consortium members worked systematically to bring in its final form the Grant Agreement (GA). Final signatures were authorized on 27th of October, 2025.

The starting date of the project was set as 1st of November, 2025. The total duration of the project is set to 36 months.

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# Meet the SPADER Consortium



**VAAL Airships** builds and operates High Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS), also known as High Altitude Pseudosatellites.

[Visit VAAL Airships](#)



**Timmu Tollimägi**  
FOUNDER and CEO

## INCDT COMOTI - Beneficiary - ROMANIA (RO)

**COMOTI** - National Research and Development Institute for Gas Turbines is the only unit in Romania specialized in development and integration of scientific research, constructive and technological design, manufacturing, experimentation, testing, technological transfer and innovation in the field of aviation turbine engines, gas turbine industrial machines and high speed blade machines.

[Visit INCDT COMOTI](#)



**Dr. Constantin Sandu**  
FOUNDER and CEO

## SKYLD Ltd - Beneficiary - CYPRUS (CY)

**SKYLD** is focusing in the fields of Security and Defence domain, including European, International, and nationally funded Research projects and tenders and its personnel has extensive experience in managing complex ICT projects at the respective domains.

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**Romeo Bratska**  
COO

## EU3STAR B.V. - Beneficiary - THE NETHERLANDS (NL)

**EU3STAR B.V.** is built in the 3-star business domain, the aerospace, the defense, and the maritime sectors.

[Visit EU3STAR B.V.](#)



**John Kostrivas**  
Lead Consultant

## MGM - Beneficiary - ROMANIA (RO)

**MGM STAR Construct** is a Romanian private company specialized in physical and chemical vacuum deposition (PVD, CVD). Lithography technology, optical manufacturing, manufacturing of mechanical parts, construction works in civil area and activities for a wide range of industrial applications.

[Visit MGM](#)



**Dr. Arcadie Sobetkii**  
Project Manager



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# Meet the SPADER Consortium

## ICPEST SRL - Beneficiary - ROMANIA (RO)

**ICPEST SRL** specializes in manufacturing new and reconditioned mechanical parts, producing prototypes, and designing complex assemblies, devices, and molds. The company also conducts advanced research and development activities in precision engineering and processing technologies.

[Visit ICPEST SRL](#)



**Nica Octavian**  
Project Manager



## PLUS ETHICS - Beneficiary - SPAIN (ES)

**PLUS ETHICS** provides expert support for European-funded projects, ensuring compliance with GDPR, ethics, fundamental rights, and legal standards through specialized research, management, and training.

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**Dévika Pérez Medina**  
Project Manager



## ICCS - Beneficiary - GREECE (EL)

**The Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (ICCS)** is a leading non-profit research organization of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), advancing scientific excellence in computational science and engineering. Its interdisciplinary work spans AI, smart systems, communications, energy, climate, biomedical engineering, photonics, and advanced hardware–software technologies.

[Visit ICCS](#)



**Dr. Paul Sotiriadis**  
Project Manager



## GEORING - Beneficiary - GREECE (EL)

**GEORING Services** is the initiator of a system for On-Orbit Servicing Named HERMES, aiming to kick-start the On-Orbit Servicing (OOS) industry in Europe. GEORING has invented and is pursuing deployment of a 5 element system to enable efficient deployment and delivery of a series of services on orbit. Some of these services apply to existing satellites but the full spectrum to the future satellites.

[Visit GEORING](#)



**Charis Kosmas**  
Founder and CEO



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## OTHER SPACE NEWS

### European Space Agency (ESA) will destroy a brand-new satellite in 2027 just to see what happens



*An illustration of DRACO getting destroyed in Earth's atmosphere. Photo: ©ESA*

The European Space Agency will launch its DRACO satellite in 2027 specifically to let it burn up on reentry, collecting real-time data on how satellites break apart in the atmosphere. The mission supports ESA's Zero Debris Charter, aiming to stop new space junk creation by 2030, and will use a sensor-packed capsule designed to survive reentry long enough to transmit data before reaching the ocean. Built by Deimos, DRACO will mimic a typical uncontrolled reentry to help scientists develop safer satellite designs.

[Find out more](#)

### The European Astronaut Centre is expanding

ESA has signed a Letter of Intent with North Rhine-Westphalia and DLR to build a new facility at the European Astronaut Centre in Cologne, nearly tripling ESA's onsite workforce. The €20 million building, expected by 2028, will host staff relocated from the Netherlands and strengthen Cologne as the hub of Europe's human and robotic exploration. This expansion marks a strategic step toward reinforcing ESA's capabilities, training, and future missions across the continent.



*EAC site in Cologne. Photo: ©ESA*

[Find out more](#)

### Orbotic Systems recently won a NASA Phase II award for an advanced active space debris removal system

Orbotic Systems Inc., a space sustainability company focused on responsible orbital operations, has recently been awarded a NASA SBIR Phase II contract to advance its autonomous space-debris removal technology. The company's RIDDANCE system uses a net-and-tether architecture and passive reentry techniques to detumble, capture, and deorbit small to medium debris without propulsion. The prototype integrates autonomous stabilization, secure net capture, and passive descent via the D3 drag device, meeting international deorbit guidelines while keeping costs low. This award further strengthens Orbotic Systems' growing portfolio in orbital sustainability, including tools like the WIND instrument for space-weather and atmospheric-density monitoring.



[Find out more](#)

## OTHER SPACE NEWS

### ESA and Thales Alenia Space present the industrial consortium for Argonaut Lunar Descent Element

ESA has introduced Argonaut, Europe's autonomous lunar lander, along with the industrial consortium led by Thales Alenia Space Italy that will design and build its Lunar Descent Element. The lander will give Europe independent access to the Moon, delivering up to 1500 kg of cargo - including scientific instruments, rovers, and astronaut supplies - for ESA and international missions such as NASA's Artemis programme. Scheduled for launch in 2030, Argonaut marks a major step in Europe's long-term lunar exploration strategy.

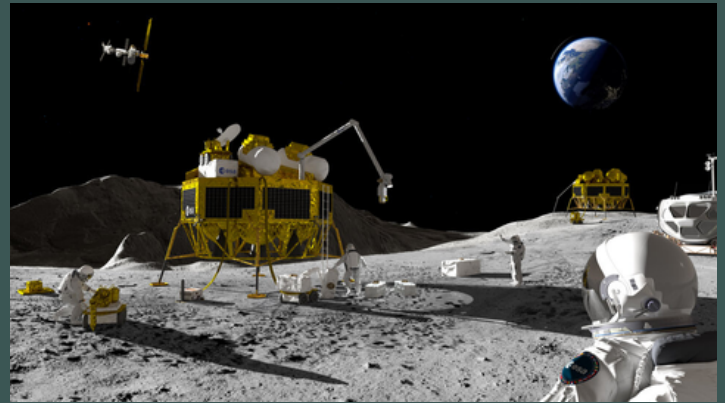


Photo: ©ESA

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### Sentinel-6B launched to extend monitoring of sea-level rise



Sentinel-6B release into orbit. Photo: ©ESA

On 17 November 2025, the Copernicus Sentinel-6B satellite entered orbit, continuing a decades-long mission to measure global sea-surface height. Building on Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich, the new satellite uses advanced radar altimetry to extend a record dating back to the early 1990s. These data are essential for tracking sea-level rise and guiding climate policy. Launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 from Vandenberg, Sentinel-6B is now operated by ESA and will soon transfer to EUMETSAT, supporting accurate ocean and climate monitoring.

[Find out more](#)

### Lessons from the November 2025 solar storm



Space weather reporter Vigil in deep space. Photo: ©ESA

A series of powerful solar eruptions struck Earth last week, as three rapid coronal mass ejections triggered a severe six-hour geomagnetic storm. Despite intense solar activity—including an X-class flare, radio blackouts across three continents, and a rare Ground Level Enhancement—the event caused minimal disruption to infrastructure and no danger to people. ESA missions in low-Earth orbit and deep space captured valuable radiation and magnetic data now under analysis. With the Sun at solar maximum, such storms are increasingly likely, reinforcing the need for advanced space-weather monitoring missions like ESA's upcoming Vigil.

[Find out more](#)