

Press Release

INNOspace Masters 2019/20 open for submissions from 28th October 2019

Fifth competition round launches with additional challenge – DB Netz AG as a new partner to the INNOspace Master

Space is a driver for new technologies. Companies and scientific institutions in the industry are developing forward-looking innovations – and not only for the space industry itself. Many of the space solutions that have been found have the potential to be transferred to other applications outside the space sector. At the same time, developments from a wide variety of disciplines also offer great potential for the space industry. For the fifth time in a row, the innovation competition is looking for concepts and ideas that address current challenges in space and other sectors through a mutual transfer of knowledge or technology. As a new partner to the competition, DB Netz AG will also be hosting its own challenge in the INNOspace Masters 2019/20. Ideas can be submitted from 28 October 2019 to 7 February 2020.

Berlin, 11th October 2019 – Technologies developed in the space sector offer a whole range of properties that make them extremely interesting for applications on Earth. For this reason, the Space Administration of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) is actively promoting networking between the space industry and other sectors of industry. Through a cross-industrial exchange, the space industry benefits from the expertise of other industries and, at the same time, offers companies the opportunity to open up new business fields by using aerospace technologies and applications.



Picture: Host German Aerospace Center (DLR) Space Administration, Organisator AZO Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen, Partner ESA BICs, Airbus, OHB, DB Netz AG ©BMW: Bildkraftwerk

The INNOspace Masters, as part of the INNOspace® initiative, awards space-related transfer projects and promotes their sustainable implementation. Under the slogan “Space Moves!”, the fifth round of the ideas competition opens at the 3rd StartUp Night! of the aerospace industry in Berlin, hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy on 10 October. Project ideas are sought from a wide variety of fields, such as drive technology, materials research, cost reduction, sensor technology and medical technology, until 7 February 2020.

The initiator of the competition, DLR Space Administration, was able to gain DB Netz AG as a new partner. In particular, space-based solutions for the

inspection, monitoring and maintenance of tomorrow’s rail infrastructure will be the focus within the DB Netz AG challenge. Besides their own DLR challenge, the other partners in the competition Airbus, OHB and the German ESA Business Incubation Centres (BICs) are each hosting their own challenge with specific prizes. The individual challenges address different topics and levels of maturity and offer suitable funding for each project idea. In addition to worldwide network contacts, the winners will

receive up to EUR 400,000 of technological and economic support per project as well as assistance in implementing the project.

“Space offers solutions that are becoming increasingly important for terrestrial applications. At the same time, the aerospace industry is currently in a state of upheaval and can learn a lot from other industries, especially in areas such as series production and cost reduction. The previous rounds have shown how diverse and enormous the potential for cross-industrial project ideas is,” says Dr Franziska Zeitler, Head of Innovation & New Markets at DLR Space Administration in Bonn. “For this reason, the INNOspace Masters is an important building block in the German space landscape.”

The competition is aimed at companies, start-ups, universities and non-university research institutions as well as consortia and individuals whose projects transfer expertise and technologies from other sectors into space travel (spin-in) and vice versa (spin-off).

“Developments from space are an indispensable driver of innovation and have also long become part of everyday life. So hardly any area of our daily life is conceivable without solutions from space,” says Thorsten Rudolph, Managing Director of the competition organiser AZO. “The INNOspace Masters plays an important role in promoting innovative ideas for the next space generation.”

The winners of the individual competition categories and the main winner will be announced during the annual INNOspace Masters Conference and Award Ceremony on 30 June 2020.

About INNOspace Masters

The INNOspace Masters is organised by Space Administration (RFM) at the German Aerospace Center (DLR), embedded in the INNOspace® initiative. [AZO Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen](#), an experienced specialist in the organisation of competitions, executes the annual INNOspace Masters on behalf of DLR RFM. The competition partners are Airbus, OHB and the German ESA Business Incubation Centres. With more than 50% of the submissions from non-space industries, the INNOspace Masters confirms the growing importance and also the high interest among different industries in space. More information at www.innospace-masters.de.

About AZO – Your Partner in Competition & Innovation

AZO Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen is an international networking and branding company initiating the most important space-related innovation competitions with more than 15,000 participants, over 200 industrial & public - and 400 international stakeholders. The Masters Series, presented by AZO consists of the [Galileo Masters](#), [Copernicus Masters](#), and [INNOspace Masters](#). Additionally, AZO organises the [Copernicus Hackathons](#) by the European Commission. AZO runs a very successful business angel network which invested more than EUR 50 million Venture Capital in 2018. Additionally, AZO manages its ESA Incubation Centres (ESA BIC) Bavaria and Northern Germany. The ESA BIC Bavaria incubation programme has supported more than 162 company foundations solely in Bavaria to date. Since May 2019, AZO jointly operates the ESA BIC Northern Germany (NG) located in Bremen. For more information, please visit www.azo-space.com.

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