

Application guide

GSTP De-Risk Call in Lithuania

Lithuanian Space Technology Call 2024

March 2024



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In this document, you will find information about the Lithuanian space technology call 2024 for funding from the European Space Agency, ESA’s General Support technology Programme (GSTP).

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1. What can I apply for?

In GSTP De-Risk Call, Innovation Agency (hereafter: The Agency) has allocated up to 1.000.000€ to support Lithuanian entities' (companies and research institutions) space related projects.

The purpose of the call is to build and expand space technology capabilities in Lithuania and strengthen the competitiveness of the Lithuanian space industry.

The call offers the possibility for Lithuanian entities to build products and services that can be used in the context of ESA or non-ESA space related activities.

In 2024, the call is facilitated through ESA's General Support Technology Programme - GSTP Element 1 De-Risk Framework:

GSTP Element 1, De-Risk Framework is dedicated towards industry driven technology development dedicated to preparing and de-risking new technology development activities and reducing the risk associated to these developments.

In the Element 1, De-Risk Framework, projects up to 250.000 Euros can be proposed.

Read more about the De-Risk Framework in section 3.

[Read more about ESA's GSTP programme here.](#)

Note: On 19th March 2024 an information session has been hosted by the Agency and ESA in Vilnius. The workshop included:

- Introduction to the General Support Technology Programme (GSTP)
- Information about the Call
- Guidance to outline proposal writing
- Bilateral meetings with GSTP Representatives and a Technical Expert in Optoelectronics

2. Who can apply?

To apply for funding from the GSTP De-Risk Call in Lithuania in 2024, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

The applicant entity (company or institution) must be registered in Lithuania.

The applicant portion of the activity must take place in Lithuania.

Applicants should be registered in esa-star for the last steps of the application process. It is highly encouraged to do this early.

3. GSTP Element 1 – De-Risk framework

De-risk framework is dedicated to preparing and de-risking new technology development activities and to reduce the risk associated to these developments. During the activity ESA will help to assess potential added value of the development and will address critical issues. The results of this phase are intended to help orienting a follow-on development activity.

These activities have a multi-phased approach, starting with an initial De-Risk activity (Phase 1), fully funded up to 250.000 Euro, aimed to unblock barriers ahead of the Follow-On (Phase 2) activity.

The de-risk framework is targeting generic technology developments addressing any of the following application domains: Earth observation, science, exploration, human spaceflight, space safety, space transportation, navigation or generic technologies.

The proposed work shall not overlap with any previous or presently running ESA Contract awarded to any entity in the Proposed Team.

This will be implemented through GSTP Element 1. The starting Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the proposed technology to be developed is expected to be 3 or above in the start of the technology development activity.

4.1 How much can I apply for?

Technology development activities with a maximum budget of 250.000 Euro may be proposed in this Call.

The maximum duration of the activity cannot exceed 9 months.

4.2 How do I apply?

The application process for a GSTP Element 1, De-Risk project is as follows:

- **Step 1:** Ensure you're registered in ESA Star (<https://esastar-emr.sso.esa.int/>)
- **Step 2:** Submit an Outline Proposal to De-Risk Channel in OSIP before the **ESA deadline: 6 May 2024.**

Link to De-Risk Channel in OSIP:

<https://ideas.esa.int/servlet/hype/IMT?documentTableId=45087183940304259&userAction=Browse&templateName=&documentId=a19fe43cb577173800397fa26cdc1431>

- **Step 3:** ESA and the Agency evaluates received De-Risk Outline Proposals and selects the activities to be supported.
- **Step 4:** Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Support from Lithuanian delegation for their activities and are invited to submit a Full Proposal to ESA following the ESA Star process ([Link here](#))

GSTP De-Risk Call in Lithuania timeline and planning.

Date	Description	Who
19th March 2024	INFO Session	ESA / LT Innovation Agency / Entities
20th March 2024	Info package distributed to interested entities	LT Innovation Agency
6th May 2024	Submission of outline proposals deadline	Entities
1st June 2024	Pre-selection	LT Innovation Agency with technical recommendation from ESA
mid-June 2024	Notification to companies/entities	LT Innovation Agency
mid-June 2024	Technical discussion meetings (teleconference)	ESA (Organiser)/ LT Innovation Agency
July 2024	Official ESA- Request for full proposal (RFP)	ESA
August 2024	Submission of full proposal	Entities
September 2024	Negotiation meetings	ESA/Entities
September/October 2024	Kick-off	ESA/Entities
October 2024 – June 2025	Activity execution	Entities

Read more about each step in the sections below.

Step 1: Ensure you're registered in ESA Star

Please note that a pre-requisite for submitting any technology development proposal to GSTP De-Risk Call, is to have completed the on-line dedicated questionnaire for being registered in esa-star as an entity wishing to do business with ESA.

“esa-star registration” website:

<https://esastar-emr.sso.esa.int/>

esa-star Registration User Manual:

<https://esastar-emr.sso.esa.int/Account/DownloadFile>

Please note that only the “Full Registration” allows the Contract to be placed with the selected Tenderer.

Step 2: Submit Outline Proposal to De-Risk Channel in OSIP

The deadline for submitting a GSTP De-Risk Outline Proposal to ESA is **6th May 2024**. **When submitting your GSTP De-Risk Outline Proposal to ESA, please forward a copy to the Agency.**

On ESA's GSTP De-Risk Framework Channel on Open Space Innovation Platform (OSIP) website (see the link below), you can find descriptions of the GSTP programme frameworks, as well as, outline proposal templates, requirements, and criteria for ESA's application process.

Link to De-Risk Channel in OSIP:

[ESA GSTP – Element 1, De-Risk framework](https://ideas.esa.int/servlet/hype/IMT?documentTableId=45087183940304259&userAction=Browse&templateName=&documentId=a19fe43cb577173800397fa26cdc1431)

<https://ideas.esa.int/servlet/hype/IMT?documentTableId=45087183940304259&userAction=Browse&templateName=&documentId=a19fe43cb577173800397fa26cdc1431>

Applicants must apply through the GSTP De-Risk Framework application process, where a company/institution submits its project proposal. The application is called Outline Proposal.

To submit your GSTP De-Risk Outline Proposal, click “Submit Your Idea” at the top of the GSTP De-Risk Framework webpage.

ESA may potentially have questions to the applicants after the deadline.

Step 3: ESA evaluation and prioritization

After the deadline for submitting Outline Proposals, ESA and the Agency evaluates all proposals based on the GSTP De-Risk Framework criteria. Criteria can be found on the [procurement website](#). In broad terms, the proposals will be evaluated on the following aspects:

- Clear and credible definition of the technical objectives, key requirements, technical steps and risks to be addressed in this activity;
- Clear indication of the application and potential users of the technology;
- Clarity of the management approach and the adequacy of the proposed costs with the work to be performed in the De-risk;
- Clear information about Cost to Completion including the Follow-on activities.

Following the evaluation process, ESA provides a prioritized list to the Innovation Agency, from which the activities to be supported are selected.

The selection is conducted in dialogue between ESA and the Innovation Agency. The final decision is made based on the process described in this document. The Innovation Agency and ESA inform the applicants of the outcome.

For selected proposals feedback, points of concerns, of attention; recommendations, suggestions will be provided and shall be considered in the preparation of the full proposal.

The Innovation Agency and ESA provide written notification to applicants who did not advance in the process. After the provision of Letters of Support, the Innovation Agency is no longer involved in the application process and contract negotiation.

Step 4: Submit Full Proposal to ESA

GSTP De-Risk Framework Outline Proposals which have been positively evaluated will received an invitation from ESA to submit a Full Proposal. The Full proposal builds on the outline proposal taking into consideration the previous feedback points of concerns, of attention; recommendations, suggestions.

In the event of a successful evaluation of the Full Proposal, ESA and the applicant engage in negotiations to finalize a contract.

4. The Innovation Agency's contact information

The GSTP De-Risk Call in Lithuania is managed by the Space Hub at the Innovation Agency.

If you have any questions concerning the call, you are welcome to contact the Innovation Agency for clarification. Potential applicants who have no previous experience with the application process at ESA are encouraged to contact the Innovation Agency for guidance.

Please contact Eigirdas Sarkanas, E.Sarkanas@inovacijuagentura.lt +370 668 14924 if you need advice.