

## **ESA Technology Transfer Support - Ideas and Interest**

### **Technology Transfer Support**

Companies and organisations from European Member States and Canada are invited to submit their interest in providing support to the ESA Technology Transfer Programme, and are also invited to submit ideas as to how such support should be implemented.

Note that ESA shall bear no costs incurred by the company or organisation responding to this call for Ideas and Interest. This Invitation does not bind the Agency in any way with regard to any decision or action and it reserves the right not to issue the subject Tender.

### **Background**

Central to the projects and operations of ESA is the use of innovative technology to meet the space aspirations of its Member States. As such it has an end-to-end technology process which includes expenditure of over €200 million per annum on Research and Development. ESA sees that technology innovation is a principal driver of not only space, but the world economy in general, and that it has a responsibility to ensure that space technologies are used for the broader economic benefit of its Member States.

ESA also recognises that there are barriers to *technology transfer* and that an active *Technology Transfer Programme* is required to ensure optimum outcomes. To support this process, the *ESA Technology Transfer Programme Office* (TTPO) was established in 1990 as part of the ESA Directorate of Technical and Quality Management.

Among its principal objectives, the TTPO assists companies/organisations in ESA Member States to exploit technology that they developed for space in other application areas. These companies/organisations are the main holders of the formal and informal intellectual property that is developed during space technology development programmes.

### **Opportunity**

The TTPO is looking to place a contract, by open competitive tender, for assistance in its encouragement and support of technology transfer within the ESA Member States from space technology developers to other industrial and commercial sectors. The goal of this activity is to maximise the level of Technology Transfer from Space within the ESA Member States with quantifiable results.

The contract has an anticipated ceiling price of €4.2 million, an anticipated duration of 3 years and an anticipated starting date on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) for this contract is envisaged to be published on EMITS in late 2011.

### **Consultation Exercise**

Ahead of issuing the ITT described above, the ESA TTPO is undertaking a consultation exercise. This is being undertaken to identify and pre-notify parties that may wish to be part of a bid for this upcoming contract. It is also being undertaken to solicit ideas that can shape the said ITT.

The current main elements of support to transfer space technology to other industries are a) a funded Broker Network including managed relationships with National Technology Transfer Initiatives b) a programme of Transfer Demonstrators. Details of these can be founded from the internet links below.

Some issues which respondents may wish to address are given below:

- How support can be offered to most effectively facilitate the transfer of technology between all Member States?
- How economic added value of space technology and transfer support can best be captured and evaluated?
- How external support is most effectively integrated with ESA knowledge and systems?
- How external support can be best coordinated with initiatives in individual Member States?
- How could support for the spin-out Technology Transfer described in this document be integrated with actions to spin-in new technologies to the space domain?
- How can Technology Transfer support be synergetic with the activities of the ESA Business Incubation Centres?
- What role is there for Technology Forecasting as part of the support for technology transfer?
- How internet based technologies can most effectively be utilised to promote technology transfer?

### **Confidentiality**

All expressions of interest will be treated by ESA as confidential. However, it is requested that parties responding to this request for information shall not include confidential information.

## **Links**

Interested parties are invited to consult the following websites:

[www.esa.int/ttp](http://www.esa.int/ttp)

[www.technology-forum.com](http://www.technology-forum.com)

## **Responses**

To declare an interest in responding to an ITT on Technology Transfer support, to respond with ideas, or to request further information, please send an e:mail to [tt-ideas@esa.int](mailto:tt-ideas@esa.int) by 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011.