

CHARTER OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE TRANSPORTATION HUB

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Considering that, according to the Convention for the Establishment of a European Space Agency (ESA), ESA's mission includes facilitating the exchange of scientific and technical information pertaining to the fields of space research and technology and their space applications.

Considering that, according to its COP (Contract of Objectives and Performance), the Centre National d'Études Spatiales's (CNES) mission includes preparing the space of tomorrow, and stimulating the space ecosystem by involving new players.

ESA and CNES Directorates responsible for Space Transportation aim at fostering the cooperation between all interested players in space transportation within a new structure called the "European Space Transportation Hub".

INTRODUCTION

This charter serves as the foundational document for the establishment and functioning of the European Space Transportation Hub (hereafter the "Hub"), that will govern the Hub collaborative efforts.

The Hub's mission is to provide a European platform for discussion, provision of informed views, research, and analysis on key issues, in view of the economic and technical development of the space transportation domain in Europe and for European actors.

The objective is mainly threefold:

- Bringing together all interested players in space transportation;
- Promoting innovations and synergies;
- Imagining future generations of space transportation services.

The Hub is dedicated to bringing together key players in the space transportation sector. By encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, the Hub should generate unique synergies to address the technical and economic challenges of space transportation in Europe and for European actors. Joining the Hub means playing an active role in shaping the future of European space transportation through workshops, working groups, collaborative studies and academic partnerships, while becoming part of a dynamic and supportive network that fosters exchanges and opportunities.

ARTICLE 1 – THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HUB

The Hub is operated by the ESA and CNES Space Transportation Directorates in line with this charter.

Membership to the Hub is open to entities, which are registered/established in a European Union Member State or ESA Member State (whether they are start-ups, SMEs, ETIs or large groups, academics, Space Agencies, EU Bodies, research centre, etc.), carrying out activities in the space transportation sector and having a proven and active interest in the development of space transportation in Europe.

The Hub has no legal personality. While the majority of the activities are developed online, the location of the Hub is set out in Annex 3.

ARTICLE 2 – VALUES

The Hub is grounded in a set of core values guiding all of its actions and collaborations. It is dedicated to promoting a culture of **openness**, where every voice is heard, and every idea is valued. The Hub encourages innovation by fostering **curiosity** to explore various space transportation topics. Members of the Hub's commitment to **sharing** is central to the Hub's mission as defined in the introduction. It is believed that bringing together different perspectives and working collectively leads to ambitious achievements.

The Hub seeks to **foster innovation** by promoting collaboration that transcends individual Members perspectives and avoids siloed approaches. The Hub fosters **open and inclusive collaboration** among all Members, in line with applicable competition law and national regulations, by ensuring a fair, non-collusive environment free from anti-competitive practices. In addition to their collective engagement within the Hub, Members are encouraged to pursue smaller group discussions.

ARTICLE 3 – PURPOSES & ACTIVITIES

Purposes

To achieve its main objective as defined in the introduction, the purposes of the Hub:

1. To foster the emergence and concrete advancement of space transportation sector;
2. To complement and support the efforts made in Europe in the field of space transportation in a coordinated manner;

3. To become a platform for interested players in space transportation active or interested in the development of space transportation-related activities in Europe, including academia, investment, public organisations, and private companies;
4. To encourage interdisciplinary exchanges between the economic, engineering, scientific and legal spheres;
5. To facilitate the exchange of information and ideas through the organisation of colloquia, coordination where relevant, and the dissemination of information when appropriate.

Activities

The Hub's activities include the following (non-exhaustive list):

1. Organisation of workshops, working groups (see appendix nebula), meetings and other structured working bodies and events to discuss and organise dialogue on major challenges and key issues;
2. Production of collaborative reports;
3. Exchange activities with high level schools and universities (course projects, speed dating/recruitment, etc.);
4. Provision of access to conferences, courses, lectures, seminars, etc. for students and professionals to raise interest and awareness;
5. Introduction to space transportation projects via learning expeditions or prospective studies;
6. Promotion and outreach through a website and any relevant communication actions and external relations.

ARTICLE 4 – ORGANS

HUB Structure

The organs of the Hub are: the COPIL, the Operational Team, and the General Assembly of members.

COPIL (Executive committee)

1. Consists of two (2) members: one (1) senior executive from ESA Space Transportation Directorate and one (1) from CNES Space Transportation Directorate, appointed by the two (2) respective directors in charge of Space Transportation.
2. Approves members of the Hub.
3. Approves the creation of working groups.
4. Defines the Hub's general strategy to achieve its main objectives.
5. Validates the financial amount allocated to the Hub activities, to be equally shared between CNES Space Transportation Directorate and ESA Space Transportation Directorate.
6. Meets at least twice a year.

Operational Team

1. Includes:
 - A Hub Manager, from ESA or CNES Space Transportation Directorates, appointed by the COPIL, who oversees the Hub's activities (performance, schedule, financial contributions, costs) and implementation of the strategy.
 - Two (2) Hub Coordinators, one (1) from ESA Space Transportation Directorate and one (1) from CNES Space Transportation Directorate, who are responsible for the animation plan and for taking steps to achieve the Hub's objectives following the instructions provided by the Hub Manager.
 - Two (2) senior Technical Experts one (1) from ESA Space Transportation Directorate and one (1) from CNES Space Transportation Directorate, who are responsible for the technical support and guidance of the relevant Hub activities.
 - A communication support from ESA and/or from CNES for the promotion of the Hub activities.
2. Meets once (1) a week to review the actions plan.

General Assembly of Members

1. Includes all members up to date with their membership fee, if applicable.
2. Any representative amongst its members, can actively participate in the definition of the strategy by putting forward propositions to the COPIL.
3. The Hub Manager shall present a report on the previous year's animation items, provide feedback on the foreseen annual activities, propose orientations, and look for common or shared interests between all members of the Hub.
4. Meets once (1) a year towards the end of the year.

ARTICLE 5 – MEMBERSHIP

Member of the Hub' selection

1. Member of the Hub defined according to the criteria detailed in article 1 above, are selected on their motivations. Candidates must complete a motivation form (Annex 2) and objective criteria based on the relevance of their participation to the Hub's activities (core business, operations).
2. In order to become a member of the Hub, each entity shall sign the membership form (Annex 1) confirming the full acceptance of the provisions described in the present charter and be up-to-date with its membership fee, when applicable.
3. Each year, members of the Hub shall simply confirm their membership by replying to an email from the Hub manager.
4. Members are approved by the COPIL. There shall be no justification nor compensation for refusal.
5. Each member of the Hub is represented by a single Point of Contact (PoC), appointed by a duly authorised representative of the entity, in charge of the global coordination for Hub matters within his/her company.
6. The PoC of the member of the Hub mentioned at sub-paragraph 5 above is in charge of representing his/her entity during the General Assembly.
7. The PoC of the member of the Hub shall take care of the coordination of all the activities his/her entity agreed to be a part of.

Exclusion

The COPIL has the right to exclude a member of the Hub who would not respect the provisions of the present charter, in particular in case of breach article 7 below, inactivity (clear lack of participation to the Hub activities), political or internal programmatic intentions, infringement to safety and security rules and more generally to the internal regulation of the Hub's location.

ARTICLE 7 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) AND CONFIDENTIALITY

1. There shall be no IPR transfer within the Hub. Each member retains ownership of its IPR.
2. The information provided in the framework of the Hub general activities are freely shared between all members of the Hub.
3. The information exchanged in the framework of the Hub (including data, pictures, deliverables, or any other information in any form) shall not be disclosed outside of the Hub and its members, unless it has already come into the public domain or otherwise agreed between the members of the Hub.
4. During work activities, the related information may only be shared among members of the Hub involved in the relevant activity, unless decided otherwise by the participating members.

ARTICLE 8 – PARTICIPATION, RESOURCES & FINANCES

Participation

1. The members of the Hub will keep the Hub informed of their relevant activities related to space transportation (such as courses on space transportation, theses, conferences and presentations) which could potentially be open to members of the Hub.
2. The members of the Hub will actively participate in, and contribute to, the different activities, workshops and research relevant to their areas of expertise.

3. The members of the Hub having agreed to participate into a working group shall actively take part in the various planned working sessions and activities or shall explicitly request to be withdrawn from it.
4. In case a member of the Hub decides not to participate anymore in activities or wishes to withdraw its membership from the Hub, the PoC of the member of the Hub will inform the Hub Manager in writing.

Resources and Finances

The Hub will benefit from:

1. ESA and CNES will equally contribute to the general expenses of the functioning of the Hub;
2. The members of the Hub may be called upon to provide other forms of resources (on a strict voluntary basis only) for some activities of the Hub. Such specific activities may include the visits to relevant facilities, organisation of external conferences, or workshops;
3. The costs generated by the activities of the Hub and occasional travel shall be born by the members of the Hub;
4. ESA and CNES reserve the right to request an annual Hub membership fee (identical for all members) in order to participate to the expenses generated by the various events and activities proposed throughout the year. Such fee, if applicable, is presented by the COPIL during the General Assembly before being implemented as of the following year. The annual membership fee (whenever applicable) is calculated based on the activities presented to and agreed by the General Assembly for the following year.

ARTICLE 9 – AMENDMENTS

1. The present charter may be amended at any time by approval of the COPIL. In case of amendment, all Hub Members's POCs shall be informed in writing.
2. Whenever the charter is amended, it automatically applies to all members of the Hub as of the date at which they are informed. In case any member of the Hub should disagree with the amended charter, they can at any time decide to withdraw their membership in accordance with article 8 paragraph 4 above.

ARTICLE 10 – RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPLICABLE LAWS

1. The activities carried out by the members of the Hub are entirely under their legal responsibility.
2. Neither ESA nor CNES will be held responsible for any infringement, damage or other caused by the members of the Hub.
3. Members of the Hub must comply with the health, safety and security rules applicable in the premises made available at the Hub's location.
4. Neither the participation in Hub activities, nor the regular presence on the Hub premises, can be interpreted as a contractual link with ESA and/or CNES.
5. The present charter and its activities are, without prejudice to the privileged status of ESA, governed by French law.

ARTICLE 11 – DISPUTES

All disputes arising out of, or in connection with, the present charter shall be settled amicably by the COPIL in the first instance.

Any disputes between Members of the Hub against ESA and/or CNES as founders of the Hub arising out of the present charter which cannot be settled amicably by the COPIL are settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce by one or more arbitrators appointed in accordance with the said Rules. The arbitration shall take place in Paris, in the English language.

ARTICLE 12 – FINAL PROVISIONS

The charter will come into effect on the date of the last signature by ESA and CNES.

The charter may be terminated at any time for any reason by either ESA or CNES by giving 6 months' notice in writing. CNES and ESA will mutually agree on the consequences of such termination.

In case of termination, if applicable, the fees paid by the members of the Hub will be reimbursed on a prorata temporis basis.

Done in Paris on 03 December 2025,

For CNES (Director in charge of Space Transportation)

Carine LEVEAU

For ESA (Director of Space Transportation)

Toni TOLKER-NIELSEN

ANNEX 1 – MEMBERSHIP FORM

[company / entity name] represented by Mr / Mrs [name], requests to become a member of the European Space Transportation Hub and **commits to abiding by all provisions of the Charter of the European Space Transportation HUB, as they may evolve over time.**

I hereby appoint Mr / Mrs [name] to be the official Point of Contact (PoC) for my company / entity.

I hereby commit the appointed PoC to **actively participate in the general HUB activities and be responsible for the internal coordination** regarding activities my company / entity will decide to be a part of.

I also agree to provide the logo of my company / entity and authorise the Hub to display it for Hub's purposes.

I hereby commit to respect the rules and regulations applicable at the Hub's location detailed in Annex 3.

Done in [country / city] on [date]

For [company / entity name]

[Signature]

ANNEX 2 – NEW HUB MEMBER APPLICATION PRESENTATION



New HUB member
application.pptx

ANNEX 3 – LOCATION OF THE HUB

The Hub is presently situated at the 7th floor of the Carré Daumesnil, 52 rue Jacques Hillairet 75012 Paris.

Physical Access

Subject to all authorisations that should be required to have access to the Hub, the physical access is governed by the following provisions:

1. Each PoC will be granted a dedicated access badge which shall always be collected from and left at the building reception upon leaving the building. Such badge will be handed over upon positive identification through an official ID document (passport or national ID card).
2. The badge has a one (1) calendar year validity. It shall be renewed annually as long as the entity of the requestor remains member of the Hub.
3. There shall be a safety & security briefing when the badge is handed over for the first time.
4. The badge will only grant access to the 7th floor of the Carré Daumesnil building (from 7:00 to 20:00, five (5) days per week as long as the building is opened). If members of the Hub need to visit some ESA or CNES personnel located at other floors of the building, they shall go through the normal visitors' procedures and be accompanied by their host(s).
5. If other member of the Hub's representatives need to go to the 7th floor, they shall do so as normal visitors, accompanied by their PoC, after having announced themselves to the Hub's Coordinator.
6. There is no dedicated parking slot at Carré Daumesnil.
7. Member of the Hub are kindly requested NOT to leave any personal belongings within the building. ESA and CNES decline any responsibility in case of theft or loss.

Meeting rooms booking

1. Meeting room bookings shall be done between the member of the Hub's PoC and the Hub Coordinator, exclusively within the framework of Hub's activities.
2. The Hub Coordinator may refuse a booking if the request conflicts with priority or critical activities and / or in case of meeting rooms unavailability.
3. Each booking shall be respected and any cancellation or change request shall be notified as soon as practicable to the Hub's Coordinator.

Building's restaurant access

Members of the Hub have access to the restaurant facilities (at visitors' rate meaning they shall pay an additional admission fee) whenever Hub activities are taking place in the building.