

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Objective of Spark Funding

ESA Spark Funding is aimed at SMEs or any entities who want to innovate and gain a competitive advantage by integrating “spin-out” space technology into their existing product lines, or to create entirely new products/services. Alternatively, it targets SMEs or entities that wish to introduce an innovation to the space industry using a “spin-in” technology originally developed for another industry or application.

2. Who is eligible to apply

The applicant shall be a legal entity registered under Spanish law, with headquarters in Spain.
It shall be fully compliant with Spanish tax and social security obligations.
Full list of requirements are listed in the application documents.

3. When you can apply

Typically, there will be 2 cut-off dates per year.
Next available date is published in the [ESA Technology Broker Spain web page](#).

4. Application Language

Application template filled with your proposal shall be delivered in English.
The presentation of your proposal to the Tender Evaluation Board will be held in English too.

5. Live presentation of the proposal

If your application is successful at the Tender Opening Board (administrative compliance), you will be requested to present your proposal to the Tender Evaluation Board. This presentation may be followed by a Q&A session.

6. Spark Funding Framework

There is no incompatibility with other programs or contracts with the ESA or National program.

7. Is subcontracting allowed in Spark Funding ?

Yes, subcontracting in Spark Funding is allowed.

8. Letters of recommendation

Having engagement, or indication that you have potential users is always valued.

9. Project Extension

Although we hope that everything will be as nominal as possible, it would be feasible to ask for a change later, if sufficiently justified.

We understand anyway that you would try to choose milestones that do not depend on external agents, but on what the team members can do.

10. Direct support during preparation of your application

If you require further clarifications during the preparation of your proposal, you can connect to webinars or keep in touch with us at esa-technology-broker@arrib.es.

11. Use of spatial Data

In the case of Spin-Off projects, Spark Funding is designed to support the transference of space technologies into non-space sectors. This means that the funding focuses on technologies (hardware or software) originally created for space applications that can be adapted for its use in other industries. Here are some examples and clarifications:

- **Allowed Transference:**
 - If you have a technology mounted on a satellite for a specific purpose, and you believe it can be useful for applications like maritime navigation, Spark Funding can support its adaptation and piloting.
 - If you have developed software to process space images and want to use it for processing images from non-space sectors, this qualifies as a transfer.
- **Not Allowed Transference:**
 - Simply using space data (such as satellite imagery or GNSS signal) in non-space applications is not considered a transfer of technology.

For projects that focus on the use of space data, other ESA programs, such as the Phi-Lab NET, might be more suitable and are worth exploring.

12. Feasibility study

In the proposal for Phase I, sufficient information must be provided to allow assessing the viability of the project. Therefore, a feasibility study of the technology is not part of the work in Phase I.

13. Prototype

It is a prerequisite to have a prototype for the Phase II application. It is necessary that the prototype be ready on the date of submitting the proposal. The submitted proposal shall include information on the capabilities demonstrated by that prototype.

14. Level of Co-funding when including a Research Institution or University

The level of co-funding of a project is dependent on the Applicant. There is only one applicant per project (the leader of the activity).

Example:

If an SME applies for an Spark Funding project for a total of 93,750€, the total ESA co-funding is 75,000€. The difference shall be co-funded by the Applicant.