HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Ministry of Digital Governance & AI

Hellenic Space Center

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Experiments, Technology Demonstrations, Educational and Outreach Activities

for Potential Future Utilisation of the International Space Station (ISS)

Reference	National RFI / Call for Expressions of Interest — ISS Utilisation
Issuing body	Ministry of Digital Governance & AI
Status	Request for Information / Call for Expressions of Interest — non-procurement, non-binding, exploratory
Submission deadline	**26 July 2026**
Contact	RFI_ISSexp@mindigital.gr
Confidentiality	Submissions treated as confidential within the framework of this Call

Disclaimer *This document is a Request for Information / Call for Expressions of Interest. It is exploratory, preparatory and non-binding. It does not constitute a procurement, a grant award, a payload selection process, a funding commitment, a flight opportunity, an astronaut tasking or any other implementation commitment by the Ministry of Digital Governance, by any commercial provider or by any other party. MODG reserves the right to amend, suspend, extend or withdraw this Call at any time, without obligation to applicants.*

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Executive Summary

The Ministry of Digital Governance & AI (MODG), acting through the General Secretariat of Telecommunications and Post of the Hellenic Republic and Hellenic Space Center (HSC), is launching a national Call for Expressions of Interest to identify and map Greek scientific, technological, industrial, educational and outreach capabilities relevant to potential future utilisation of the International Space Station (ISS).

Greece participates as a Member State of the European Space Agency (ESA) in a broad range of activities related to Human and Robotic Exploration, including the ISS, microgravity research, astronaut activities and future exploration initiatives. In this context, and in view of ongoing discussions and preparations related to potential future participation in ISS utilisation activities, the Ministry of Digital Governance is opening this Call to stimulate the Greek ecosystem, identify high-readiness concepts and support national readiness for possible future ISS-related opportunities, in coordination with ESA.

This Call does not constitute a commitment or guarantee of flight opportunities, astronaut missions, payload selection, funding, procurement, launch, certification, integration, astronaut time or any other implementation pathway. It aims to identify realistic, impactful and operationally credible concepts that could potentially mature into future ISS utilisation activities.

Submissions are invited by **26 July 2026**, 23:59 Athens local time (EEST), to RFI_ISSexp@mindigital.gr.

1. Strategic Context & National Space Vision

1.1 National Space Positioning

Greece is a full Member State of the European Space Agency and an active participant in EU space programmes. National space activity is increasingly framed as a strategic domain that contributes to scientific excellence, technological sovereignty, industrial competitiveness, security, resilience, environmental sustainability and the digital transformation of the public sector.

1.2 Why this Call, and why now

The International Space Station is approaching the final phase of its operational lifetime. This creates a narrow but critical window in which Greece can identify, prepare and potentially advance national concepts that benefit from the microgravity environment, a unique vantage point of low Earth orbit (LEO) activities and the operational characteristics of a crewed orbital platform. In parallel, ESA's Human and Robotic Exploration strategy under the Terrae Novae framework continues to articulate ambitions in LEO, on the Moon and on Mars, with explicit objectives in science, economic and technological return, international cooperation and public inspiration, and with an explicit ambition to enlarge the ecosystem including commercial partners.

The transition from the ISS towards other future commercial LEO destinations, ESA exploration missions and broader European space ambitions makes it strategically necessary for Greece to:

- Map national capabilities relevant to crewed and uncrewed orbital utilisation.
- Identify high-readiness concepts that could realistically be matured within a short timeline.
- Strengthen Greek consortia, including universities, research institutes, public organisations, startups, SMEs, established industry, non-profit organisations and interdisciplinary teams.
- Build a credible pipeline of activities and partners for near-future ISS-related opportunities and for the wider Terrae Novae and post-ISS LEO landscape, and inspire and engage the Greek public and STEM community through education and public-outreach (E/PO) activities.

1.3 Alignment with ESA and EU Priorities

This Call is positioned within and aligned with:

- **ESA's Human and Robotic Exploration, Explore2040 and Terrae Novae**, including ISS utilisation, microgravity research, exploration-enabling technology demonstrations and education activities.
- **EU space policy priorities**, including safety, resilience, sustainability, cybersecurity, strategic autonomy, competitiveness and proportional support for startups and SMEs, in the spirit of the emerging EU Space Act and the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defense, exclusively within civil, dual-use-aware and compliance-respecting framings.
- **National priorities** for digital transformation, scientific excellence, industrial development, maritime and island resilience, environmental monitoring and high-skilled employment.

1.4 Nature of this Call

This Call is preparatory, exploratory and non-binding. It is not a procurement, a grant award scheme, a payload selection process or a guarantee of any flight, certification, integration or funding pathway. It is an instrument for national capability mapping and ecosystem structuring, the outputs of which will inform internal prioritisation by MODG and possible follow-up discussions with ESA and other partners. At the same time, this Call is intended as the first step of a concrete pathway: concepts assessed as highest-ranked may be invited to a follow-on stage of clarification, feasibility refinement and possible co-development, in coordination with ESA and partners. Any decision on development, integration or flight support would be taken separately and is not committed by this Call.

2. Scope of Interest

2.1 Overall Scope

This Call invites Expressions of Interest for experiments, technology demonstrations, educational activities, outreach activities and operational concepts that could potentially be suitable for a short-duration ISS-related opportunity, with a targeting assumption of an approximately two-week mission.

Proposals may be scientific, technological, industrial, educational, outreach-oriented or interdisciplinary. The scope is intentionally open but curated: concepts must be credibly relevant to ISS, microgravity, low Earth orbit, Earth observation from ISS or LEO, or future exploration pathways, and must be realistic within the operational constraints described in Section 4.

Out of scope. The following are not sought under this Call and will not be assessed: concepts with no credible link to the ISS, microgravity, low Earth orbit or future exploration; activities whose mass, volume, power or crew-time needs are well beyond the indicative constraints in Section 4; classified, weapons-related or operational military activities; and concepts that cannot plausibly mature within the indicative timeline. Educational or outreach proposals submitted here cannot consist only of a call with the ISS crew but must contain specific scientific demonstration purposes or equipment.

2.2 Thematic Domains

Applicants are invited to position their concept within one or more of the following thematic domains.

2.2.1 Space Systems & Platforms

- Compact experiment platforms and modular payloads.
- Subsystems, sensors, onboard electronics, avionics.
- Operational tools for crewed and remote operations.

2.2.2 Earth Observation & Data Services

- Earth observation and remote sensing from the ISS or LEO.
- Environmental monitoring, climate, atmospheric and oceanographic observations.
- Maritime and island applications, coastal monitoring, vessel and traffic awareness within civil frameworks.
- Disaster resilience, civil protection and emergency response support.
- Data analytics, data fusion, AI-based interpretation and downstream services.

2.2.3 Telecommunications & Secure Connectivity

- Communications concepts including optical, RF and resilient links.
- Secure connectivity and sovereign-by-design service layers, within civil and compliance frames.
- Onboard and edge communications, software-defined networking concepts.
- Maritime, island and remote-operations connectivity.
- Hybrid space-terrestrial digital services.

2.2.4 Science & Exploration

- Biology and biotechnology.
- Space plasma physics.
- Human physiology, neuroscience and space medicine.
- Radiation environment monitoring and dosimetry.

- Materials science.
- Fundamental physics.
- Chemistry.
- Astrobiology.
- Sustainability and environmental research.
- Exploration-enabling science relevant to future LEO, lunar and Mars activities.

2.2.5 Emerging Technologies

- Quantum technologies, including quantum sensing and quantum-secure communication concepts.
- Artificial intelligence and edge computing in orbit.
- Autonomy, robotics, advanced sensors and human-machine interaction.
- Propulsion-relevant materials, advanced manufacturing and novel materials.
- Telemedicine, VR / AR and onboard digital tools.
- Remote-operations technologies, maritime technology, island technology and resilient digital services.

2.2.6 Educational, Outreach, Cultural and Symbolic Activities

- STEAM education initiatives.
- University and student-led projects.
- Microgravity demonstrations with educational value.
- Science communication and public-engagement concepts.
- Cultural, artistic or symbolic activities that strengthen Greek public understanding of and connection to space.

3. Types of Expected Contributions

MODG is seeking concrete, actionable contributions, not generic ideas. Expressions of Interest may take one or more of the following forms. Applicants should address only those elements that are relevant to the nature of their proposal.

3.1 Concept Proposals

Early-stage but realistic mission, experiment, demonstration, outreach or operational concepts, with sufficient definition to allow feasibility assessment, and credibly maturable within the timeline of Section 4 and, where hardware is involved, the TRL range of Section 3.2.

3.2 Technology Demonstrators

Technology demonstrators in the range TRL 5 to TRL 7 are particularly welcome:

- **TRL 5** is set as the minimum: demonstrators should already have heritage, flight-qualification progress, or validation in a relevant environment.
- **TRL 5–7** concepts with heritage, flight qualification progress or relevant-environment validation are strongly encouraged.
- Heritage hardware, flight-proven subsystems, COTS-enabled designs and rapidly maturable concepts are preferred.

3.3 Service-Oriented Proposals

Service concepts that exploit ISS or LEO capabilities, including:

- Earth observation, data and analytics services.
- Operational services for the public sector, maritime, island, environmental, civil-protection and digital domains.
- Education and outreach services.
- Commercial or institutional service models, including demonstration-as-a-service approaches.

3.4 Educational and Capacity-Building Activities

Student-led or institution-led STEM activities, microgravity demonstrations, training initiatives, public-engagement projects and capacity-building programmes that contribute to a long-term Greek space talent pipeline.

3.5 Expected Outputs

Expected outputs from a mature contribution may include:

- A demonstrator.
- A prototype.
- An in-orbit experiment.
- A service prototype.
- An educational or outreach activity.
- An operational concept.
- An industrial contribution plan.

Appendix-style categories may include a scientific proposal, an industrial contribution plan and a consortium composition document.

4. Technical & Programmatic Requirements

4.1 Operating Assumptions

Concepts should be designed around the following assumptions:

- Targeting assumption of approximately a 2-week mission duration.
- A compressed 6–9 month implementation and maturation timeline, reflecting the short remaining operational horizon of the ISS and the need for rapid readiness.
- Preference for high-TRL, flight-heritage, COTS-enabled, simple, compact, low-risk, autonomous or semi-autonomous concepts (little or no burden to crew time).

4.2 ISS and Provider Constraints

Potential future ISS activities would need to comply with ESA, NASA, ISS and commercial provider operational and safety requirements. For the purposes of this Call, applicants are requested to design concepts assuming the current indicative planning constraints summarised in the table below. These assumptions may evolve depending on the eventual implementation pathway.

Constraint	Indicative value / assumption
Mission duration	Approximately 2 weeks
Implementation timeline	Compressed 6–9 month maturation horizon
Crew interaction	Limited; minimisation of crew burden preferred
Mass	≤ 5 kg maximum (lower strongly preferred)
Volume	Packed dimensions <23 cm preferred; one dimension only can be up to 41.5 cm max
Upmass / downmass	Limited; return of equipment post-data collection may be delayed
Temperature-conditioned transport	Not available for upload or download
Safety & certification	Strict; ESA / NASA / ISS / commercial provider rules apply (see Annex B)
Integration timelines	Long; high-readiness preferred
Preferred concept profile	Simple, compact, autonomous, high-readiness
Astronaut (crew) research subjects	1 subject assumed for planning purposes only; additional subjects may be requested as a nice-to-have

4.3 Technical Information Requested from Applicants

Each Expression of Interest should provide, to the extent currently available, the technical data necessary to assess feasibility — these and further details are captured in the ESA ARD template (Annex C), which applicants are required to complete — including:

- Mass.
- Volume and packed dimensions, including largest single dimension.
- Power needs (peak and average).
- Crew interaction time and expected crew involvement.
- Upload and download requirements, including any need for temperature-conditioned transport.
- Data requirements (onboard storage, telemetry, downlink, processing).
- Autonomy level and operational concept.
- Safety considerations and certification implications.
- Heritage and prior testing.

4.4 Indicative ISS Access Routes and Interfaces

The following are mentioned only as feasibility references and illustrative examples, not as commitments by MODG or by any specific provider. Reference documents for these facilities are listed in Annex B, and detailed interface requirements are captured in the ESA ARD template (Annex C). Externally-mounted (ISS-external) payloads are unlikely to be accommodated; if proposed, applicants must provide interface specifications and refer to Section 7.4 of the ESA ARD. The following are indicative:

- ESA / ISS utilisation routes for ESA Member State researchers.

- ICE Cubes-style compact experiment formats, including small modular cube formats.
- NanoRacks / commercial provider services, including NanoLab-class internal payload classes.
- Bishop airlock or external-payload routes where appropriate.
- EXPRESS rack and other internal rack interfaces where appropriate.
- Other ESA, NASA and commercial-provider mechanisms.

> **Important**
>
> MODG has not secured any particular ISS facility, provider, rack, launch slot, astronaut time, human-subject cohort or integration pathway. References to specific facilities are provided solely to help applicants size their concept realistically.

4.5 Sustainability, Reusability and Operational Quality

Concepts should emphasise:

- Sustainability and reuse of hardware, infrastructure, data and methods.
- Minimisation of crew burden and operational complexity.
- Safe operations and compatibility with ISS and provider safety and operational rules.
- Reliable data return and clear post-mission data exploitation.
- Lifecycle considerations, including ground operations, integration, mission operations and end-of-life.

5. Ecosystem & Industrial Structuring

5.1 Eligible Applicants

The Call is open to:

- Universities.
- Research institutes.
- Public organisations.
- Startups.
- SMEs.
- Established industry.
- Non-profit organisations.
- Interdisciplinary teams.

MODG strongly encourages Greek-led teams. Submissions from individual entities and from consortia are both welcome.

5.2 Consortium Structure

Where the concept involves more than one organisation, the Expression of Interest should describe:

- The Principal Investigator and lead national organization/ company.
- Partner organisations/ companies and their roles.

- Value-chain positioning across upstream (hardware, systems), midstream (integration, operations) and downstream (services, data exploitation) activities.
- Academic, research and industrial contributions.
- Operational responsibilities.

5.3 SME and Startup Inclusion

Particular attention is given to the inclusion of SMEs and startups, including opportunities in:

- Scientific contribution
- COTS adaptation and qualification for space environments.
- Payload services and integration support.
- Software, AI, data analytics and onboard digital tools.
- Education technology and outreach services.
- Downstream services and data exploitation.

5.4 Greek Connection Clause for Non-Greek Applicants

Non-Greek applicants can also be considered to submit an Expression of Interest provided they can demonstrate a significant connection to Greece. The existing collaboration with Greek actors, or a credible intention to establish one promptly, must be explicitly stated in the Expression of Interest.

5.5 Ecosystem Objective

This Call is positioned as a national capability-mapping and ecosystem-structuring instrument, not only an experiment-collection exercise. Outputs are expected to inform Greek consortium formation, MODG internal prioritisation and the strategic positioning of Greek actors within ESA and EU programmes.

6. Economic & Commercial Potential

6.1 Market Relevance

Applicants are encouraged to articulate the market and institutional relevance of their concept, including:

- Potential commercial applications.
- Institutional demand, including public-sector and government anchor use cases.
- Technology spin-in and spin-out potential.
- Export potential within EU, ESA and international markets.

6.2 Business Model Hypotheses

Where applicable, applicants may outline business model hypotheses, including:

- Product-based models.
- Service-based models (EO, data, connectivity, education, demonstration-as-a-service).
- Data and licensing models.
- Platform-based models, such as infrastructure-as-a-service in space.
- Public-sector adoption and industrial supply-chain positioning.

6.3 Investment Leverage and Funding Alignment

Concepts may indicate:

- Potential to attract private capital.
- Alignment with ESA optional programmes, EU funds and national instruments.
- Scalability and follow-on funding pathways.
- Co-investment potential with industry, foundations or international partners.

MODG does not commit to any funding amount, mechanism or instrument under this Call.

6.4 Broader Value for Scientific and Educational Concepts

For scientific, educational and outreach concepts, economic potential should be interpreted broadly, including:

- Knowledge generation and scientific impact.
- Skills development and talent pipeline.
- Institutional capacity-building.
- Societal value, public engagement and inspiration.
- International visibility for Greek research and education.

7. Evaluation Principles

7.1 Nature of the Assessment

The assessment under this Call is not a procurement evaluation and does not create any right to funding, selection, flight, certification, payload integration, negotiation or award. The assessment is conducted on an expert-judgment basis, drawing on technical, scientific, programmatic and strategic considerations.

7.2 Core Evaluation Criteria

In selecting concepts to take forward, MODG intends to favour a balanced portfolio across science, technology, education and outreach. Expressions of Interest may be assessed against the following criteria:

- Scientific and/or technological value.
- Societal and educational impact.
- Innovation potential.
- Feasibility and maturity.
- Compatibility with ISS operational constraints.
- Potential contribution to the Greek space ecosystem.
- Strength of Greek participation and collaboration.

7.3 MODG Expert-Judgment Principles

In addition to the core criteria, the following expert-judgment principles will inform the assessment:

- Strategic relevance to national priorities and ESA / EU alignment.
- Technical credibility and engineering readiness.
- Innovation level and differentiation.

- Ecosystem and industrial structuring effect, including SME and startup involvement and knowledge transfer.
- Implementation realism within the accelerated 6–9 month context.
- Potential for maturation, demonstration or co-development after the RFI.

7.4 Evaluation Process & Governance

Following the closing date, Expressions of Interest will be assessed in two indicative phases by MODG and the Hellenic Space Center, supported where appropriate by independent experts:

- Phase 1 — Eligibility and completeness screening, confirming that the submission is complete, in scope and consistent with the format and content requirements of Section 10.
- Phase 2 — Substantive expert assessment against the criteria in Sections 7.2 and 7.3, drawing on technical, scientific, programmatic and strategic expertise.

The assessment is conducted on a confidential, expert-judgment basis. Evaluators are bound by confidentiality and conflict-of-interest rules; any evaluator with a personal, financial or institutional interest in a submission will be excluded from its assessment.

MODG may, at its sole discretion, request written clarifications, hold interviews or invite short presentations. Applicants may receive high-level, non-binding feedback, but MODG is not obliged to provide individual scores, rankings or detailed justifications. As set out in Section 7.1, the assessment confers no right to funding, selection, flight, integration, negotiation or award.

8. Post-RFI Pathway

8.1 Internal Capability Mapping and Prioritisation

The outputs of this Call will support:

- National capability mapping in experiments, technology demonstrations, education and outreach relevant to ISS utilisation and the wider LEO and exploration landscape.
- Identification of strategic gaps and opportunities for the Greek ecosystem.

8.2 Maturation Pathways

Without creating commitments, possible maturation pathways may include:

- Follow-up clarification and refinement discussions with applicants.
- Feasibility reviews, payload miniaturisation studies, safety pre-assessments and operational-concept refinement.
- Formation or strengthening of Greek consortia.
- Coordination with ESA programmes and other partners.

8.3 Demonstration Opportunities

Demonstration opportunities that may be considered include:

- ISS utilisation in coordination with ESA and ISS partners.
- Future commercial LEO destinations and ESA exploration pathways.
- Analogue environments, parabolic flights and suborbital opportunities.
- Ground-based demonstrations.

8.4 Funding and Co-Development Routes

Possible funding and co-development routes that may be explored, without commitment, include:

- National support instruments under MODG and related authorities.
- ESA optional programmes.
- EU funding instruments aligned with the EU Space Programme and related initiatives.
- Public-private partnerships and industrial co-development.

No funding amounts, budgets, dates, mechanisms or instruments are committed under this Call.

9. Governance & Intellectual Property

9.1 Intellectual Property Principles

- Applicants retain ownership of their background intellectual property unless otherwise agreed in a future separate instrument.
- Submission of an Expression of Interest under this Call does not transfer any intellectual property rights to MODG or to the Hellenic Space Center.

Applicants should identify in their submission, where relevant:

- Foreground IP envisaged from the proposed activity.
- Background IP necessary to execute the activity.
- Data rights and publication constraints.
- Proprietary information.
- Third-party rights and obligations.

9.2 Data Policy

The Expression of Interest should outline, where applicable:

- Experiment and operational data handling.
- Personal and human-subject data, including ethical and regulatory considerations.
- Educational and public data.
- Open-data intentions and any restrictions.
- Sovereign and security-sensitive data considerations.

Processing of applicants' personal data. Personal data contained in submissions (such as the names and contact details of the Principal Investigator and team members) will be processed by MODG and the Hellenic Space Center solely for the administration, assessment and follow-up of this Call, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and applicable national law. Such data will be retained only for as long as necessary for these purposes, and data subjects may exercise their rights of access, rectification and erasure by contacting RFI_ISSexp@mindigital.gr .

9.3 Confidentiality

> **Confidentiality clause**
>
> Information submitted in response to this Call will be treated by MODG as confidential to the extent permitted by applicable law and will be used for the purposes of capability mapping, assessment, prioritisation and potential follow-up discussions. Applicants should clearly mark any proprietary, commercially sensitive, personal-data, security-sensitive or export-controlled information.

Submitted material will not be publicly disclosed without prior authorisation from the proposing entity.

9.4 Security, Compliance and Dual-Use Considerations

Applicants are expected to take into account, as applicable:

- ISS and provider safety rules, ESA, NASA and commercial-provider requirements.
- EU and national law, including GDPR.
- Cybersecurity requirements.
- Export control, sanctions and dual-use regulations.
- Ethical approval and human-subject protection.
- Biological safety and biosafety requirements.
- Environmental and sustainability considerations.
- Procurement-law neutrality of this Call.

Where a concept has dual-use relevance, this should be acknowledged transparently and treated only within civil, resilience, secure-connectivity, strategic-autonomy, maritime / island / emergency-application framings, with full compliance with applicable dual-use and export-control rules. This Call does not constitute a defense procurement and does not authorize classified work or operational military use.

10. Submission Structure

10.1 Format and Length

Each Expression of Interest should be submitted as a concise, structured document, with a concept description of approximately 2–3 pages and a total maximum length of 15 pages (excluding the completed ESA ARD template, Annex C). The working language of this Call is English; **submissions should therefore be in English**. An optional Greek-language summary of up to one page may be included in addition to, but not in place of, the English text.

10.2 Mandatory Contents

Each Expression of Interest must include:

- **Title** of the proposed activity.
- **Organisation(s) and team members.**
- **Principal Investigator / Lead contact**, with affiliation and contact details.
- **Concept description** (approximately 2–3 pages).
- **Objectives and expected impact.**
- **Rationale for the space, microgravity, ISS or LEO environment**, explaining why the activity benefits from such an environment.
- **Current maturity / readiness level**, including TRL justification where applicable.
- **Heritage and prior testing**, if any.
- **Technical requirements**, including:
  - Mass.
  - Volume and dimensions when packed, including largest single dimension.

  - Power.
  - Crew time and expected crew interaction.
  - Upload and download requirements.
  - Temperature sensitivity, including whether temperature-conditioned upload or download would be required.
  - Data requirements.
  - Safety and certification considerations.

- **Estimated budget** for equipment acquisition, set-up, data analysis and related activities, excluding certification, integration and launch costs.
- **Existing or potential funding sources.**
- **Indicative implementation timeline**, compatible with a 6–9 month maturation horizon where applicable.
- **Consortium description and Greek participation**, including roles, contributions and the nature of the Greek connection for non-Greek-led submissions.
- **Expected output**, e.g. demonstrator, prototype, in-orbit experiment, service prototype, educational or outreach activity, operational concept or other concrete output.

10.3 Submission Instructions

- Expressions of Interest should be submitted in PDF format by email to RFI_ISSexp@mindigital.gr
- The subject line should read: **"ISS RFI 2026 — [Title of the proposed activity]"**.
- Applicants are encouraged to use clear, structured headings aligned with the mandatory contents above.

10.4 Submission Deadline

> **Deadline**
>
> **26 July 2026**
>
> Submissions received after the deadline may not be considered.

10.5 Indicative Timetable

The following timetable is indicative and provided for planning only. All dates other than the submission deadline may change; MODG will communicate any changes through the same channels used to issue this Call.

Milestone	Indicative date
Publication of this Call	30 June 2026
Deadline for written questions from applicants	16 July 2026
Publication of consolidated answers (FAQ)	20 July 2026

Submission deadline	**26 July 2026, 23:59 EEST**
Indicative completion of assessment	by 15 September 2026

10.6 Questions, Clarifications and Information Day

Questions concerning this Call may be submitted in writing to RFI_ISSexp@mindigital.gr, with the subject line "ISS RFI 2026 — Question", no later than 16 July 2026. To ensure the equal treatment of all applicants, MODG intends to publish consolidated, anonymised answers (a Frequently Asked Questions note) through the same channels used to issue this Call, and may, at its discretion, hold an online information session for prospective applicants. Only written information published by MODG is authoritative; no informal or oral statement shall bind MODG.

Closing Block

Submission Summary

- **Format:** PDF document, structured according to Section 10.
- **Concept description:** approximately 2–3 pages.
- **Maximum total length:** 15 pages (excluding the completed ESA ARD template, Annex C).
- **Language:** English (working language); an optional Greek-language summary may be added.
- **Submission channel:** RFI_ISSexp@mindigital.gr
- **Subject line:** "ISS RFI 2026 — [Title of the proposed activity]".
- **Deadline: 26 July 2026.**

Contact

Ministry of Digital Governance — Hellenic Space Center

Email: RFI_ISSexp@mindigital.gr

Confidentiality

Confidentiality terms are set out in full in Section 9.3 and are not repeated here.

Disclaimer

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Annex A — Definitions and Acronyms

The following definitions apply throughout this Call.

- **AO** — Announcement of Opportunity; the formal solicitation mechanism used by space agencies to invite research or payload proposals.
- **COTS** — Commercial off-the-shelf hardware or components.
- **EEST** — Eastern European Summer Time; the Athens local time zone (UTC+3) applicable on the submission deadline.
- **EO** — Earth observation.
- **EoI** — Expression of Interest; a non-binding submission made in response to this Call.
- **ESA** — European Space Agency.
- **GDPR** — General Data Protection Regulation, Regulation (EU) 2016/679.
- **HSC** — Hellenic Space Center.
- **ISS** — International Space Station.
- **LEO** — Low Earth orbit.
- **Microgravity** — the near-weightless condition of continuous free fall on the ISS that enables phenomena not observable under normal Earth gravity.
- **MODG** — Ministry of Digital Governance.
- **PI** — Principal Investigator; the lead individual responsible for a proposed activity.
- **RFI** — Request for Information.
- **SME** — Small or medium-sized enterprise.
- **Terrae Novae** — ESA's Human and Robotic Exploration programme spanning low Earth orbit, the Moon and Mars.
- **TRL** — Technology Readiness Level; a 1–9 maturity scale (see ISO 16290 and the EU / Horizon Europe definitions). TRL 4 denotes component or breadboard validation in a laboratory environment.
- **USOC** — User Support and Operations Centre; ESA-designated centres that support ISS payload operations (for example CADMOS in France).

Annex B — Reference Documents

The following documents are listed for reference and context. They are not exhaustive, and exact applicable versions and provider-specific requirements would be confirmed at a later stage.

- ESA, Terrae Novae 2030+ — strategy for ESA's Human and Robotic Exploration programme; see also the ESA Explore2040 exploration strategy.
- ESA SciSpacE roadmaps and Research Announcements (scispace.esa.int).
- Applicable ESA / NASA ISS payload safety and interface requirements (SSP-series documentation), as flowed down by the relevant flight provider.
- ICE Cubes Service — Columbus internal experiment-cube documentation and user guide.

- Commercial provider payload user guides (for example Nanoracks / Voyager external and internal payload services, Bishop airlock, EXPRESS rack).
- Regulation (EU) 2021/821 — Union regime for the control of exports of dual-use items.
- Regulation (EU) 2016/679 — General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Regulation (EU) 2021/696 — establishing the Union Space Programme and the EU Agency for the Space Programme.
- ISO 16290:2013 — Space systems — Definition of the Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) and their criteria of assessment.

Annex C — ESA ARD template

The ESA Activity Requirements Document (ARD) template — Type 1B (ref. ESA-HRE-R-TPL-0007) — is provided as a mandatory accompanying file to this Call. Applicants are required to complete and submit it together with their Expression of Interest. The ARD captures the detailed technical, operational, schedule, human-research and data requirements of the proposed activity; completing it at this stage saves critical time in any subsequent ESA-coordinated implementation stage. Where a value is not yet known, applicants should mark it TBD/TBC.