

## Space2Connect Conference 2023 Awards – Italy boosting Space Innovation

Space2Connect Conference 2023 Awards aim at boosting competitiveness and innovation, recognising Excellence in the Space field for Industry belonging to the conference's hosting Nation.

Two awards will be announced on Friday 9th June 2023, consisting in ASI granting two Letters of Support via the European Space Agency programmes' ARTES Core Competitiveness Agile and Business Applications Feasibility Study.

This represents an opportunity for organisations to gain valuable support for their highly innovative projects. Any consortium composed by Italian small, medium, or large enterprises is eligible to apply for the Space2Connect Conference Awards.

Interested Italian Industries can participate by submitting a proposal related to **ARTES Core Competitiveness Agile** and/or **Business Applications Feasibility Study** (see details below). The proposals must be prepared using the templates provided in the relevant Call for Proposals and adhere to the process and procurement rules.

The proposals shall be delivered to ESA not later than **May 15<sup>th</sup> 2023**. Each proposal shall not exceed a requested price for ESA of 250.000 EUR. When sending the proposal, the code "[S2C23]" shall be added at the beginning of the activities' title or in the email subject. The proposals will be evaluated by ESA in line with the relevant ARTES Call for Proposal and ESA Rules and Regulations, and a notice on the proposals recommended for funding will be shared with ASI.

### ESA ARTES Core Competitiveness Agile

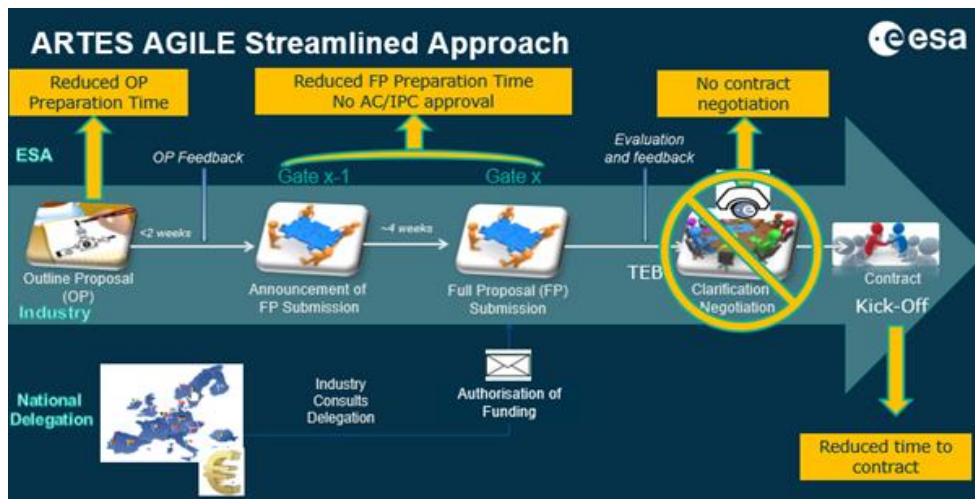
A new initiative from ESA aimed at facilitating short-term, high-risk technology developments that are critical in defining the scope and development of future products and services for the satellite communications sector. These development opportunities are available within the ARTES 4.0 programme lines including:

- Core Competitiveness industry led component (Competitiveness and Growth)
- Optical and Quantum Communications
- Space Systems for Safety and Security (4S)
- 5G/6G and sustainable connectivity.

ARTES AGILE is a tool for co-funded Industry initiated activities (in direct negotiation), focusing on fast turn-around activities and ESA funding is capped at €250,000. ARTES AGILE activities are limited to an agreed de-risking plan, with no provision for increasing the scope of work via a contract change note (CCN).

The contracts are expected to last no longer than 12 months.

More information can be found in the following [link](#).



### Business Applications Feasibility Study

ESA Business Applications and Space Solutions, the go-to place for great business ideas involving space in all areas of society and economy, providing support to entrepreneurs in Europe in the development of businesses using satellite applications and space technology.

ESA Business Applications and Space Solutions offer funding and support to businesses from any sector who intend to use space (satellite navigation, earth observation, satellite telecommunication, space weather, space technologies) to develop new commercial services.

Applications are open all year.

ESA Feasibility Studies provide the preparatory framework to identify, analyse and define new potentially sustainable applications and services within the ESA Business Applications programme. They shall comply with the following requirements: they are user/customer driven, they benefit from the integrated use of one or more space assets and the tenderer intends to pursue a demonstration project after successful completion of the feasibility study.

The Feasibility Study is likely to run at least 6 months but shall not run longer than 9 months. The duration depends on the complexity of the activity and the degree of upfront buy-in by user communities and other partners.

Assuming the activity on Feasibility Study is successful, it may very well evolve into a Demonstration Project, also in this case funded under the ESA BASS programme, the final target being the implementation of a commercial service.

The first step in order to apply is to tell us more about your idea and how you plan to implement it in the Activity Pitch Questionnaire (APQ) and upload it using the APQ Submission Form. We will provide you feedback and direct you to the relevant documentation to continue the application.

More information can be found in the following [link](#).

