

Final programme

Space Conference 2025 – part of the Danish EU Presidency

Space sustainability, autonomy and competitiveness

Hosts: Aalborg University and Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

Location: The House of Music, Aalborg, Denmark – 20-21 October 2025

Day 1 (20 October 2025)	
09:00-12:00	<p>Youth Space Conference (Intimsalen, Musikkens Hus) <i>The Youth Space Conference for secondary school students takes place in Danish</i></p> <p>09:00-09:10 Welcome and introduction of moderator Tine Gøtzsche</p> <p>09:10-09:20 Welcome by Per Michael Johansen, Rector, Aalborg University</p> <p>Highlighting Aalborg University's significant contributions to the European space sector, with an emphasis on expertise and achievements in satellite production and satellite communication (satcom) education.</p> <p>09:20-10:00 Keynote by Lars Moltzen, Founder and CEO, Sternula</p> <p>Space Connect North is a newly established network of space companies in Aalborg, many founded by graduates from Aalborg University. This thriving ecosystem positions Northern Denmark as a leading hub for space innovation and commercialisation. Space Connect North aims to strengthen the region's role as a global frontrunner in digital space technology, research, and collaboration.</p>

10:00-10:30 Keynote by Andreas Mogensen, Astronaut, European Space Agency

Danish astronaut Andreas Mogensen from the European Space Agency (ESA), an inspirational role model for space exploration in Denmark, will share insights into space missions and career opportunities in Europe's space sector.

10:30-11:00 Panel discussion (*Slido will be used*)

Following the keynotes, a panel discussion will address career pathways and the role of university programmes and policies in attracting young talent to space-related fields.

Panel participants:

- Andreas Mogensen, Astronaut, European Space Agency
- Jens Dalsgaard, Associate Professor, Aalborg University
- Students from Institute of Electronic Systems, Aalborg University
- Lars Moltsen, Founder and CEO, Sternula

11:00-11:30 Student poster session: Pitches to VIPs (Lower Foyer, Musikkens Hus)

VIPs include:

- Christina Egelund, Minister for Higher Education and Science, Danish Government
- Andreas Mogensen, Astronaut, European Space Agency
- Per Michael Johansen, Rector, Aalborg University

The lower foyer will feature posters from 150 Danish secondary school students, showcasing case work developed in collaboration with universities or companies in the space and defence sectors. Students will actively pitch their projects to conference participants.

11:35-12:40 Lunch (AAU CREATE, Rendsburggade 14, 9000 Aalborg)

12:50-14:25 Streaming of the plenary session for secondary school students (Klassisk sal and Rytmask sal, Musikkens Hus)

After watching the Opening Plenary streaming (13:00-13:45), the secondary school students will attend a presentation (13.45-14.25) by student ambassadors from Aalborg University on student life.

09:30-12:30	<p>Workshop between university students from space-related student associations at the Danish universities ("Lounge" meeting room at Upper Foyer, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>Lectures and work on a specific challenge related to space operations.</p> <p>The workshop is organised for university students interested in space.</p> <p>Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to operations. • How to think like an operator and incorporate it into the design phase. • Spacecraft operations. • Operational experiences from local space companies in Aalborg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John Hansen, Senior R&D Engineer, Sternula - presents their first mission, <i>Sternula1</i>, including launch and preparations etc. ○ Rasmus Nymark Skjelsager, Assistant Satellite Operations Engineer, Space Inventor - presents how their operational experience is applied in large scale satellite missions. • Operational group exercise.
12:00-13:00	<p>Registration for main conference (Entrance Hall, Musikkens Hus) and lunch (Upper Foyer, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>11:45–12:50 VIP Lunch (Restaurant Fauna, Musikkens Hus) - <i>by invitation only</i></p>
13:00-14:30	<p>Opening Plenary (Intimalsalen, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p><i>What are the challenges and discussions Europe and Denmark are addressing within space?</i></p> <p>European open strategic autonomy, the European Commission’s proposal for the next space program and the governance, as well as the proposal for a Space Law, will be discussed during the Danish Presidency.</p>

Programme:

- **Welcome and introduction of the moderator Tine Gøtzsche**
- **Welcome by Per Michael Johansen, Rector, Aalborg University**
- **Welcome and keynote by Christina Egelund, Minister for Higher Education and Science, Danish Government**
- **Keynote by Andrius Kubilius, EU Commissioner for Defence and Space**

13:30-14:30 **Moderated panel discussion on keynote topics** (*Slido will be used*)

What are the visions, opportunities and challenges for European space policy and programmes?

How do we plan for European resilience through sustainability, autonomy and competitiveness in space?

What are the perspectives and the impact for Europe and for Denmark?

Opening speech by Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Former Danish Prime Minister, former NATO Secretary General, Head of Rasmussen Global

Panel participants:

- Andrius Kubilius, EU Commissioner for Defence and Space
- Christina Egelund, Minister for Higher Education and Science, Danish Government
- Joachim Finkielman, Director, DI Defence and Security Industries

Moderator: Tine Gøtzsche

14:30-15:00	<p>Break and coffee (Upper Foyer, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>14.30-14.45 Student poster session (Lower Foyer, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>The lower foyer will feature posters from 150 Danish gymnasium students, showcasing case work developed in collaboration with universities or companies within the space and defence sectors. During this session, students will actively pitch their projects to conference participants.</p>		
14:40-14:50	<p>Funding and Growth (Entrance Hall, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p><i>The BIFROST project and Space Inventor's path towards real-time maritime surveillance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan Smolders, Chief Commercial Officer, Space Inventor 		
15:00-15:45	<p>Informal Q&A-meeting between Andrius Kubilius, EU Commissioner for Defence and Space, Christina Egelund, Minister for Higher Education and Research, Andreas Mogensen, Astronaut, European Space Agency, and university students (Klassisk sal, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>University students and PhD-students from the Danish universities have an informal Q&A with the EU Commissioner, the Danish Minister for Higher Education and Science, and Astronaut Andreas Mogensen.</p> <p>Moderator: Anders Bundgaard, Software Developer, Gatehouse Satcom</p>		
15:00-17:00	<p>15:00-16:30 European collaboration on space programmes serving the needs of Europe (Intimsalen, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>Over the past decades the European Commission's DG for Defence Industry and Space, the European Space Agency, and the EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) have been working</p>	<p>Security and resilience from space (Rytmisk sal, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>As the geopolitical landscape evolves and technological innovation accelerates, Europe's and Denmark's economy and society are becoming increasingly dependent on secure and resilient critical space infrastructures.</p>	<p>Funding and Growth (Entrance Hall, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p><i>How can space related SMEs get support to strengthen their growth?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Sofie Bramsen Dahlmann, Relation Officer, Innovation Fund Denmark

	<p>together to deliver cutting-edge satellite navigation, Earth Observation, and satcom services to a growing group of users worldwide.</p> <p>The current geopolitical situation has made close cooperation between European institutions and industry increasingly pertinent. This session will explore how European synergies and cooperation evolves.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15:00-15:10 Christoph Morand, Adviser to the Director General for Security of Information and Synergies between Space, Defence and Civil Industries, EU Commission • 15:10-15:20 Rodrigo da Costa, Executive Director, EU Agency for the Space Programme • 15:20-15:30 Laurent Jaffart, Director of Connectivity and Secure Communications, European Space Agency <p>15:30–15:45 Q&A to speakers from the audience (<i>Slido will be used</i>)</p>	<p>This session explores how recent advancements in space technologies are being driven by national and regional security strategies, and how resilient space infrastructure is shaping the future of Europe's economic and geopolitical strength.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by Cecilie Brøkner, CEO, Innovation Fund Denmark • Jérémie Godet, Head of Unit Secure Connectivity and Space Surveillance, European Commission • Juliette Lambin, Head of Future Missions and Architecture Department, European Space Agency: European Resilience from Space • Karin Holmquist, Head of Space Strategy Implementation, SAAB • Lars Bo Larsen, Director, National Defence Technology Centre • Eva Bisgaard, Co-President, Connectivity, Eutelsat Group • Lars K. Alminde, Vice President, GomSpace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Møller Mosgaard, Director, Export and Investment Fund of Denmark (EIFO) • Kathrine Elvira Boysen, Head of External Relations, ESA Business Incubation Centre <p><i>Get an insight into Danish space companies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches by space companies <p>Moderator: Gert Spender-Andersen, Aalborg University / ESA BIC Denmark</p>
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15:45-16:05 The role of industry in European Space programmes

How can industry contribute, collaborate and support the implementation of the European space programmes?

How to stimulate cooperation across Europe?

The role of dual-use and how defence needs may change space activities?

Cooperation between SME's and the European Primes - how will international cooperation evolve in the present geopolitical situation?

Speakers:

- 15:45–15:50 **Joachim Finkielman, Director, DI Defence and Security Industries**
- 15:50–15:55 **Lars Moltsen, CEO, Sternula**
- 15:55–16:00 **Stephan Roemer, Business Development Manager, OHB**

- **Preben E. Mogensen, Professor, Aalborg University**

Moderator: Dustin Wilden, CEO, CenSec

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16:00-16:05 Johan Gautier, Responsible Marketing Achats, MBDA-systems <p>16:05–16:30 Q&A to all 7 speakers from the audience (<i>Slido</i>)</p> <p>Moderator: Tine Gøtzsche</p>		
16:30-17:00	<p>What are the possibilities with robots in space?</p> <p>Fireside chat with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andreas Mogensen, Astronaut, European Space Agency • Simon Bøgh, Associate Professor, AAU Space Robotic, Aalborg University <p>Moderator: Tine Gøtzsche</p>		
17:00-18:30	Break		
18:30-22:30	<p>Network Banquet (Restaurant Fusion, Strandvejen 4, 9000 Aalborg)</p> <p>Opening speeches by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per Michael Johansen, Rector, Aalborg University • Mikkel Leihardt, Director General, Danish Agency for Higher Education and Research 		

Day 2 (21 October 2025)

09:00-
10:15

Business Opportunities in Space and Dual-use (Intimsalen, Musikkens Hus)

As an important inspirator for space in Denmark, and with insights into US ambitions, Andreas Mogensen is invited to give a keynote on Europe's role in the global space endeavours. SME participation in the larger European space projects and missions is key to the inclusion of innovative technologies and to SME growth. To support this, SMEs need matchmaking and investment opportunities.

- 09:00-09:15 **Andreas Mogensen, Astronaut, European Space Agency**
- 09:15-09:30 **Fiammetta Diani, Head of Market, Downstream and Innovation, EU Agency for the Space Programme**
- 09:30-09:45 **Luca del Monte, Head of Commercialization Department, European Space Agency**
- 09:45-10:00 **Stephan Roemer, Business Development Manager, OHB**
- 10:00-10:15 **Kim Plauborg, Senior Director, Space Systems, Terma**

Moderator: Niels Vejrup Carlsen, Founding Partner, Final Frontier

10:15-
10:55

Break

10:45-
11:30

Business Opportunities in Space and Dual-use (Intimsalen, Musikkens Hus) *(Slido will be used)*

Panel discussion: *How to attract private and public funding to strengthen European cooperation?*

Opening speech by Annemarie Falktoft, Deputy Director General, Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science

	<p>Panel participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carsten Drachmann, CEO, GomSpace • Stephan Roemer, Business Development Manager, OHB • Kim Plauborg, Senior Director, Space Systems, Terma • Fiammetta Diani, Head of Market, Downstream and Innovation, EU Agency for the Space Programme • Luca del Monte, Head of Commercialization Department, European Space Agency • Ole Sinkjær, Vice President, Innovation Fund Denmark <p>Moderator: Niels Vejrup Carlsen, Founding Partner, Final Frontier</p>		
11:30-13:00	<p>Lunch and poster sessions (Upper foyer, Musikkens Hus) Coffee and cake will be served.</p>		
	<p>Poster and demo session (Upper foyer, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>Space science and technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research posters • Demos 	<p>Poster and demo session (Upper foyer, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>Space education and outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of university student projects • Posters about educational programs • Outreach activities 	
13:00-15:00	<p>Space Connect North and the future of European satellite systems (Intimalsalen, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>Satellite communications (satcom) are the main economic driver for space infrastructure development and one of the fastest growing</p>	<p>AI in Space: Robotics and Earth Observation (Klassisk Sal, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>From autonomous rovers on distant planets to satellites monitoring our home planet, artificial intelligence is revolutionising how we explore and understand space.</p>	<p>Astrophysical Exploration of the Universe (Sydbank Fonden Lounge, Musikkens Hus)</p> <p>This session will highlight the role of space-based observatories in advancing astrophysical research in Denmark. Topics include the exploration of the Universe with the</p>

	<p>sectors in Europe. The new EU flagship space programme IRIS² has taken the spotlight of this momentum, aiming to provide secure connectivity across the continent. Simultaneously, Space Connect North, a collaborative cluster of more than 15 cutting-edge satcom companies with Aalborg University at its core, has positioned Northern Denmark as a global hub for space innovation and commercialisation.</p> <p>This session explores the unique strengths and synergies within Space Connect North and the opportunities in European space initiatives towards building a world-leading satcom innovation ecosystem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petar Popovski, Professor, Aalborg University: Introduction to Space Connect North (10 min) 	<p>In this forward-looking session, leading researchers, engineers, and innovators will unveil the latest breakthroughs in space robotics and advanced Earth observation systems, discussing how intelligent systems enhance precision, autonomy, and decision-making – both in orbit and on Earth.</p> <p>Part I – Robots in space (Meeting convener: Simon Bøgh):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lennart Puck, Robot Navigation System Engineer, ESA ESTEC Automation & Robotics Labs • Simon Bøgh, Associate Professor, AAU Space Robotics • Miguel Angel Olivares Mendez, Professor, Luxembourg University Space Robotics <p>Part II - Earth Observation and AI for monitoring the Earth (Meeting convener: Ehsan Forootan)</p> <p>Presentations (15 min + 5 min):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiammetta Diani, Head of Market, Downstream and Innovation, EU Agency for the Space Programme 	<p>James Webb Space Telescope, developments in X-ray astronomy, the upcoming ESA mission LISA, designed to detect low-frequency gravitational waves, and the science behind the ambitious Máni mission, aiming to create highly detailed maps of the surface of the Moon. Each talk will be followed by a brief discussion.</p> <p>Invited talks (25 + 5 min):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerome Chenevez, Associate Professor, DTU Space, Technical University of Denmark - <i>Research using X-ray observations from space-borne detectors</i> • Thomas Tauris, Professor, Aalborg University - <i>Research using detections of gravitational waves from the space-borne mission LISA</i> • Gabriel Brammer, Associate Professor, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen - <i>Research using infrared observations with the James Webb Space Telescope</i> • Jens Frydenvang, Associate Professor, Centre for Star and
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaime Ferragut, Group Leader, Joint Research Centre, EU Commission: IRIS² (20 min) • Jesper Nore, Chief Commercial Officer, Gatehouse Satcom (10 min) • Jane Rygaard, Head of Corporate Partnerships, Nokia (10 min) • Christoph Pointner, Technical Manager, Rohde & Schwarz (10 min) • Lars Moltsen, Founder and CEO, Sternula (10 min) • Israel Leyva-Mayorga, Associate Professor, Aalborg University (10 min) <p>Moderator: Petar Popovski, Professor, Aalborg University</p> <p>Panel discussion (40 min) <i>(Slido will be used)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaime Ferragut, Group Leader, Joint Research Centre, EU Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ewan Pinnington, Earth Scientist & Software Engineer, ECMWF - <i>Next Generation AI Weather Forecasting Directly from Space Observations</i> • Radoslaw Guzinski, Senior Remote Sensing Specialist, DHI - <i>Earth Observation and AI synergies: Operational use in satellite-based monitoring systems</i> • Andreas Rønne Stokholm, DTU Space: <i>Mapping the Frozen Frontier: AI-Powered Multi-Satellite Sensor Data Integration for Enhanced Arctic Sea Ice Monitoring</i> <p>Session chair: Ehsan Forootan, Professor, Department of Sustainability and Planning, Aalborg University</p>	<p>Planet Formation, University of Copenhagen - Máni: Towards sub-pixel photometric mapping of the Moon</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesper Nore, Chief Commercial Officer, Gatehouse Satcom • Jane Rygaard, Head of Corporate Partnerships, Nokia • Christoph Pointner, Technical Manager, Rohde & Schwarz • Lars Moltsen, Founder and CEO, Sternula (10 min) • Israel Leyva-Mayorga, Associate Professor, Aalborg University (10 min) 		
15:00-15:15	Break		
15:15-15:45	Closing ceremony (Intimalsalen, Musikkens Hus) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mads Græsbøll Christensen, Head of Department, Department of Electronic Systems, Aalborg University • Annemarie Falktoft, Deputy Director General, Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science <p>Disclosure of the next host - Space Conference 2026.</p>		
15:45-16:30	Networking (Lower Foyer, Musikkens Hus) Snacks and beverages.		