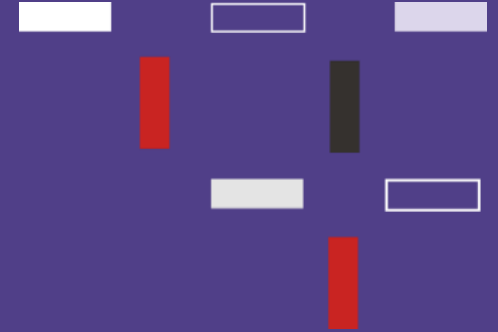
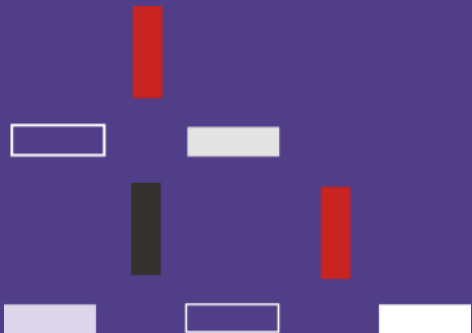


BACKING VISIONARY ENTREPRENEURS

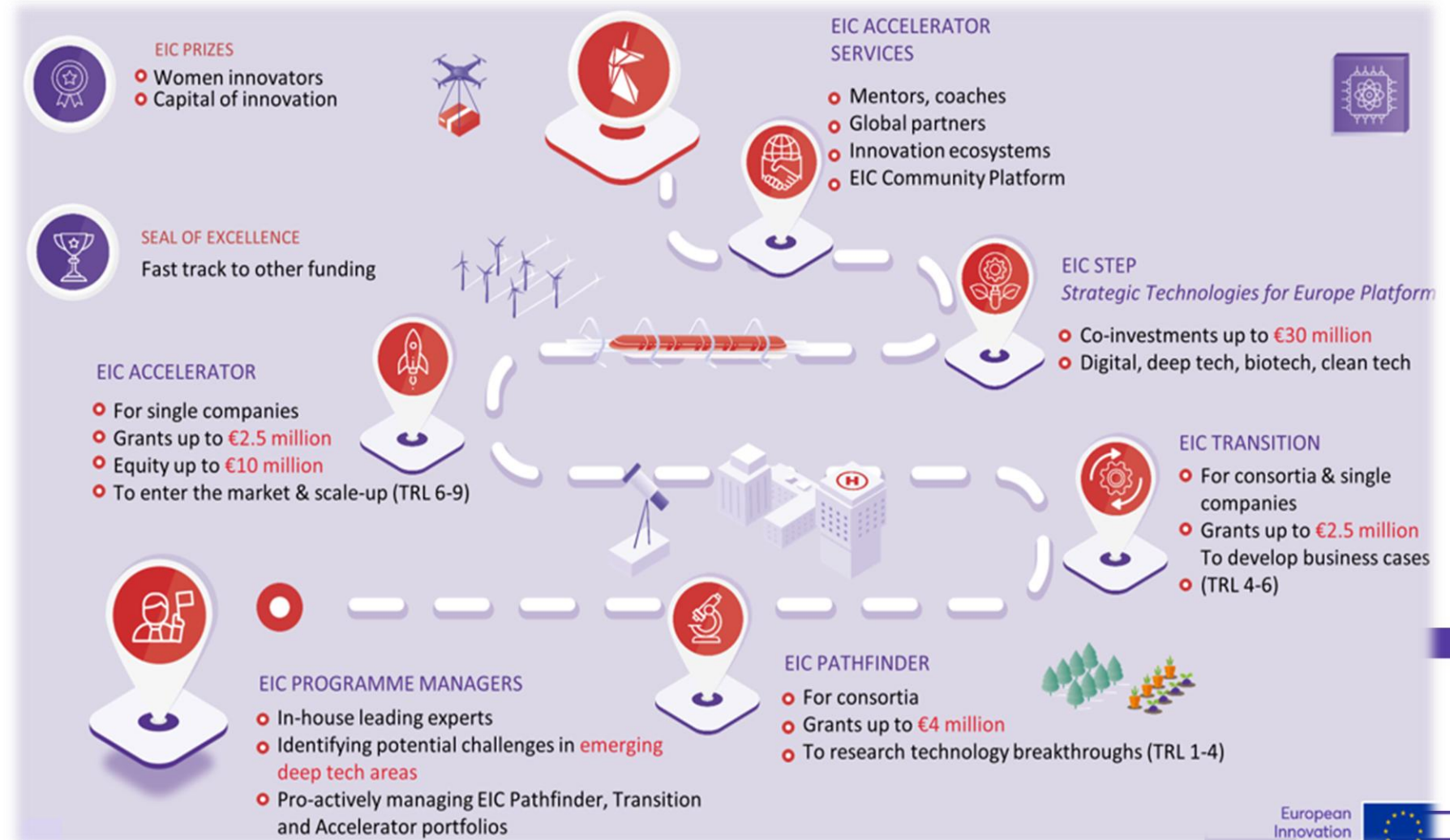
Greg Ambroziewicz PhD
dHoU EIC Pathfinder unit

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EIC role in the European Space Industry

- EIC funds **game-changing innovations** and **high-risk ideas** of space SMEs & start-ups from low to high TRL



1

2025 EIC Pathfinder Open call

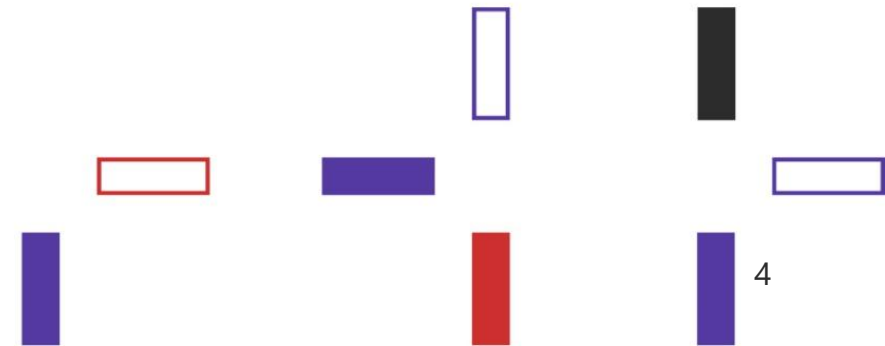
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EIC Pathfinder Open: Why apply



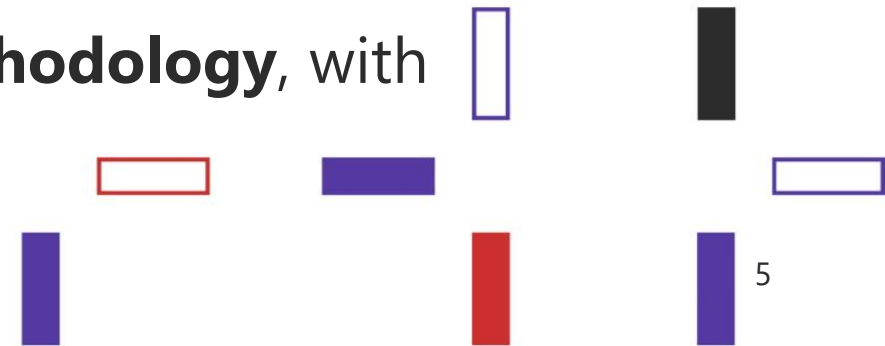
- Realise **an ambitious vision for radically new technology**, with potential to create new markets and/or to address global challenges.
- Support for **early-stage development of such future technologies** (e.g., various activities at low **Technology Readiness Levels from 1 to 4**), based on high-risk/high-gain science-towards-technology breakthrough research (including 'deep-tech').
- This research must provide the **foundations of the technology** you are envisioning.





Collaborative, interdisciplinary research, meeting the following criteria:

- **convincing, long-term vision of a radically new technology** that has the potential to have a transformative positive effect to our economy and society;
- **concrete, novel and ambitious science-towards-technology breakthrough**, providing advancement towards the envisioned technology;
- **high-risk & high-gain research approach & methodology**, with concrete and plausible objectives.





- **Proof of principle** that the **main ideas of the envisioned future technology are feasible**, thus validating its scientific and technological basis
- Project results should include **top-level scientific publications** in open access
- Projects are expected to take the necessary measures to **allow future uptake to take place**, for instance through an **adequate formal protection of the generated Intellectual Property (IP) and an assessment of relevant aspects related to regulation, certification, and standardization.**
- Projects are encouraged to involve and empower in their teams **key actors** that have the potential to **become future leaders** in their field such as excellent early-career researchers or promising high-tech SMEs, including start-ups
- Project are also encouraged to **empower female researchers** and to achieve gender balance among the work package leaders

Consortium composition | Open projects



- Proposals must be **submitted by the coordinator**, on behalf of a consortium including as beneficiaries at least three legal entities, independent from each other and each established in a different country as follows:
 - at least one legal entity established in a Member State; and
 - at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.
- The legal entities may for example be universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners or natural persons.

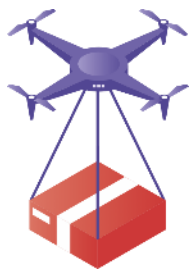
Call deadlines 29th October 2025



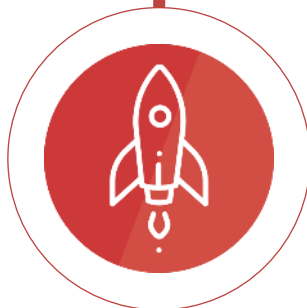
TRANSITION

Single applicants (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, research organisations, universities) or small consortia (2 partners) or consortia of 3 to 5 different independent legal entities established in at least 3 different eligible countries. *Proposals must build on eligible EU-funded project results.*

Grants of up to €2.5 million to validate and demonstrate technology *in application-relevant environment (Technology Readiness Levels 4 to 5/6) and develop market readiness.*

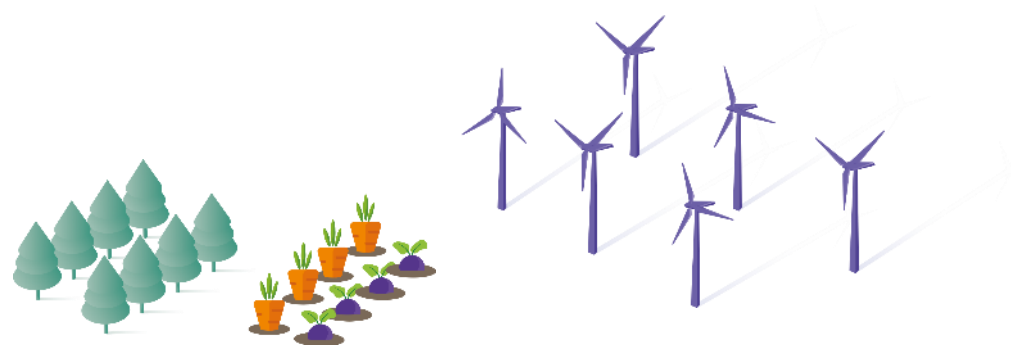


Grants for up to €2.5 million for developing your innovation (TRL 5/6 to 8)
Investments of €0.5 up to €15 million in the form of direct equity or convertible loans for scaling up your innovation and attracting co-investors



EIC ACCELERATOR

Single start-ups and SMEs (including spin-outs), individuals (intending to launch a start-up/SME) and in exceptional cases small mid-caps (fewer than 499 employees)



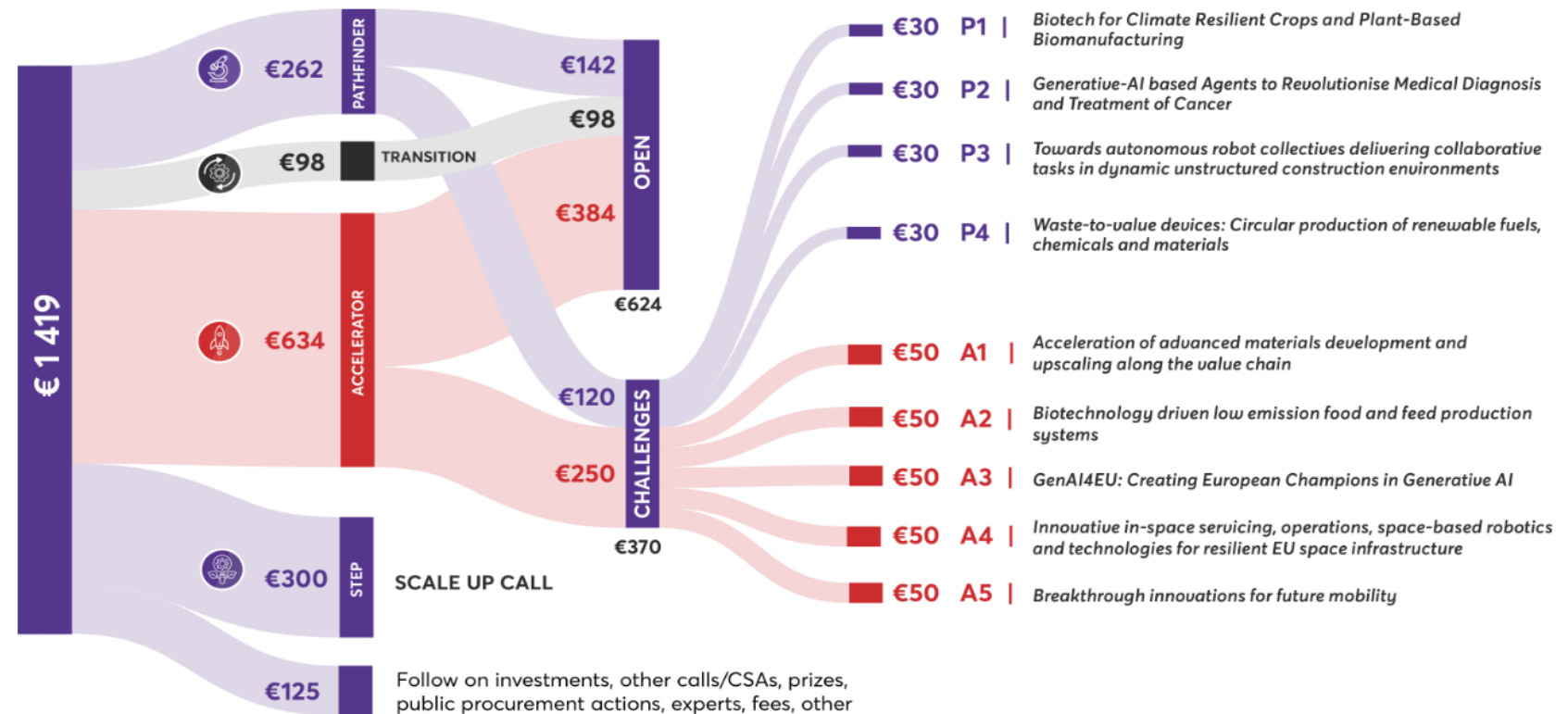
WP2025 Innovative in-space servicing, operations, space-based robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure - Accelerator

Indicative Budget

- EUR 50 Million

Deadlines

- 1st October 2025

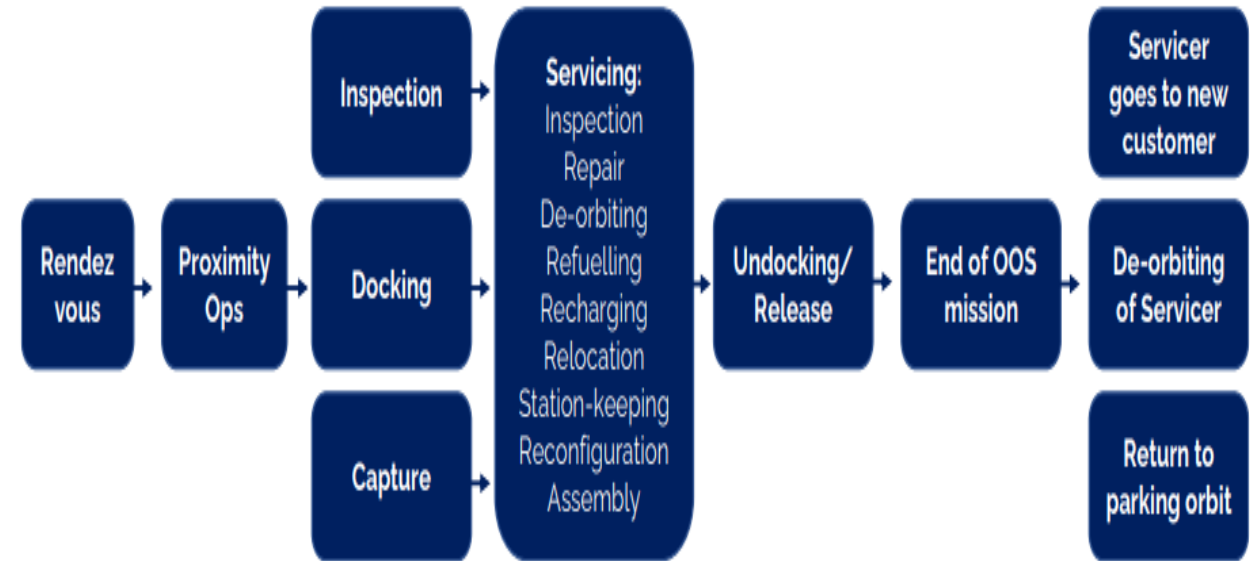


Innovative in-space servicing, operations, robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure - European Commission

Objectives



- **In-Orbit Servicing & Maintenance** - Proximity Ops, Rendezvous, capturing, in-space robotic manipulations, maintenance, in-space assembly and operations
- **In-space transportation** & in-space refueling/recharging, Orbital Transfer Vehicles (OTV), etc.
- **Space-based resilience** – space-based cybersecurity for satcom, navigation, Earth Observation and In Orbit servicing missions.



Courtesy: ESPI, OSAM State of Play and Perspectives on Future Evolutions, 2023

EIC space technology roadmap

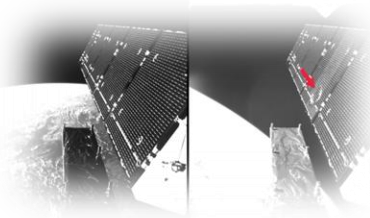
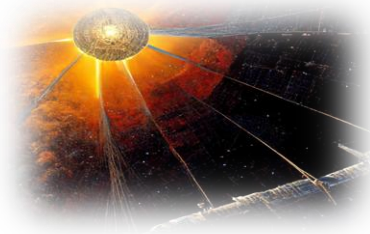
WP 2023

Pathfinder (TRL1-4): In space solar energy

- Collect
- Conversion
- WPT
- In space green propulsion

innovative space applications

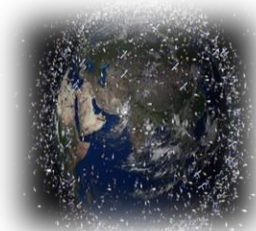
- Space Craft inspection
- Collision avoidance
- Collection, recovery & reuse space debris
- In orbit satellite, active debris removal, End of Life
- Inspace assembly and manufacturing
- Microgravity platforms



WP 2024

Pathfinder (TRL1-4): Strengthening the sustainability and resilience of EU space infrastructure

- Space debris mitigation
- Space debris remediation
- In-space recycling and re-use of orbital assets (ISRROA)



WP 2025

Accelerator (TRL6-9): ISS intl' space station operations, space-based robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure



Innovation
made in Europe
#EIC UMMIT

Innovative in-space servicing, operations, robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure - European Commission

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What are we looking for?



Start-ups and SMEs seeking to **scale-up** high impact innovations with the **potential to create new markets** or disrupt existing one

Innovation building on **scientific discovery** or technological breakthroughs
(„**deep tech**“)

Innovations where **significant funding** is needed over a **long timeframe** and are **too risky** for private investors alone

What can companies apply for?



EIC Blended Finance

Equity
0.5 to €15
million

Grant
Less than
€ 2.5
million

Also

Grant only

With other
finance

Equity only

If previous
grant
received



Grant component

- maximum of less than **€ 2.5 million**
- eligible costs are reimbursed up to a maximum of **70%**
- small mid-caps are not eligible for a grant only



Investment component

- € 0.5 million and **maximum € 15 million**
- usually in the form of direct **equity** or quasi-equity
- **minority ownership** (maximum 25% of the voting shares of the company)
- **“patient capital” principle** (7-10 years perspective on average, max 15 years)

EIC Accelerator – funding options



Grant only

If you can prove that you have sufficient financial means for deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Grant & Investment

If you need support for development (TRL 5/6 → 8), deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Investment Only

If you are looking to fill the funding gap for rapid scale-up of your high-risk innovation and you don't need a grant (previous grant received)

EIC Accelerator – Who can apply?



- **Single company (i.e. no consortia, but subcontracting and affiliated entities are possible)**
- SME according to EU definition:
< 250 employees, < 50 million EUR turnover or < 43 million EUR total balance sheet, data from linked or partner enterprises might need to be taken into account*
- Small mid-caps (up to 499 employees) – for rapid scale up only

[Link to more details and self-assessment tool](#)

EIC Accelerator – Who can apply?



- Natural person(s) or legal entity
 - From Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC) intending to establish an SME or small mid-cap in MS or AC by the time of signing the EIC Accelerator contract.
 - From a non-associated third country intending to establish an SME or to relocate an existing SME to a MS or AC (establishment prior to full proposal!)

[Link to more details and self-assessment tool](#)

Funding schemes

EIC Accelerator **Open**



to support **projects in any field** of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities ('bottom-up')

EIC Accelerator **Challenges**



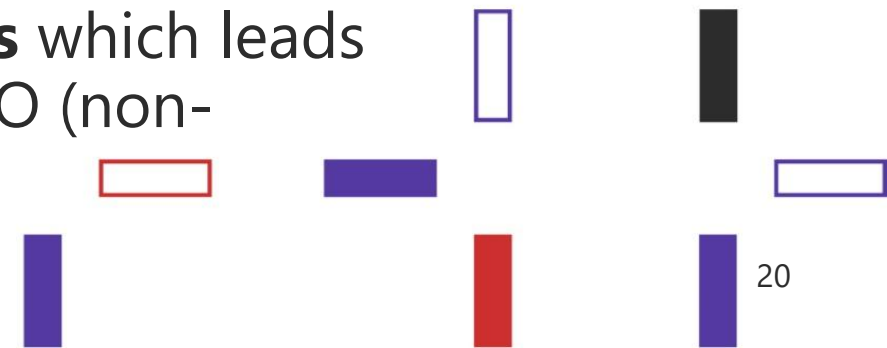
to support projects within **predefined thematic areas** with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge



The selection process in a nutshell



- The **Accelerator evaluation process** is composed of the **following phases**:
 - **Screening of short proposals**: performed by remote evaluators, which leads to a GO or NO-GO to the next evaluation stage,
 - **Evaluation of full proposals**, performed by remote evaluators, which leads to a GO or NO-GO to the next evaluation stage,
 - **Interviews with participation of Jury Members** which leads to establishing the list of GO (funded) and NO-GO (non-funded) proposals



EIC WP2025 information



- **WP 2025** - [EIC 2025 work programme - European Commission](#)
- **Short intro to the challenge** - [Innovative in-space servicing, operations, robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure - European Commission](#)
- **Accelerator Deadlines** - 1st October 2025
- For additional information contact Stela Tkatchova, PM for Space Systems, stela.tkatchova@ec.europa.eu



Courtesy: ESA image Copernicus Sentinel-3A satellite in 2017



Thank you!

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