



SUN Interest Group

Info Kit



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SPACE HUBS NETWORK (SUN) INTEREST GROUP

SUN aims to **increase the commercialization of space enabled solutions and growth of European start-ups and scale-ups**. The **main objectives** of the project are:

- Filling the gaps between the existing initiatives for space start-ups and scale-ups;
- Ensuring continuous individual support to space start-ups and scale-ups;
- Raising the awareness on the available tools to enhance financial sustainability and viability of businesses in the space sector.

These will be **achieved by**:

- Increasing the space downstream applications and upstream technology development by organizing hackathons and roadshow events for SMEs;
- Implementing 1-on-1 mentorship programmes based on individual needs and focused on finance attraction;
- Preparing and handing over entrepreneurs, start-ups, and scale-ups to the follow-on support initiatives.

ROLE OF THE SUN INTEREST GROUP

To ensure a successful implementation of the project, a SUN Interest Group is created involving key representatives from multiple areas: policy makers, start-up investors, innovation builders (e.g., companies), business incubators and accelerators. Its members are invited to **support the project objectives** with the following activities, depending on their availability:

- **Promote SUN initiatives and events, support the scouting of start-ups and scale-ups**, foster the creation of opportunities for companies selected in the programmes, ensure a smooth flow of start-ups through the European innovation ecosystems;
- **Attend two annual events** (online or in-person) in 2021 and 2022, providing insights and supporting the project team to prepare a one-page policy position statement. The document will present the view of the Interest Group on suggested measures (e.g., funding schemes, public procurement of downstream applications, etc.) to support the growth of space entrepreneurship in the EU;
- **Join quarterly online meetings** in 2021 and 2022, which will be the opportunity for Interest Group members to share their activities and to build synergies to further the objectives of the SUN project in the space industry start-up environment.

Participation into the SUN Interest Group takes place pro-bono, on a voluntary basis. Interest Group meetings will be preferably kept online; however, attendance to any in-person meeting or event is welcome but would be entirely at charge of each organisation involved in the Group.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Organisations and individuals which join the SUN Interest Group will be offered the possibility to:

- **Set challenges in the Hackathons** organised during the project, addressing key topics of their interest related to space upstream or downstream innovation;
- **Influence EU policy makers, research bodies and other stakeholders in the space sector**, contributing to a SUN position statement on measures to foster space entrepreneurship;
- **Expand their network in the space innovation environment**, connecting with public organisations, ecosystem builders, large organisations, and start-ups in the sector.