

## RULES - Copernicus Masters 2017

### ORGANISER OF THE COPERNICUS MASTERS

The Copernicus Masters is organised under an ESA contract by Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen (“the Organiser”) and is supported by various prize-awarding partners (“the Partners”).

### OBJECTIVE OF THE COMPETITION

The Copernicus Masters is designed to support the development of Copernicus-related entrepreneurship by eliciting and rewarding projects and business ideas that make use of Earth observation data primarily generated under the Copernicus programme. The Copernicus Masters 2017 is calling for proposals between 1 April and ~~30 June 2017~~ **3 July 2017** in different categories (“the Challenges”).

### RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

Enterprises, scientific institutions, and individuals of legal adult age are entitled to participate in the Copernicus Masters 2017. Applications will be accepted from anywhere in the world, **with some exceptions:**

- **participants of the six European Commission (EC) Challenges** have to be either residents or must have established their company in the territory of one of the Copernicus participating countries. Eligible countries are listed hereafter: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom;
- **participants of the ESA Challenge** have to reside in the territory of one of the ESA Member States, one of the Participating States to ESA's Copernicus Space Component Program or one of the EU Member States. For the ESA Challenge specific rules apply, to be found in this document as well.

### CHALLENGES AND PRIZES IN 2017

Descriptions of all of the Challenges in the Copernicus Masters 2017 are available at [www.copernicus-masters.com](http://www.copernicus-masters.com). They include the respective prizes to be awarded in each Challenge and the evaluation criteria that will determine the winning proposal. One winner will be selected by the expert panel of each Challenge. In addition, one overall winner of the competition – the Copernicus Master – will be selected from the winners of all Challenges. The Copernicus Masters Overall Winner is selected from among all winners by an international panel of high-ranking experts. This outstanding entrant will be invited to attend the satellite launch of ADM-Aeolus in Kourou, which is accompanied by a further cash prize. Moreover, the 50 best entrants in the competition will be selected for the **Copernicus Accelerator Programme** by an international panel of experts by September 2017. Participants of the Copernicus Accelerator must be either citizens of one of the Copernicus participating countries or have established their company in the territory of one of the participating countries. Furthermore, former Copernicus Accelerator beneficiaries (mentees) cannot be part of the programme again.



## SUBMISSION PERIOD OF THE COPERNICUS MASTERS COMPETITION 2016

Interested participants are requested to submit their ideas electronically between 1 April 2017 and on ~~30 June~~ **3 July** (please refer to the procedure described below).

## PROCEDURE

The competition will be organised and carried out exclusively in English via a secure online idea database accessible at [www.copernicus-masters.com](http://www.copernicus-masters.com). Registration at this site is required to create a user account, which may then be used to submit innovative business ideas to any of the Copernicus Masters Challenges. When creating an account, participants will be asked to provide contact details, which the Organiser will use to inform them of all matters related to the Copernicus Masters and any other issues the Organiser deems relevant to participants in the competition. After registering, participants will receive a confirmation link they can use to log in. Participants will be asked to choose an account password that will allow them to edit and save temporary content before submitting their final idea to the server. Upon logging in, participants will be required to choose the Challenge to which they would like to submit a proposal (the available Challenges will be shown accordingly to the country of residence of the applicant) and answer all of the mandatory questions in an online questionnaire.

The following specification clarify the procedure to apply:

- It is mandatory for participants that reside or that have established their company in one of the Copernicus Participating countries (including Iceland and Norway) to **select one of the Partner challenge AND one of the European Commission Challenge**
- Participants to the ESA Challenge **cannot** apply to the European Commission ones
- Participants that do not reside or have established their company in one of the Copernicus Participating countries (including Iceland and Norway) can **ONLY** select one of the Partner Challenges
- It is possible to enter more than one idea using the same personal account, but participants **may not** enter the same idea for different Challenges (except when applying for the EC Challenges)

2

New Challenges may be added while the competition is underway. Any additional Challenges will be announced on [www.copernicus-masters.com](http://www.copernicus-masters.com), which will always reflect the most current status.

A different questionnaire must be completed for each Challenge. Participants must submit their idea and complete the mandatory sections of the database no later than **11:59am hrs. CET on ~~30 June~~ 3 July**. Only those ideas that contain all the mandatory information will be considered for evaluation. Ideas will automatically enter the evaluation phase once they reach a submission status of 100% in the database. However, participants can still edit their entry at any time until the closing of the database. They will then be submitted to a dedicated panel of experts appointed to the chosen Challenge. Each of the experts tasked with evaluating the ideas submitted will be required to commit to a non-disclosure agreement with the Organiser before the ideas are put forward for evaluation.

The evaluation of the ideas is an anonymous process. Each idea will receive its own identification number. During the evaluation process, the experts will only be able to see this ID. In each Challenge, however, a small number of finalists may be invited to deliver a personal pitch or participate in a phone interview. This will, of course, require disclosure of the participant's name, but he or she will already have been nominated as a finalist at this stage.



By participating, participants acknowledge that their contact details will be passed on to the respective Challenge sponsor after the database has been closed and the winners chosen. This partner may then contact participants to determine whether they are interested in moving forward with the ideas submitted.

The Organiser and the Partners shall assume no liability whatsoever for the outcome of the selection process.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Measures have been taken to ensure the confidentiality of the ideas submitted in the Copernicus Masters 2017. The transmitted ideas will be protected against any access by unauthorised third parties. The experts and all other personnel assigned to organise the competition and evaluate the submissions will also be required by contract to treat all matters as confidential.

During the awards ceremony, the awarded ideas will be made public along with the names and contact details of the prize winners.

By participating in this competition and accepting any of the prizes awarded, all participants acknowledge that the Organiser and initiators may use their names, addresses, comments, likenesses, photos (incl. photos taken of the winners at the Awards Ceremony), and descriptions of their ideas in publicity or advertising concerning the competition or otherwise in any medium now known or hereafter devised (including the Internet or other interactive networks) at any place or time without further compensation or right of review, and agree to waive their rights with respect to any such publicity and advertising.

Once an idea has been publicly recognised, the Organiser and the Partners shall take no further responsibility regarding the further cooperation of the respective winner with any of the Partners or members of the expert panels. This also includes cases in which no cooperation between a winner and the respective partner materialises despite the award in question.

3

### **RIGHTS**

Participants shall retain the intellectual property rights to their respective ideas. Whether participants realise their ideas themselves or with a partner of their choice is left to their discretion. Participating in the Copernicus Masters 2017 will not grant participants any additional rights to their respective ideas.

Prior to entering the competition, participants are advised to notify their employers (if applicable) of their ideas in case they were developed in connection with said employment. If chosen as the winner of any Challenge, an idea will be made public; any intellectual property protection (if the idea was not previously protected by a patent) may thus be rendered void or otherwise lost. As a result, the idea may become common property. Participants are therefore strongly advised to protect their ideas adequately, such as by applying for a patent, utility model, or another form of intellectual property protection.

Despite all of the efforts made to keep the participants' ideas and information confidential prior to their publication, participants hereby understand and acknowledge that neither the Organiser nor the Partners shall assume any liability for any damages resulting from their ideas or information becoming public.

By entering the competition, participants affirm that they are the sole owners of all rights pertaining to the ideas they submit and that their participation will not violate the rights of any third party. Should any third-party rights nonetheless come to light, participants further affirm that neither the Organiser nor the Partners shall be held liable for any amount of resulting damages or claims. The Organiser and Partners shall thus be exempt from any third-party claims.



## MISCELLANEOUS

Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen takes no responsibility regarding the provision of the prizes offered by any of the partners. This also includes the payment of cash awards or the conduction of in-kind services. The fulfilment of the services offered is the sole responsibility of the respective challenge partner.

The decisions made concerning the competition's awards shall not be subject to dispute in a court of law. The decisions rendered by the experts involved in the different Challenges shall be final and binding for all participants in all aspects of the competition. Participants shall have no right to be provided with any justification for the experts' decisions.

Each winner shall be responsible for rendering any and all federal, state, local, provisional, and other taxes.

Winners who are to be awarded a cash prize must submit to the Organiser an official document (signed by their employer) stating that they (and not their company) are to receive said prize.

The Organiser reserves the right to modify the present terms, including any of the deadlines set forth herein, at any time.

Participation in this competition shall be subject to German law. Place of jurisdiction shall be Munich, Germany.

## CONTACT

For more information on the competition, please visit: [www.copernicus-masters.com](http://www.copernicus-masters.com).

If you have any further questions, please send them to [team@copernicus-masters.com](mailto:team@copernicus-masters.com).

## **Additional Rules – Applying for the ESA Challenge of the Copernicus Masters 2017**

### OBJECTIVE OF THE COMPETITION

The Copernicus Masters ESA Challenge is designed to support the development of Copernicus-related entrepreneurship by eliciting and rewarding projects and business ideas that make use of Earth observation data, primarily generated under the Copernicus programme. The 2017 ESA Challenge aims at the design and development of small satellite missions providing added value to Sentinel missions and introducing innovative design, manufacturing, testing and operations solutions.

### RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

Small & Medium Enterprises, start-up companies, scientific institutions (universities, research organisations), and individuals of legal adult age are entitled to participate in the ESA Challenge 2017. Any companies other than that and ESA employees are not entitled to participate.

Applications will be accepted from permanent residents of ESA Member States, of Participating States to ESA's Copernicus Space Component Program, of EU Member States, all of them listed hereafter: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.



### **PRIZE TO BE AWARDED**

The winner of the Sentinel Small Sat (S<sup>3</sup>) challenge shall be awarded EUR 1 Million for the design and development of the mission, as well as EUR 10,000 cash prize. Moreover, ESA will endeavour to provide a launch service free of charge for the winning satellite mission.

### **PROCEDURE**

In order to participate in the ESA Challenge, applicants must comply with specific requirements that are available for download in the dedicated ESA Challenge page of the Copernicus Masters website.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

The Organiser and ESA shall assume no liability whatsoever for the outcome of the selection process and reserve the right not to select a winner, or terminate the activities initiated by the selected winner if the activities are clearly not appropriate to achieve the challenge's objectives within 12 months or within the budget of EUR 1 Million.

