

## Call for expression of interest - Venture Capitals Database

### Introduction

The Space Strategy for Europe recognized that ‘investments in downstream<sup>1</sup> space developments are necessary to demonstrate the important role of space in achieving the key objectives of EU policies.

Start-ups and SMEs have a huge role to play in the development of policy-driven innovations. They bring innovative solutions to tackle challenges like climate change, to support resource efficiency and social cohesion, and to help spread this innovation throughout Europe’s regions.

In the EU there is a strong need to increase the number of successful start-ups and scale-ups, including in the space sector. The new Space Entrepreneurship Initiative aims to create an efficient and effective environment for EU small businesses to grow and scale up in the single market<sup>2</sup>. The need to support the growth of start-ups and SMEs was expressed during a set of consultations with stakeholders (Industry, Universities, Member States).<sup>3</sup>

In order to respond to user needs, the European GNSS Agency (GSA) has consistently and proactively implemented activities that aim at supporting start-ups, R&D projects, funding opportunities, innovation centres and user communities, to facilitate the development of innovative applications based on European GNSS.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the GSA and the European Investment Bank that was signed in September last year is bringing together the expertise and experience required to explore new investment support for the European space-based economy. The common objective is to create high-skilled jobs in the EU and improve the day-to-day lives of Europeans by supporting innovative companies and accelerating the development of new applications that use European global navigation satellite systems and Earth observation data. Within this MoU the GSA agreed with the EIB to create a Space Venture Capitalists database that will be made publicly available.

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<sup>1</sup> In particular, space ‘downstream’ means all those activities based on space technology, or using a space-derived system in a space or non-space environment, that may result in an application, product or service to the benefit of the European economy or society.

<sup>2</sup> SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-sme-strategy-march-2020\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-sme-strategy-march-2020_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>

[https://www.gsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/uploads/european\\_gnss\\_downstream\\_research\\_innovation\\_priorities\\_and\\_consultation\\_results.pdf](https://www.gsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/uploads/european_gnss_downstream_research_innovation_priorities_and_consultation_results.pdf)

Cooperation with Venture Capitalists will support space-based entrepreneurship in increasing downstream competitiveness.

## **1. Scope and Purpose**

The GSA is launching the current call for expression of interest in order to establish a database of Venture Capital Entities (VCS) interested in investing in European innovative companies working in the downstream space domain and focusing on EGNSS.

The list of VCs interested in investments in space will be published on the GSA website in order to facilitate contacts between downstream space companies and investors.

The database of the VCs will be kept for 7 years.

The creation of the database will allow start-ups/SMEs to make connections with investors that may be interested in their product(s).

## **2. Registrations**

In order to register on the database, please submit the following information using the email address [research@gsa.europa.eu](mailto:research@gsa.europa.eu) clearly indicating in the subject of the email "Call for expression of interest - VCs":

- Company name
- Market segments of interest
- Short description of the VC
- Link to the VC website
- Contact point

The call for expression of interest does not include a registration deadline.

## **3. Data protection**

Privacy statement on the protection of personal data in relation to the establishment and management of the GSA Downstream Space VC database:

All personal data are dealt with in compliance with the applicable rules on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (currently Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725).

The following data protection information notice outlines the criteria by which the GSA collects, manages and uses the data in relation to the establishment and management of the database of Space Venture Capital Entities / Investors.

**Identity of controller and data protection officer:**

- Controller: European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (GSA), Head of the Market Development Department; [research@gsa.europa.eu](mailto:research@gsa.europa.eu)
- DPO: European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (GSA), Data Protection Officer; [dpo@gsa.europa.eu](mailto:dpo@gsa.europa.eu)

**Purposes of processing:**

- the establishment of a database of Venture Capital Entities (VCs) interested in investing in European innovative companies working in the downstream space domain and focusing on EGNSS;
- communication with the VCs' contact points in relation to downstream space activities (e.g. companies' success stories, information about events);
- publication on the GSA website of the database, **excluding any personal data** (as explained in the section directly below).

**Data/Categories of data concerned:**

Entities interested in registering in this database must submit via email certain information to the GSA, as explained in the Call for Expression of interest.

The only personal data requested in the frame of the registration is the name, last name and email address of the interested entity's contact point. **It is underlined that such personal data will not be published on the GSA website.**

**Recipients/Categories of recipients of the data processed:**

- Staff of the GSA Market Development Department and Communication Department
- Data processors: GSA may engage the following external contractors which are bound by personal data protection rules equal to those applying to the GSA:
  - a limited number of staff of the GSA contractors in charge of communication services;
  - a limited number of staff of the GSA contractors in charge of supporting market development activities;
  - a limited number of staff of the GSA contractors in charge of the provision of hosting services for the GSA's servers.

**Legal basis/Lawfulness of the processing:**



Processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject (Art. 5(1)(b) of Regulation 2018/1725): The processing is necessary for the compliance with a legal obligation to which the GSA is subject and, more specifically, to Article 14(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1285/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems (GNSS Regulation).

**Information on the storage locations and retention period of personal data:**

- Personal data are stored electronically on the servers of the GSA contractors mentioned above which are located in the EU.
- Personal data are retained for 7 years. Once the retention period is over, personal data are destroyed.

**Data subjects have the right:**

- To obtain confirmation as to whether or not his or her personal data are being processed, access the data and obtain detailed information on the processing;
- Of rectification of inaccurate personal data;
- Of erasure of personal data if the statutory provisions are met;
- Of restriction of processing if the statutory provisions are met;
- To lodge a complaint to the European Data Protection Supervisor at [EDPS@edps.europa.eu](mailto:EDPS@edps.europa.eu) should they consider that the processing operations do not comply with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725.

Any request for the exercise of any of the abovementioned rights shall be addressed to the GSA Market Development Department at [research@gsa.europa.eu](mailto:research@gsa.europa.eu); data subjects are kindly requested to describe their requests explicitly.

**Contact information:**

- Regarding the processing of your personal data: [research@gsa.europa.eu](mailto:research@gsa.europa.eu);
- Regarding the interpretation, application or breach of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, please contact the GSA Data Protection Officer (DPO) at [dpo@gsa.europa.eu](mailto:dpo@gsa.europa.eu).