

CASSINI Challenges 2026

Information Webinar

EUSPA team, 29th January 2026

How to interact during the webinar

Participants' microphones are **muted**. To address any questions during the webinar, **please use the chat**.

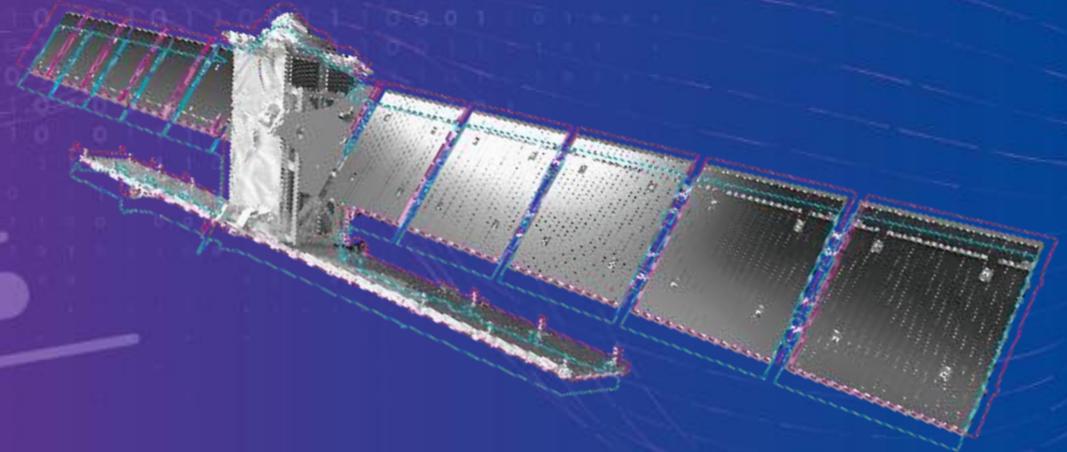
Questions are collected and addressed at the end of the session. Questions and answers will be also **published in form of clarification notes** on the EUSPA website.

The webinar will **not be recorded**.

For technical issues that may arise during the webinar (sound problems, not viewing content, etc.) you can use the chat and we will support you.

Agenda

- CASSINI Overview
- CASSINI Challenges 2026
- Theme
- Timeline
- Eligibility criteria
- Award Criteria
- Application FAQs and tips
- How to apply?
- Q&A



CASSINI is a €1 Bn initiative to support #EUSpace

The EU Space Programme



EO programme looking at our planet



GNSS service for positioning & timing info



Boosts GNSS's performances in Europe



Ensure secure communication capabilities



Informs about use and hazards of space

CASSINI #EUSpace

€1 Bn EU initiative to support space start-ups & SMEs in 2021-2027

Covers the full EU Space Programme, from upstream tech to downstream applications

CASSINI #EUSpace



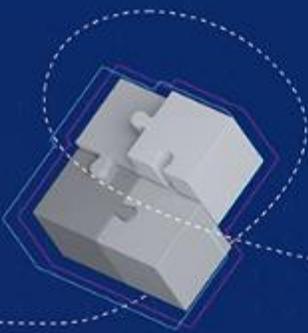
• Space Camps

The **Space Camps** build up interest for space and careers



• Hackathons & Mentoring

The **Hackathons & Mentoring** fosters EU Space ideas



• Challenges

The **Challenges** boost EU Space commercial solutions



• Matchmaking

The **Matchmaking** connects start-ups with new partners



• Investment Facility

The **Investment Facility** eases risk capital to EU Space companies



• EU Space Academy

The **EU Space Academy** introduces innovators to EU Space



• Investor Network

The **Investor Network** supports equity investment needs



• Entrepreneurship Days

The **Entrepreneurship Days** bring together the CASSINI ecosystem

+ many other start-up & cross industry events in the EU

CASSINI Challenges 2026 – Annual Competition For Space Startups



12 prizes



€100k each winner



Award Ceremony



Business support

Theme

Identify a global challenge you want to solve with EU Space data or technology - upstream or downstream. Leverage Galileo, Copernicus, SST, SSA, or GOVSATCOM to enhance competitiveness and innovation and strategic autonomy of the EU space programme.

How to Participate?

Submit an application presenting your MVP (minimum viable product $TRL \geq 5$ | $CRL \geq 4$) that demonstrates innovation, relevance for the EU space programme, technological excellence, impact, and commercial potential (see slide 10).



Apply by 26th March



- [Competition Website](#)
- [Rules of Contest](#)
- [Details and Promo pack](#)

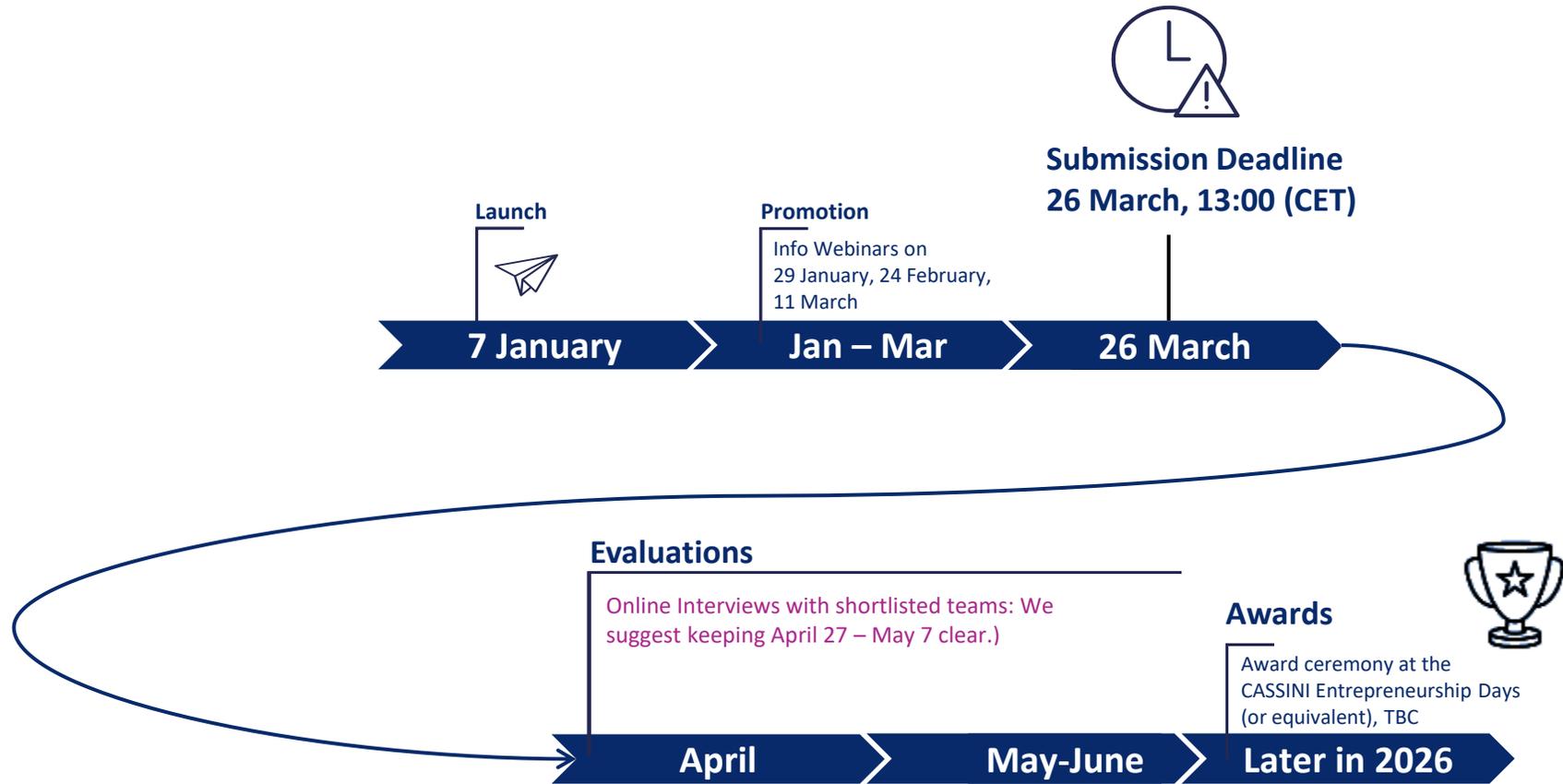


A MINIMUM VIABLE PRODUCT (MVP) is a solution addressing the identified relevant commercial, social or environmental challenge/problem leveraging EU space data and services such as Galileo, Copernicus, SST, SSA, or GOVSATCOM and enhancing the competitiveness and innovation of EU Space Programme.

The MVP proposed shall comply with **the following minimum levels:**

- **Minimum Technology Readiness Level (TRL) \geq 5**, (as defined at the following link [h2020-wp1415-annex-g-trl_en.pdf](#)), indicating that the technology has been validated in a relevant environment, and
- **Minimum Commercial Readiness Level (CRL) \geq 4**, (as defined at the following link [Annex Commercial-Readiness-Level V1.pdf](#)), reflecting early market validation and the presence
- of a foundational commercial infrastructure.

Estimated Timeline



Eligibility criteria – see Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest for details

Applicant

Individuals, teams or companies with one coordinator as a contact point

Age

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age by the date of registration

Nationality/ location of entity

EU Member States: fully eligible

Switzerland + Norway: prevalence of sat.nav., positioning & timing

Norway, UK, Iceland: prevalence of EO

non-EU countries associated to Horizon Europe: no prevalence of sat. nav./EO + ongoing negotiations provided the association applies before award.

Award criteria

Relevance of the MVP proposed for the EU Space Programme

Commercial Potential and Market Readiness

Innovation and Feasibility of the MVP

Execution Capability

FULL DETAILS
(Rules Of Contest, section 2.9)

How to apply?



Apply by 26th March

1. Read the Rules of Contest and Clarification notes
<https://www.euspa.europa.eu/cassinichallenges>
2. Fill out the questions in the application form on
<https://cassinichallenges.awardsplatform.com/>
3. Submit a video explaining your solution and team (< 3 minutes)
4. Submit supporting documents
 - Identification form (+supporting documents)
 - Declaration of ownership form
 - Declaration of Honour
5. Submit your entry!

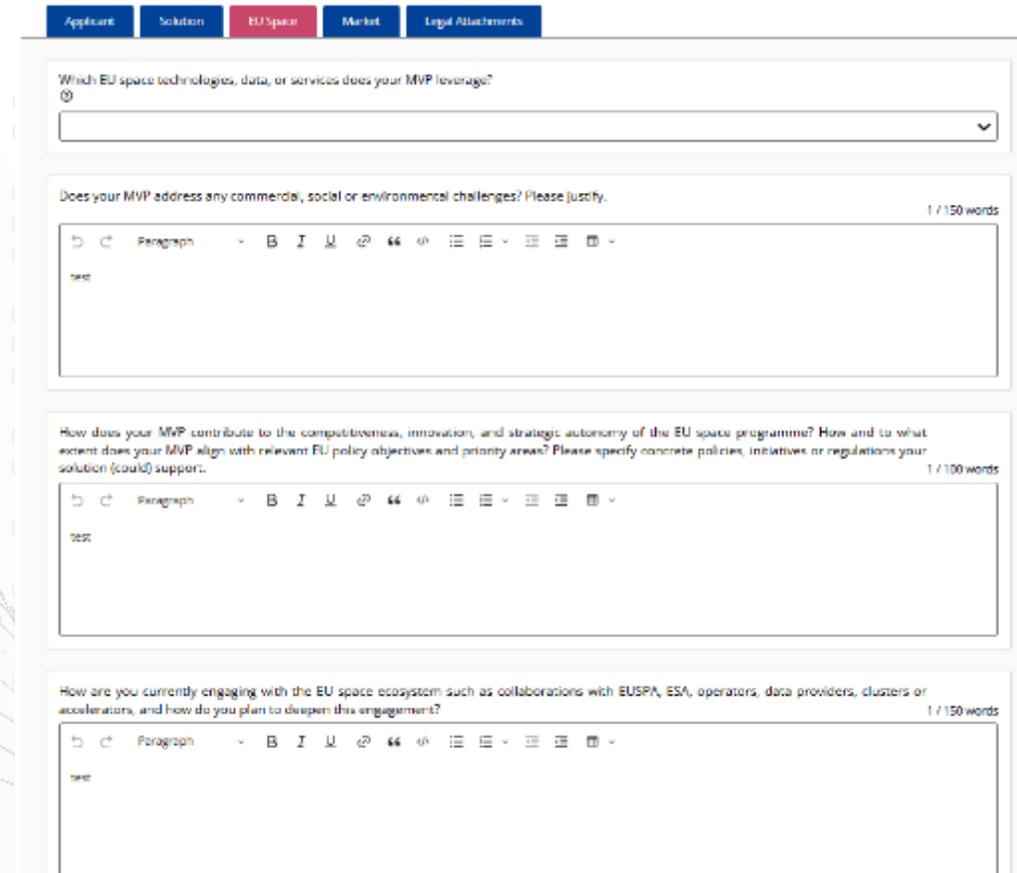
Application FAQs and tips

Apply early to avoid last-minute issues; you can continue editing until the deadline.

The contest is not open to beneficiaries of other **European Union funding for the same action.**

Word/character limits in application form.

Communicate clearly and support your application with **facts and numbers** whenever possible.



The screenshot shows the application form interface with the following sections:

- Navigation tabs:** Applicant, Solution, EU Space (selected), Market, Legal Attachments.
- Question 1:** "Which EU space technologies, data, or services does your MVP leverage?" with a dropdown menu.
- Question 2:** "Does your MVP address any commercial, social or environmental challenges? Please justify." (1 / 150 words). Includes a rich text editor with a toolbar and a "test" button.
- Question 3:** "How does your MVP contribute to the competitiveness, innovation, and strategic autonomy of the EU space programme? How and to what extent does your MVP align with relevant EU policy objectives and priority areas? Please specify concrete policies, initiatives or regulations your solution (could) support." (1 / 100 words). Includes a rich text editor with a toolbar and a "test" button.
- Question 4:** "How are you currently engaging with the EU space ecosystem such as collaborations with EUSPA, ESA, operators, data providers, clusters or accelerators, and how do you plan to deepen this engagement?" (1 / 150 words). Includes a rich text editor with a toolbar and a "test" button.

Questions?

Consult the **Rules of Contest and Clarification notes**, which answer other applicants' questions.

Applicants may send their questions via email to **prizes@euspa.europa.eu**.

The answers and clarifications will be published on a regular basis on the competition website.

You can ask questions **until 7 working days before the deadline**.



Apply by 26th March

 **CASSINI #EUSpace**

