



DG Annual Press Conference 2026

ESA HQ, Paris
8 January 2026

Josef Aschbacher
Director General

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

CM25: A historic moment for Europe

€22.3bn

total contributions

+31% from CM22

(+17% accounting for inflation)



2025: A remarkable year for Europe in Space

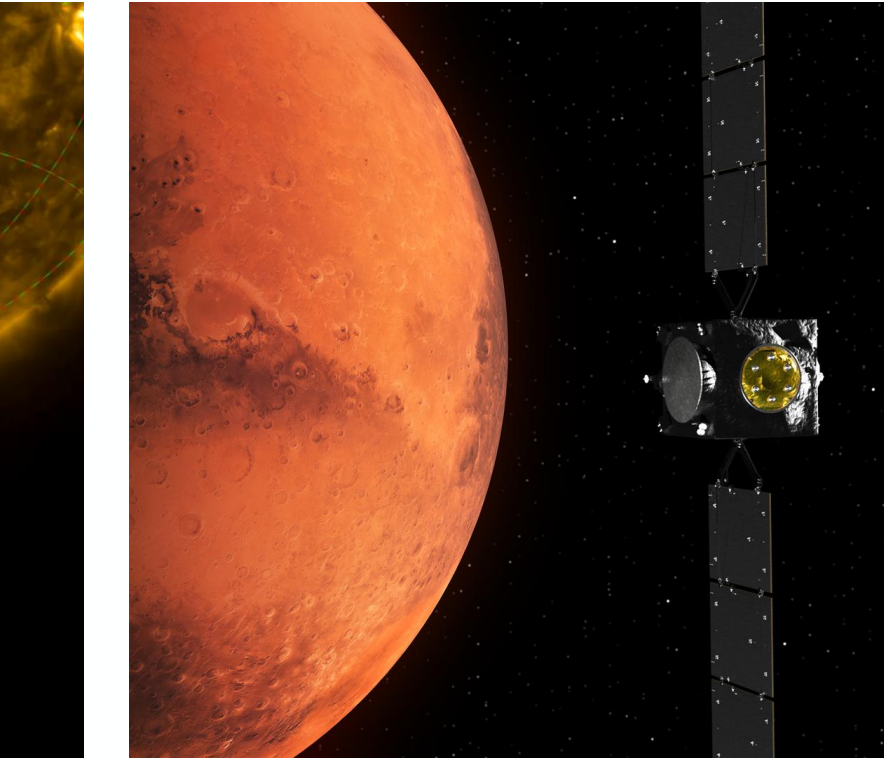
46

New ESA satellites
and missions
launched

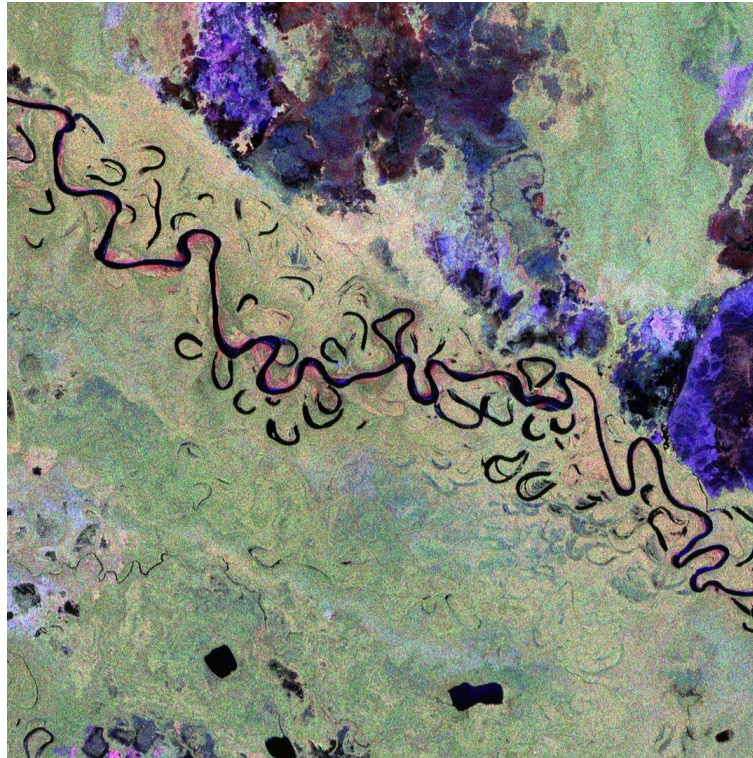


2025: A remarkable year for Europe in Space

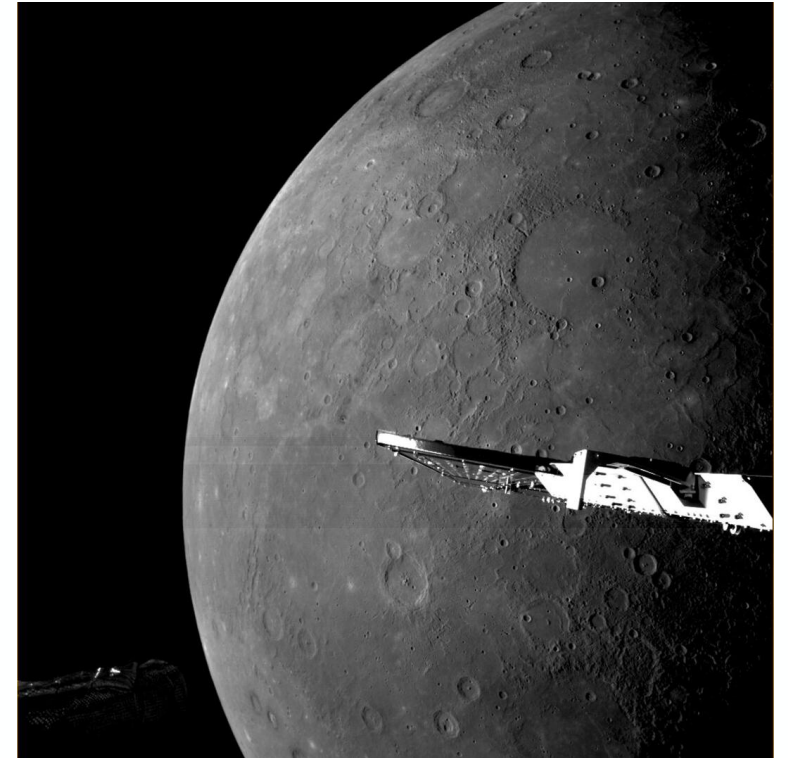
Missions in progress and discoveries



Hera Mars flyby



Biomass first images



**BepiColombo's sixth
Mercury flyby**

2025: A remarkable year for Europe in Space



ESA 50th Anniversary



Slovenia

ESA's 23rd Member State



Strengthened ESA-EU partnership

With Commissioner for Defence
& Space Andrius Kubilius



ESA Strategy 2040

Released 20 March

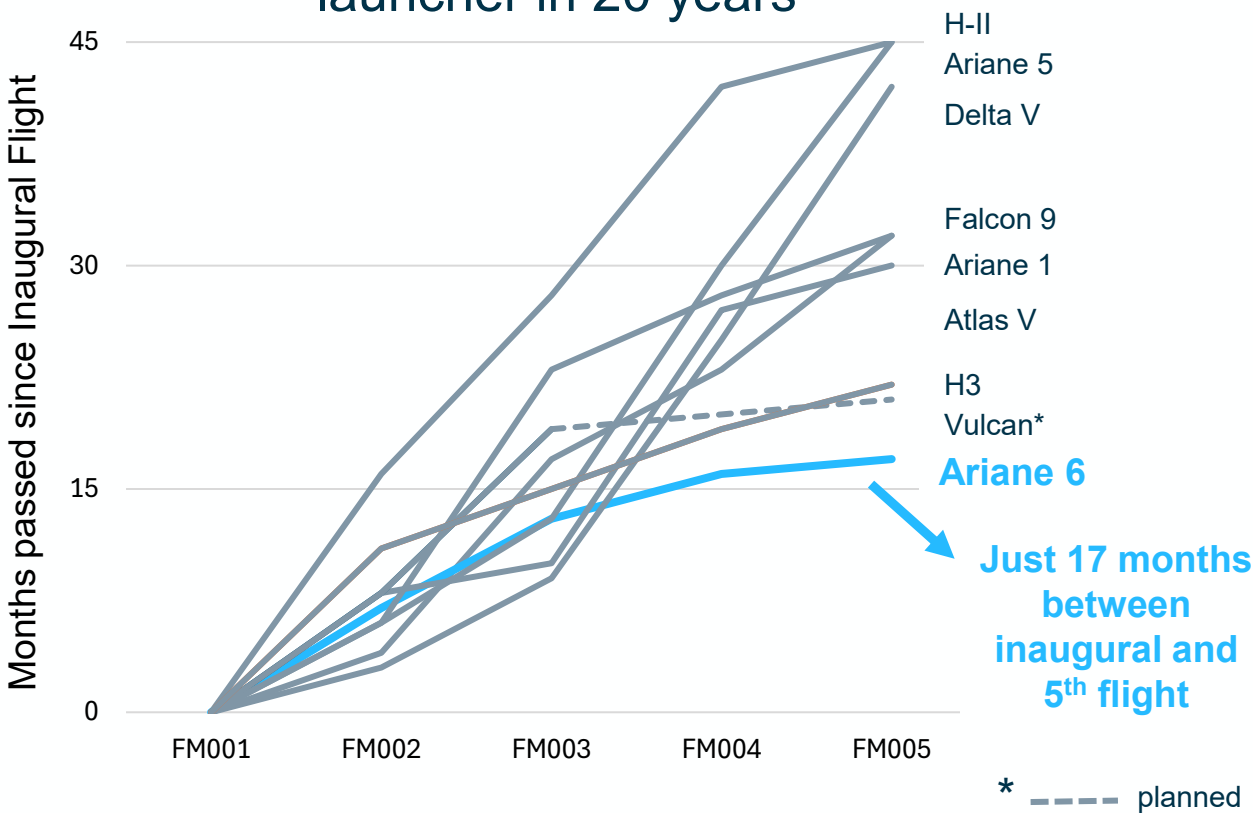
2025: A remarkable year for Europe in Space



Ariane 6 and Vega-C
7 successful launches

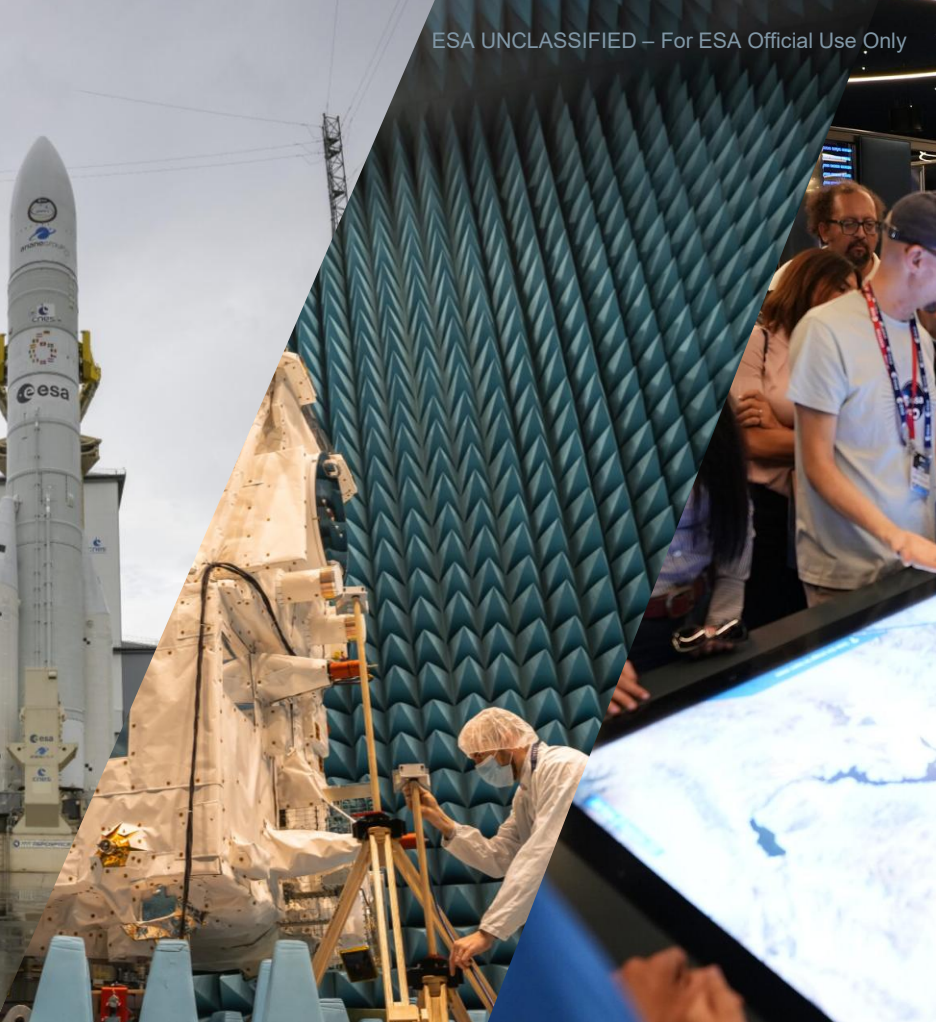
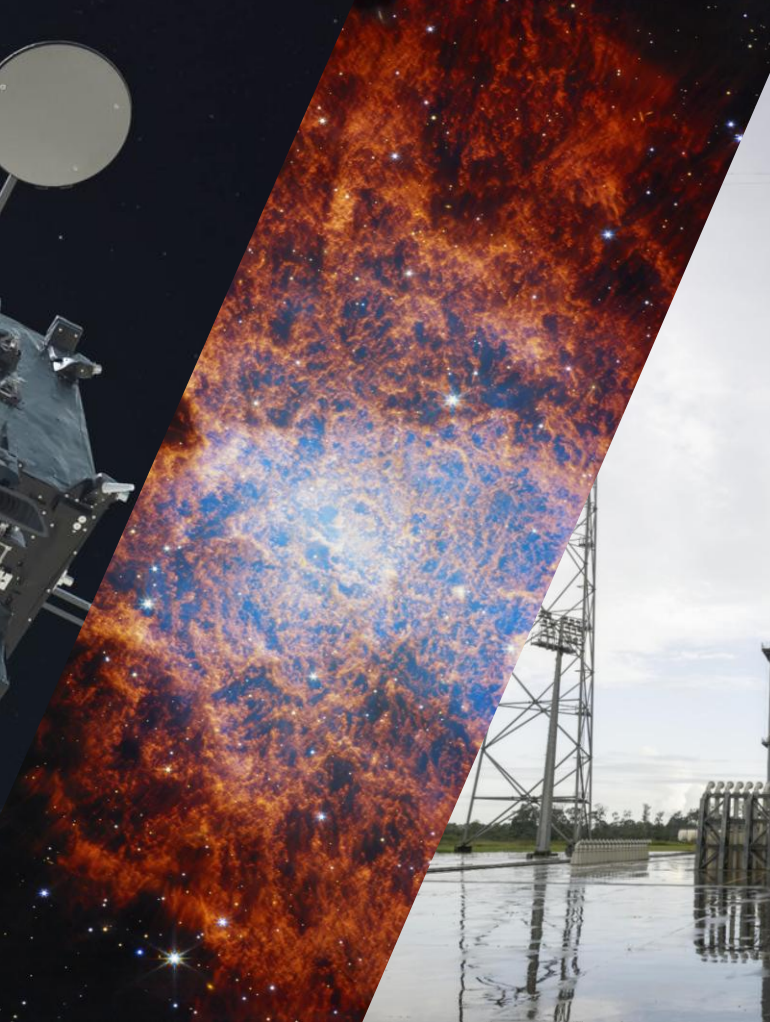
Ariane 6

Fastest ramp-up of any heavy launcher in 20 years



STRATEGY 2040

Plans for 2026



01

PROTECT OUR PLANET
AND CLIMATE

02

EXPLORE
AND DISCOVER

03

STRENGTHEN
EUROPEAN AUTONOMY
AND RESILIENCE

04

BOOST
EUROPEAN GROWTH AND
COMPETITIVENESS

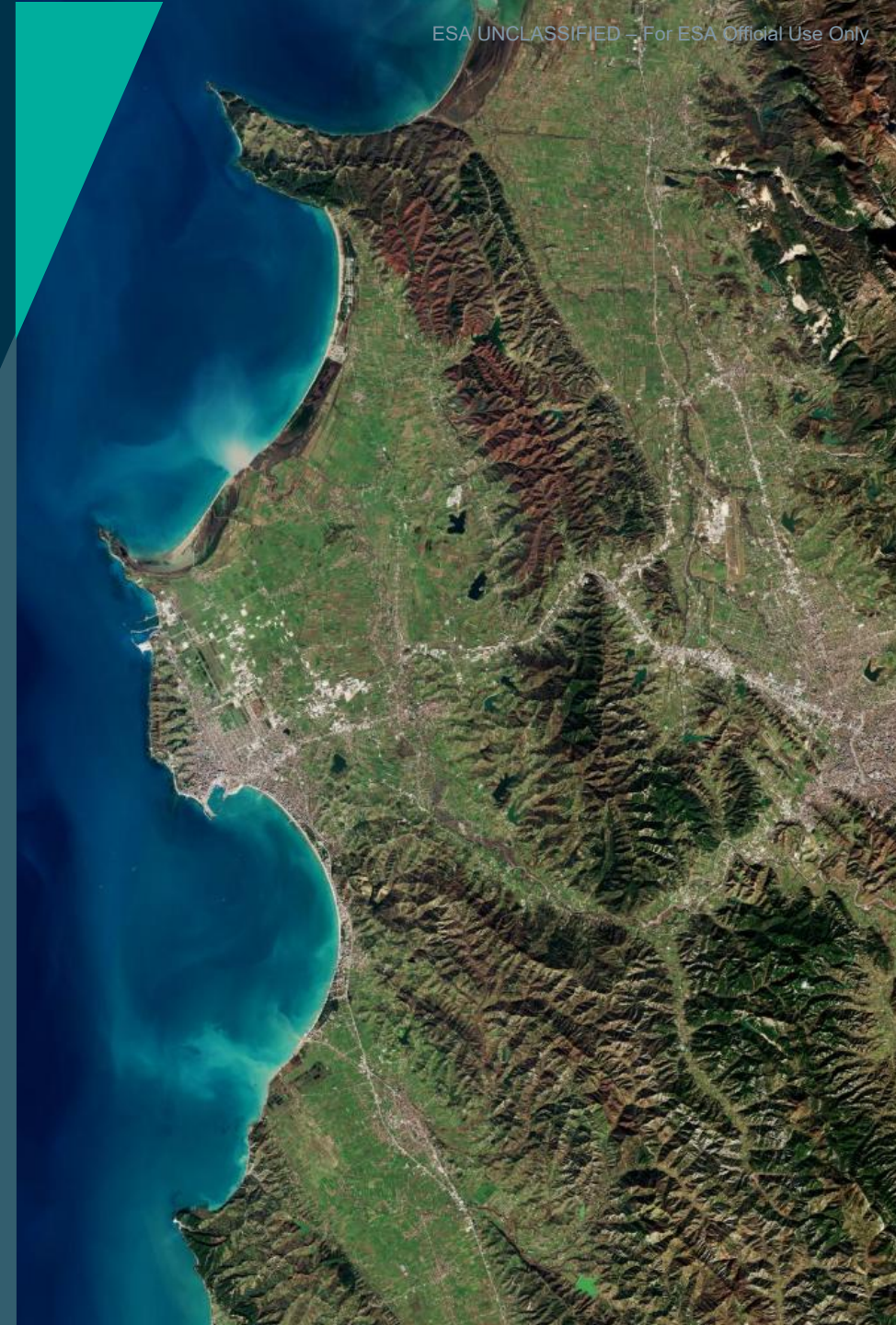
05

INSPIRE EUROPE

GOAL 1

PROTECT OUR PLANET AND CLIMATE

ELEVATING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



PROTECT OUR PLANET AND CLIMATE

2025

22

New European **Earth
Observation** satellites

2026

48

New European **Earth
Observation** satellites

33x IRIDE, 11x Greek National SmallSat Programme, MTG I2, Metop-SG B, Sentinel 3C, and FLEX

PROTECT OUR PLANET AND CLIMATE

**New Flyeye-1 telescope
starting operations in Italy**



**Hera arrives
at Didymos**



**Cluster 3 & 4 targeted
re-entries**



GOAL 2

EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

ELEVATING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

World-class science

15

Missions in operation

12

Missions in preparation

EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

Sophie Adenot

NET 15 Feb



European Service Module powers humanity's return to the Moon

GOAL 3

STRENGTHEN EUROPEAN AUTONOMY AND RESILIENCE

ELEVATING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



STRENGTHEN EUROPEAN AUTONOMY AND RESILIENCE

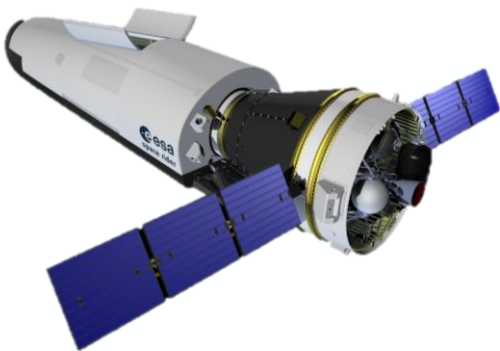
ESA secures guaranteed access to space

Further accelerate ramp-up of
Ariane 6 and Vega C



Incl.
Ariane 64
First launch

Space Rider



Full scale drop test



European Launcher Challenge

Second-stage tendering towards contract signature in 2026



STRENGTHEN EUROPEAN AUTONOMY AND RESILIENCE



CELESTE LEO-PNT IoD launching Q1 2026

Enhancing European PNT Resilience, Robustness and Accuracy

STRENGTHEN EUROPEAN AUTONOMY AND RESILIENCE

Implementation of ERS, preparation of EU EOGS



Phase 2 subscriptions open until November 2026

GOAL 4

BOOST EUROPEAN GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

ELEVATING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



BOOST EUROPEAN GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

Space benefits for Earth 2025

CM22 impact on Europe's economy

260,000

job-years

28bn€

GDP impact and tax
revenues

Not including the additional impact from the use of ESA
space assets

ESA BIC Network

2,000th

ESA BIC startup
incubated

ESA Investor Network

85

Members

€1.23bn

Invested in space by
members
May 2024 – May 2025

EIB announces

€500M

Space TechEU lending facility



GOAL 5

INSPIRE EUROPE

ELEVATING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



INSPIRE EUROPE

Reinforcing ESA as a strong European and international partner



INSPIRE EUROPE

Education & outreach

Bringing space closer to society



In 2025, ESA Education activities engaged

145,000 Students

154,000 Teachers



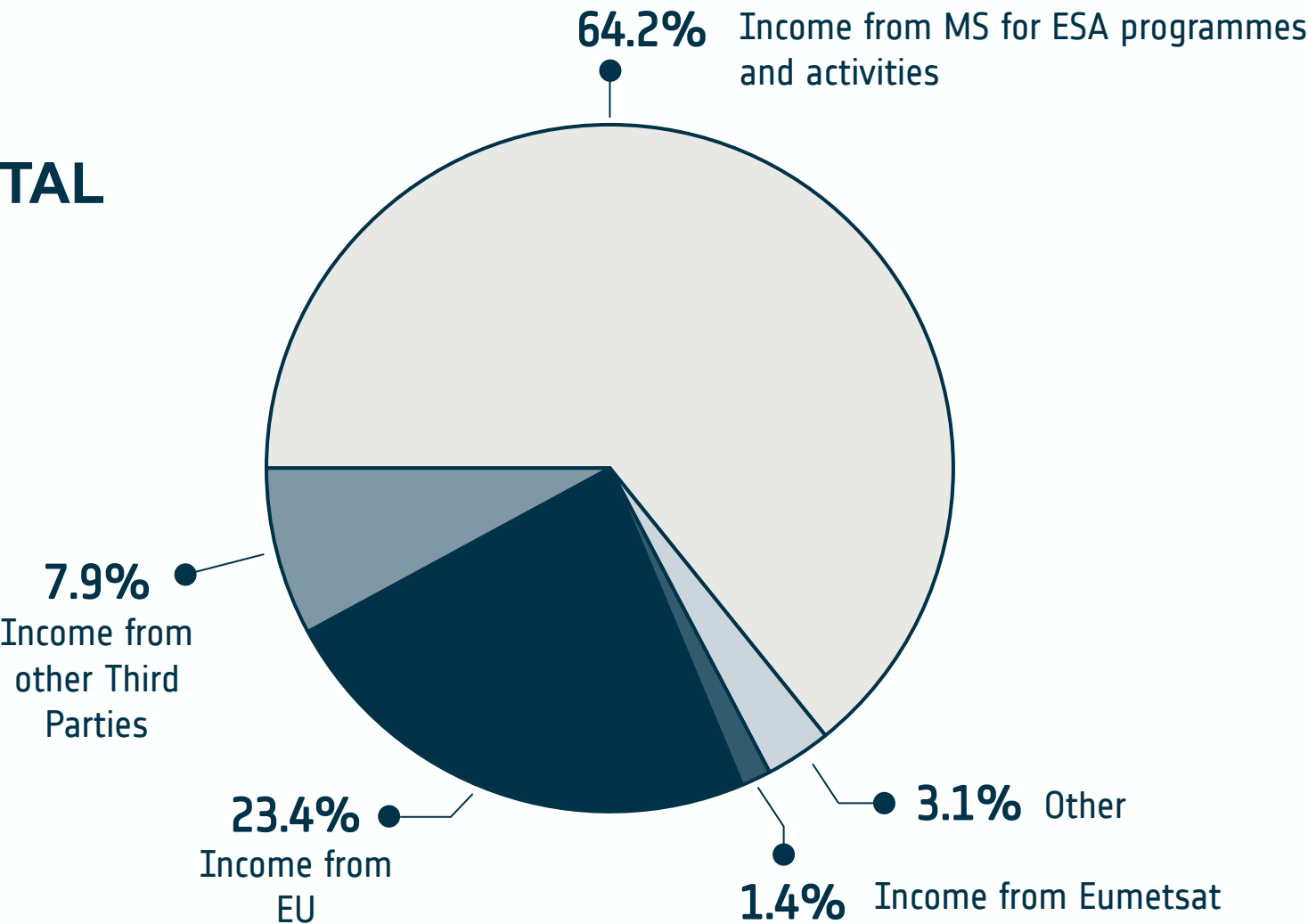
~20,000

ESA Open Days visitors

ESA Budget 2026 by funding source

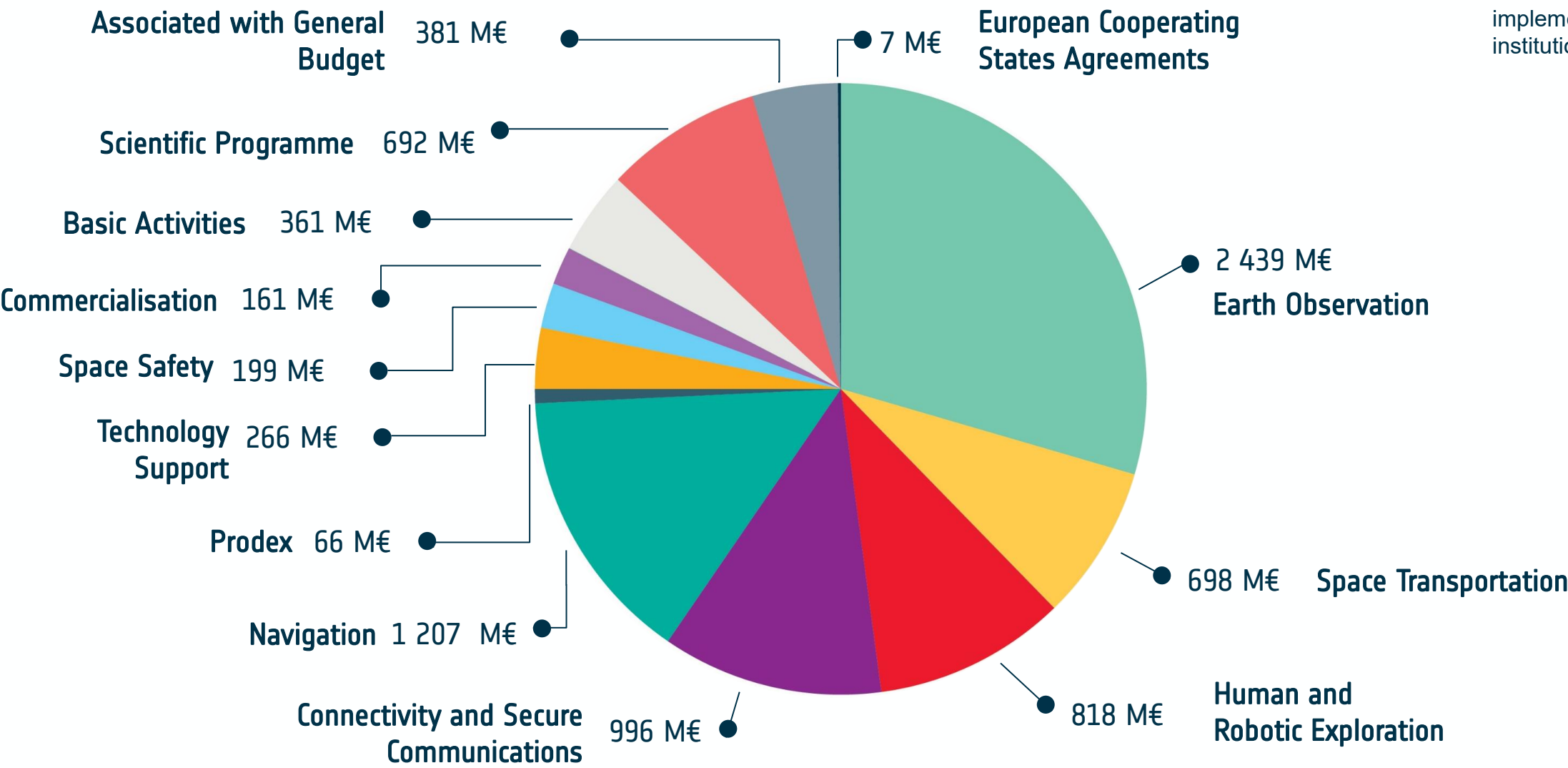
Budget 2026:
€8.26bn TOTAL

ESA Activities
and Programmes:
€5.56bn



ESA Budget 2026 by domain*

* Included activities implemented for other institutional partners



ESA continues to become more efficient, more effective

ESA halved Time-to-Contract by 2025



Time-to-hire reduced by

40%

400+

New hires anticipated in 2026

Phase 2 of ESA Transformation to be initiated in 2026

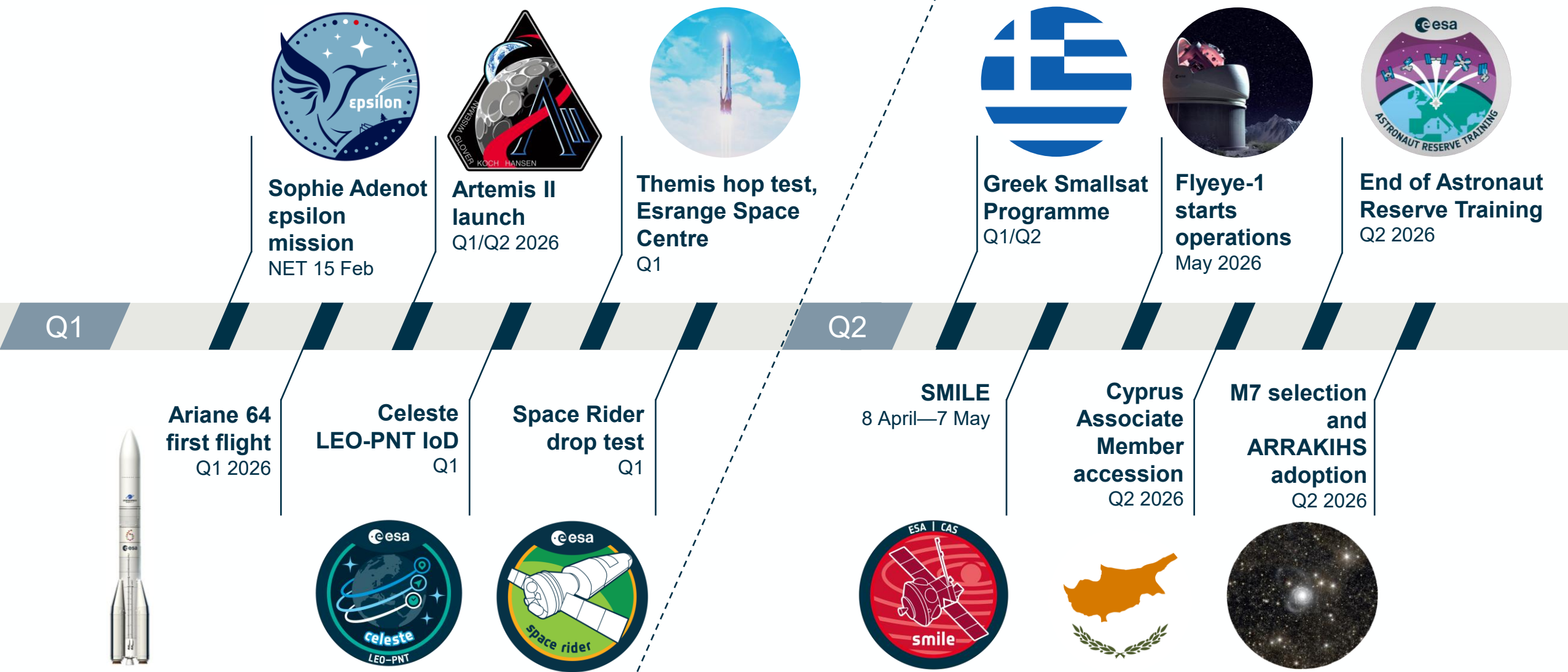
ESA TRANSFORMATION

ESA organisation

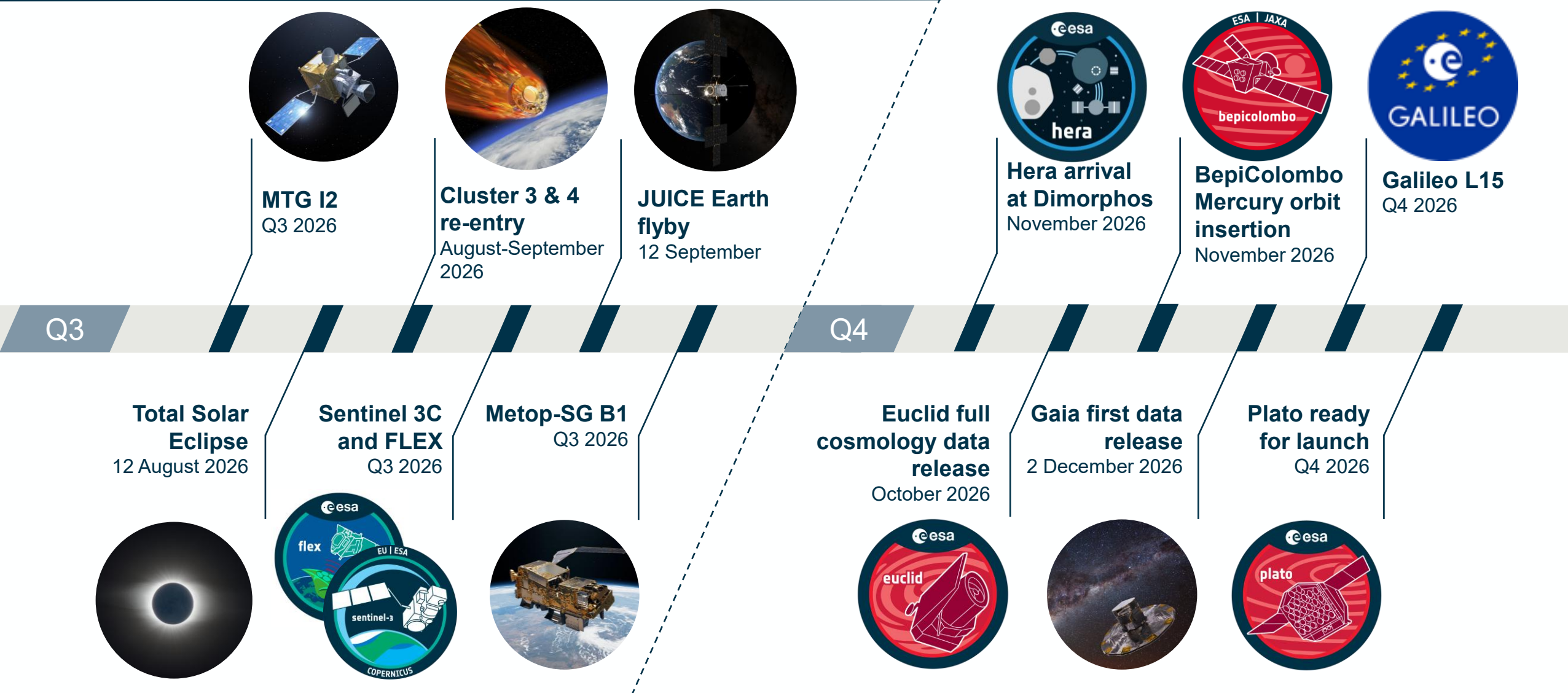
with
Member States

with
Industry

ESA TIMELINE 2026 1ST SEMESTER (timing is indicative)



ESA TIMELINE 2026 2ND SEMESTER (timing is indicative)



Key Space Events & Conferences

- 19-23 January: **World Economic Forum**, Switzerland
- 27-28 January: **18th European Space Conference**, Brussels, Belgium
- 18-19 March, **ESA Council**, hosted by Switzerland
- 13-16 April: **41st US Space Symposium Colorado Springs**, US
- 10-14 June: **ILA**, Berlin, Germany
- 16-17 June: **ESA Council, HQ, Paris**
- 20-24 July: **Farnborough International Airshow**, UK
- 14-19 September: **World Space Business Week**, France
- 5-9 October: **IAC 2026**, Antalya, Türkiye
- 21-22 October: **ESA Council, HQ, Paris**
- 16-17 December: **ESA Council, HQ, Paris**



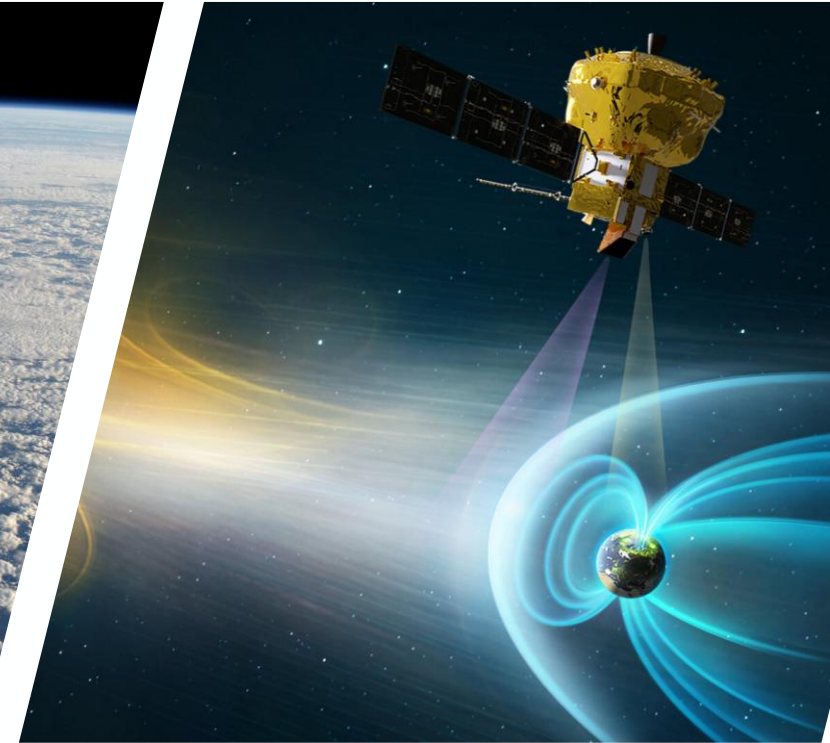
2026: Delivering CM25 starts now

Up to
65

New ESA satellites
and missions



Artemis II
Q1/Q2 2026



SMILE
Q2



EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

ELEVATING
THE FUTURE
OF EUROPE
THROUGH SPACE

THANK YOU!

Bluesky:
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