



DG Annual Press Conference 2026

ESA HQ, Paris
8 January 2026

Josef Aschbacher
Director General

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

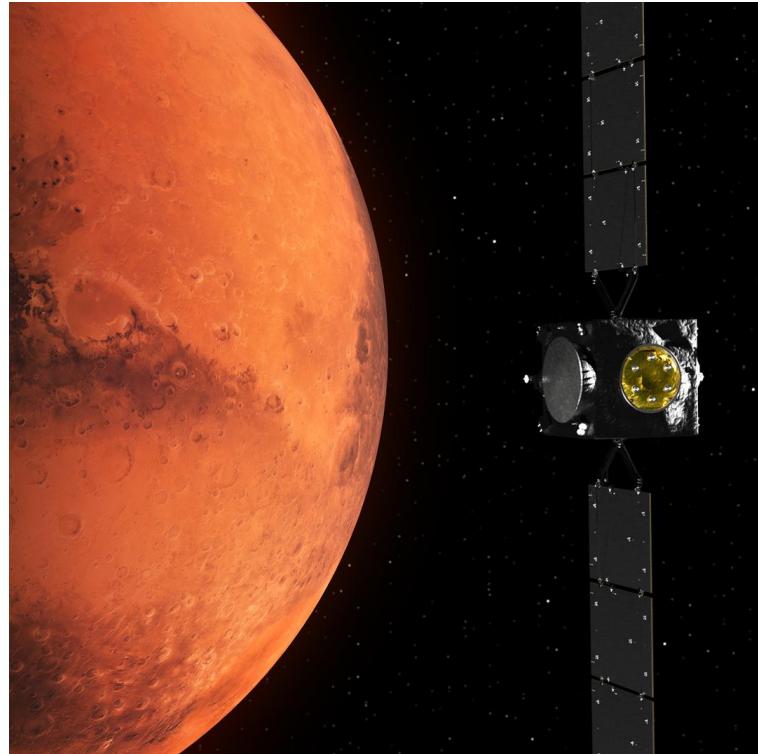
46

New ESA satellites
and missions
launched

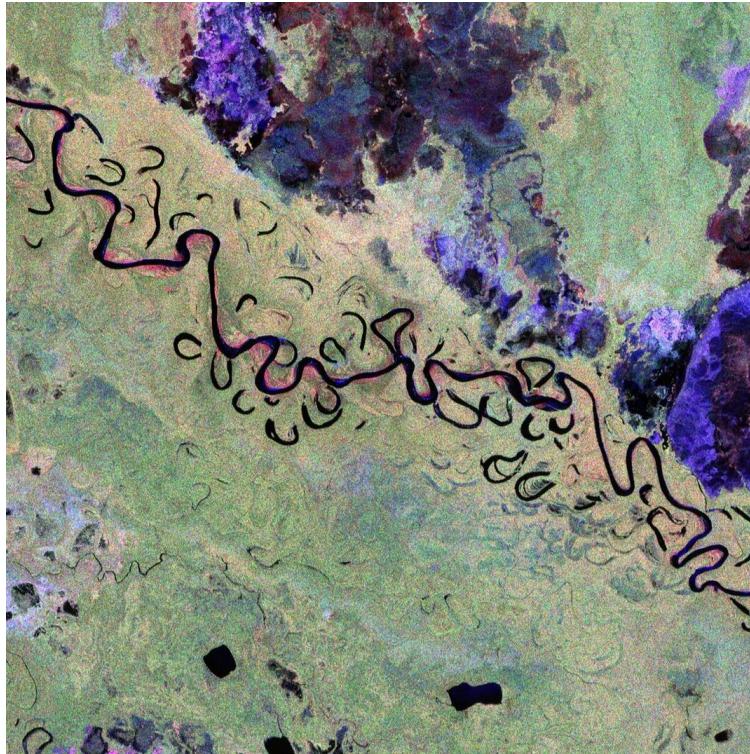


2025: A remarkable year for Europe in Space

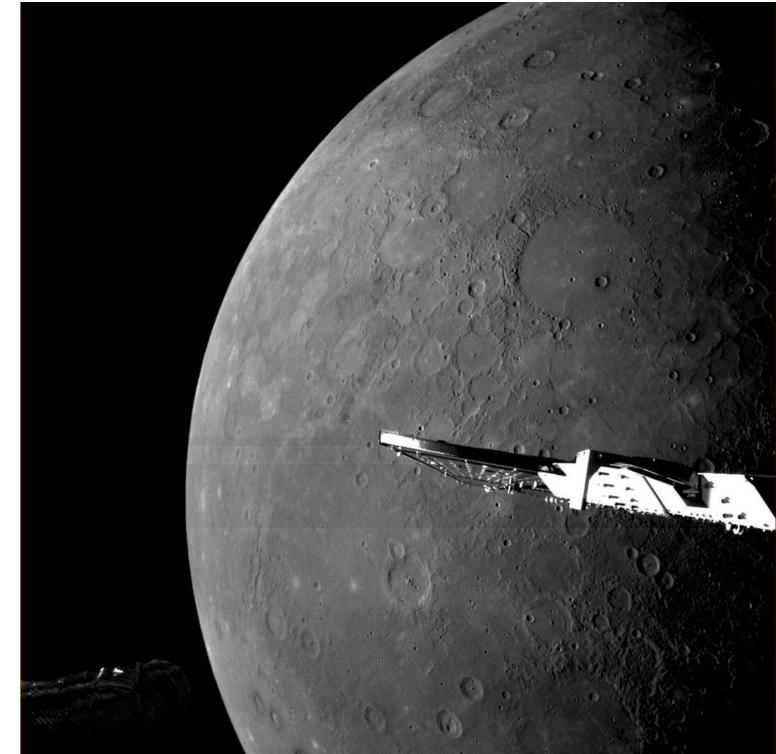
Missions in progress and discoveries



Hera Mars flyby



Biomass first images



BepiColombo's sixth Mercury flyby

2025: A remarkable year for Europe in Space



ESA 50th Anniversary



Strengthened ESA-EU partnership

With Commissioner for Defence
& Space Andrius Kubilius



Slovenia
ESA's 23rd Member State



**ESA Strategy
2040**
Released 20 March

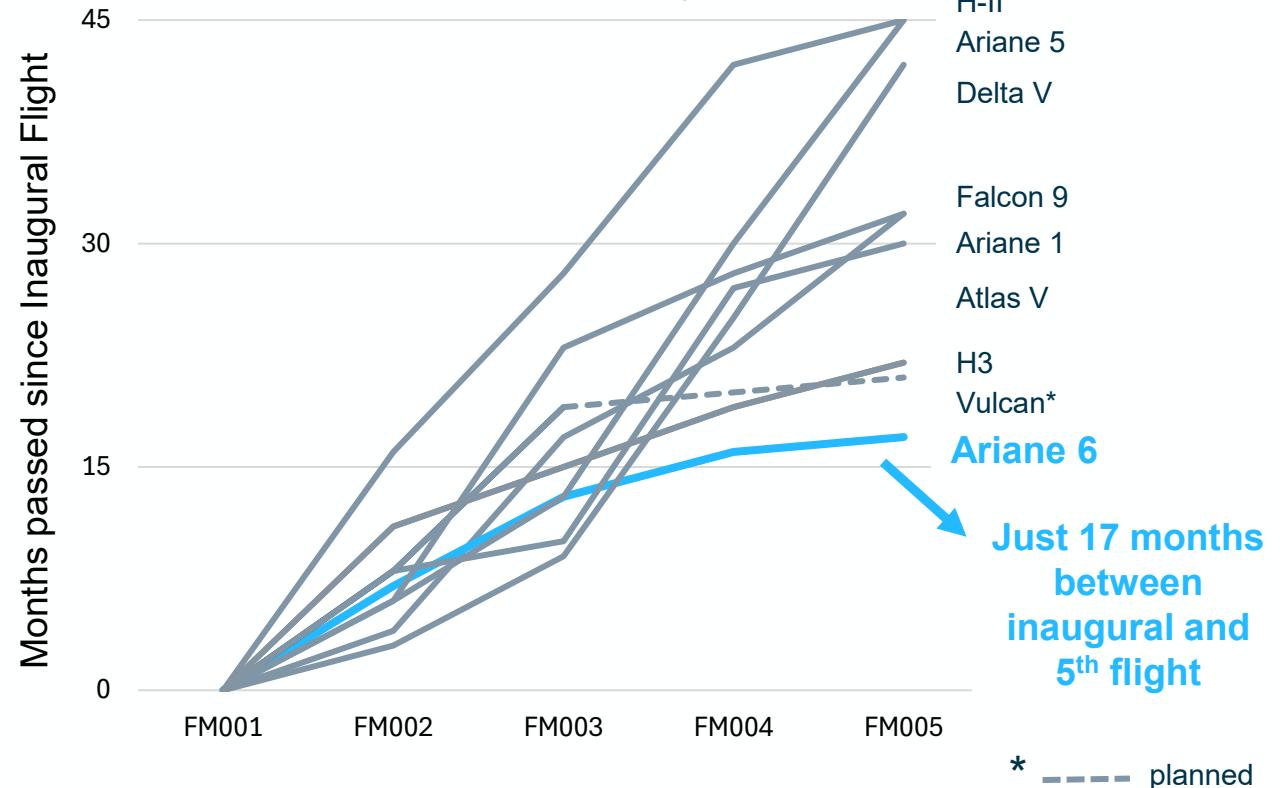
2025: A remarkable year for Europe in Space



**Ariane 6 and Vega-C
7 successful
launches**

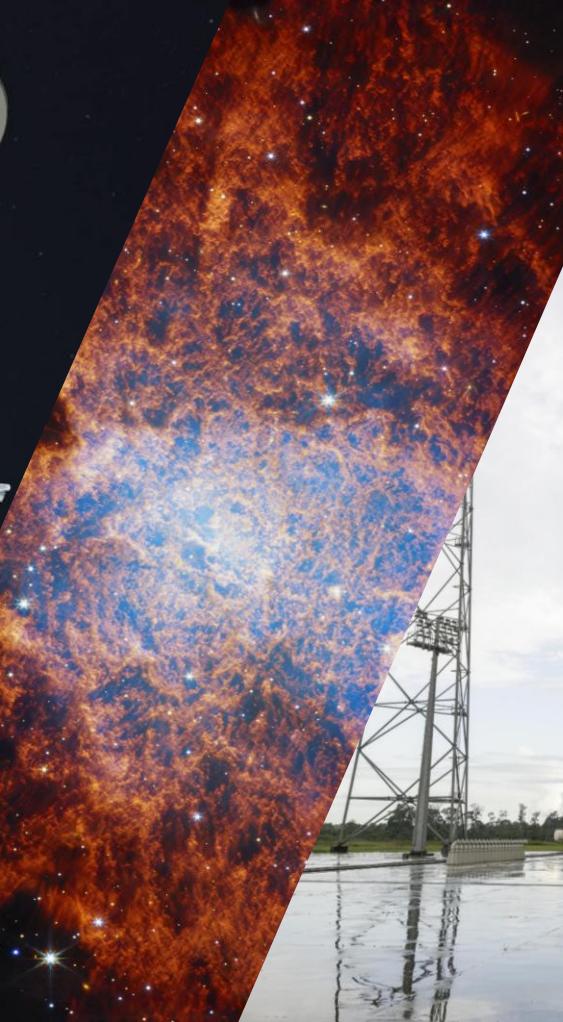
Ariane 6

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

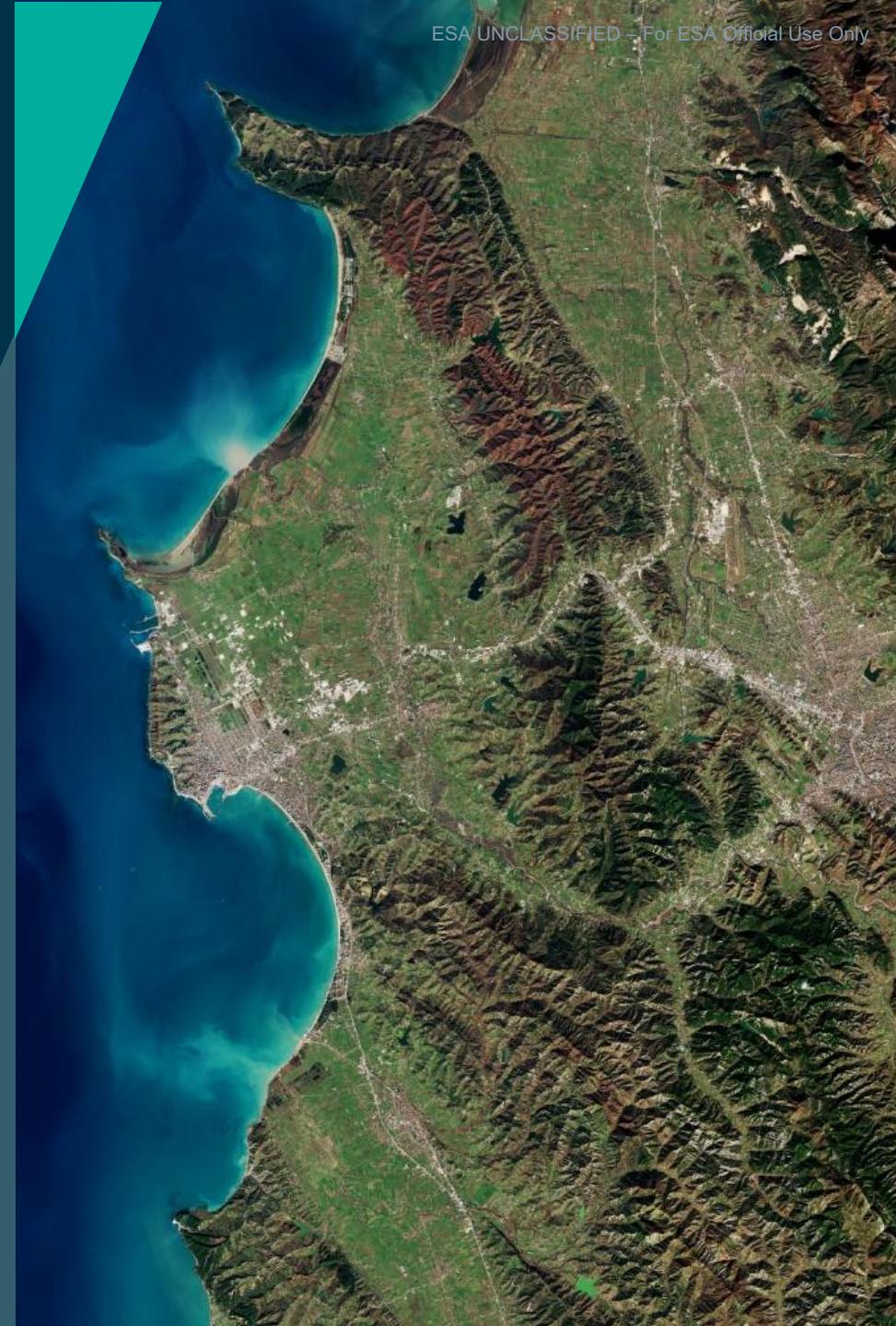
05

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

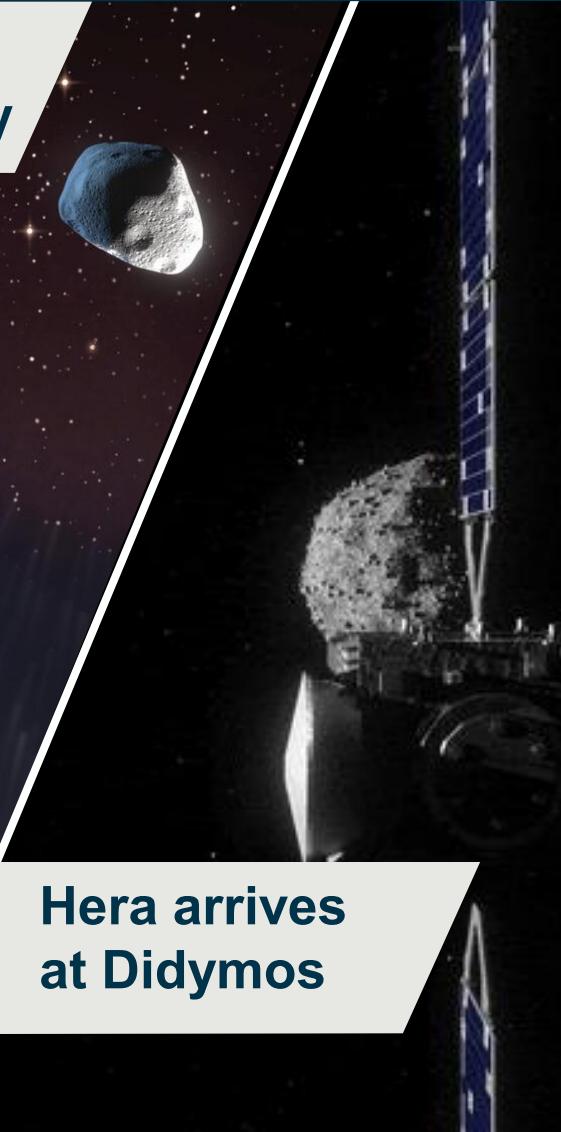
33x IRIDE, 11x Greek National SmallSat
Programme, MTG I2, Metop-SG B,
Sentinel 3C, and FLEX

PROTECT OUR PLANET AND CLIMATE

New Flyeye-1 telescope
starting operations in Italy



Hera arrives
at Didymos



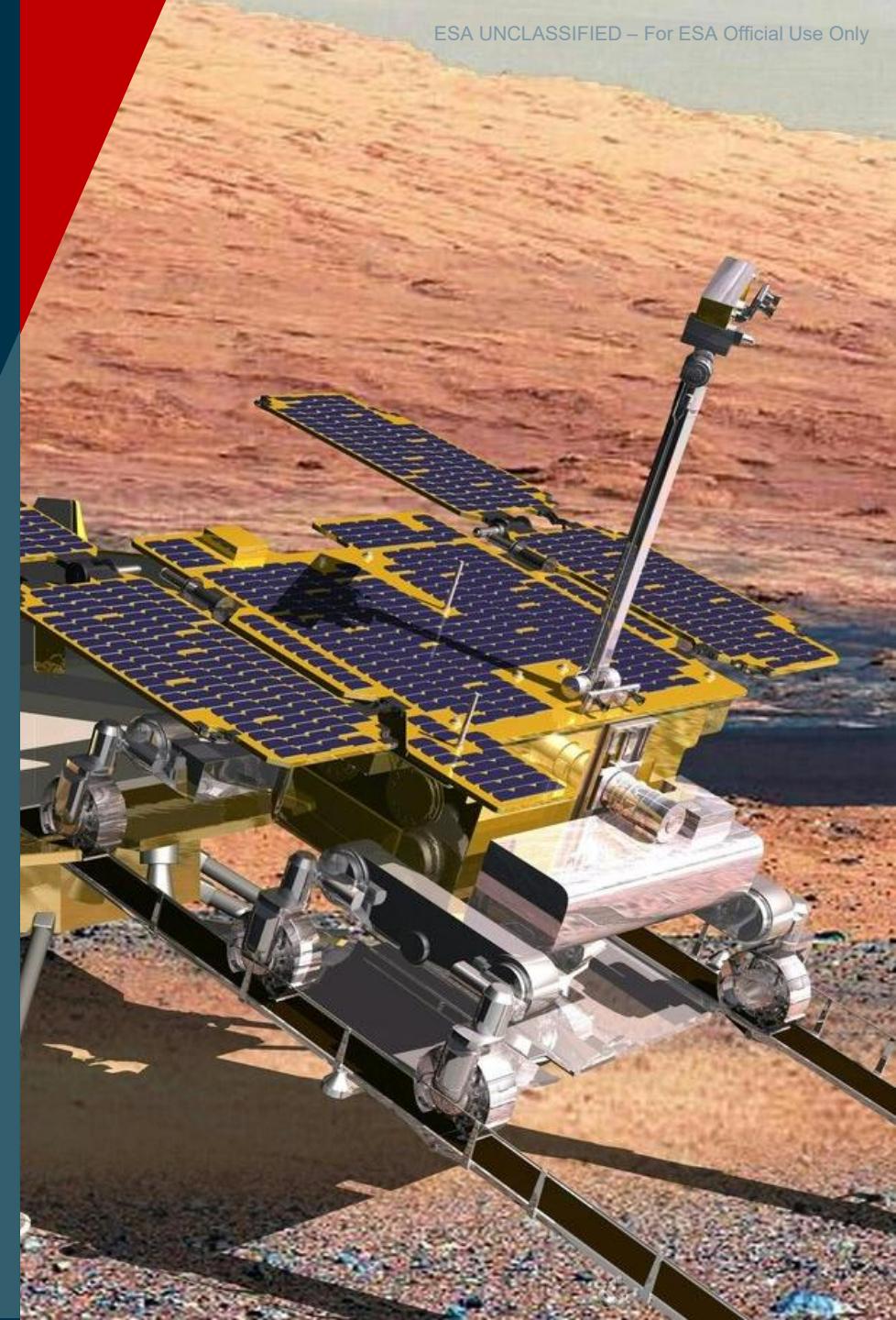
Cluster 3 & 4 targeted
re-entries



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

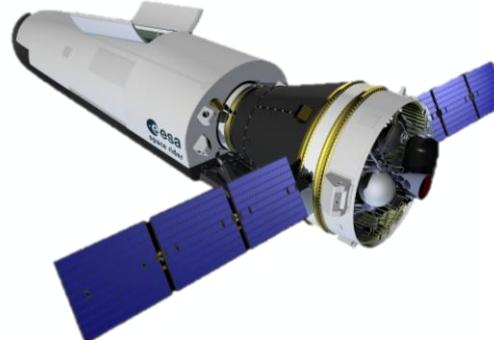
ESA secures guaranteed access to space



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



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

€1.23bn

Members

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

ESA UNCLASSIFIED – For ESA Official Use Only



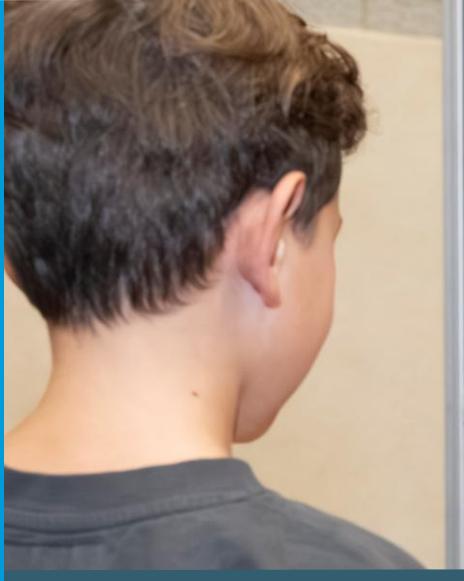
INSPIRE EUROPE

Reinforcing ESA as a strong European and international partner



INSPIRE EUROPE

Education & outreach



In 2025, ESA Education activities engaged

145,000 **Students**

154,000 **Teachers**

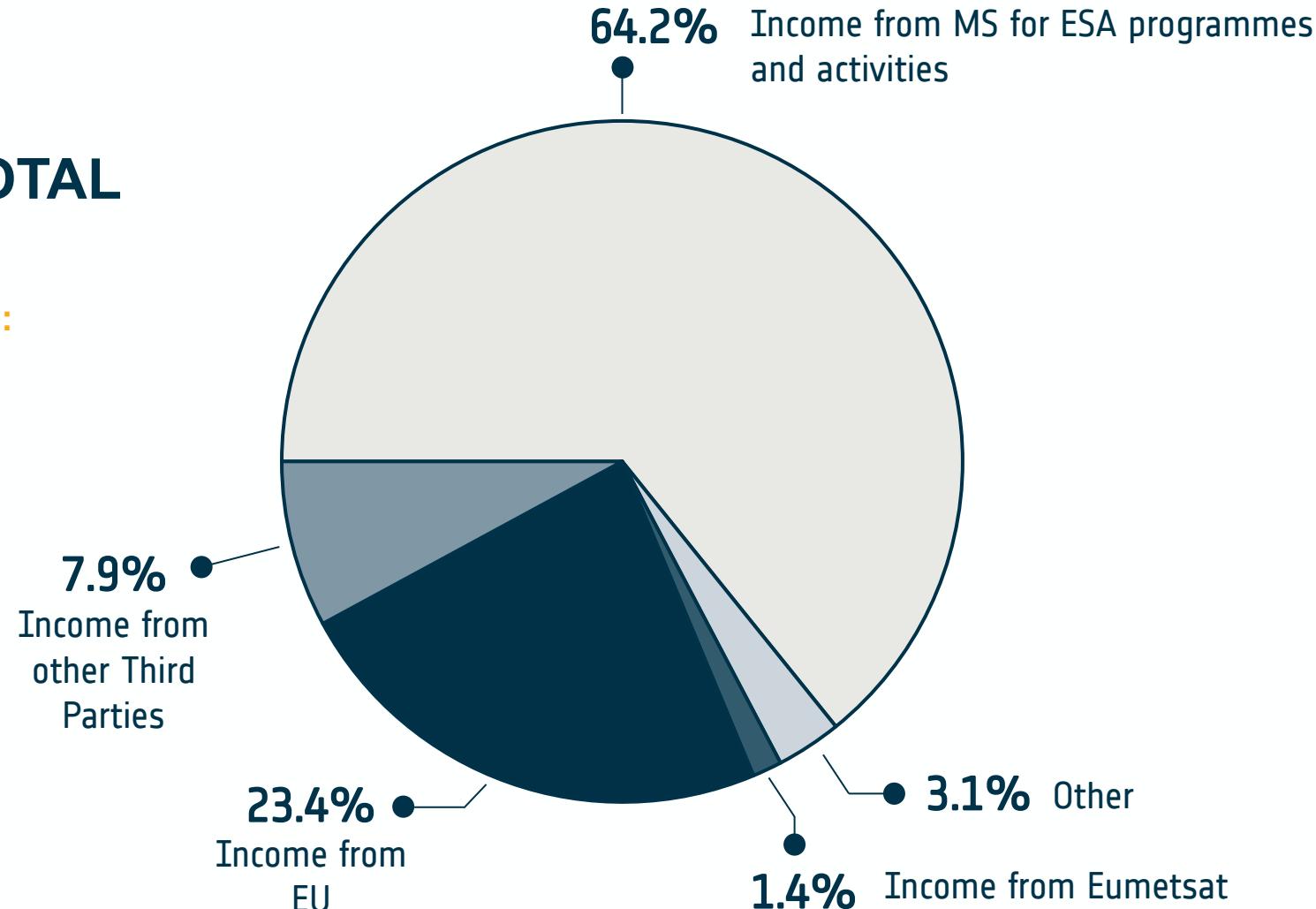


Bringing space closer to society

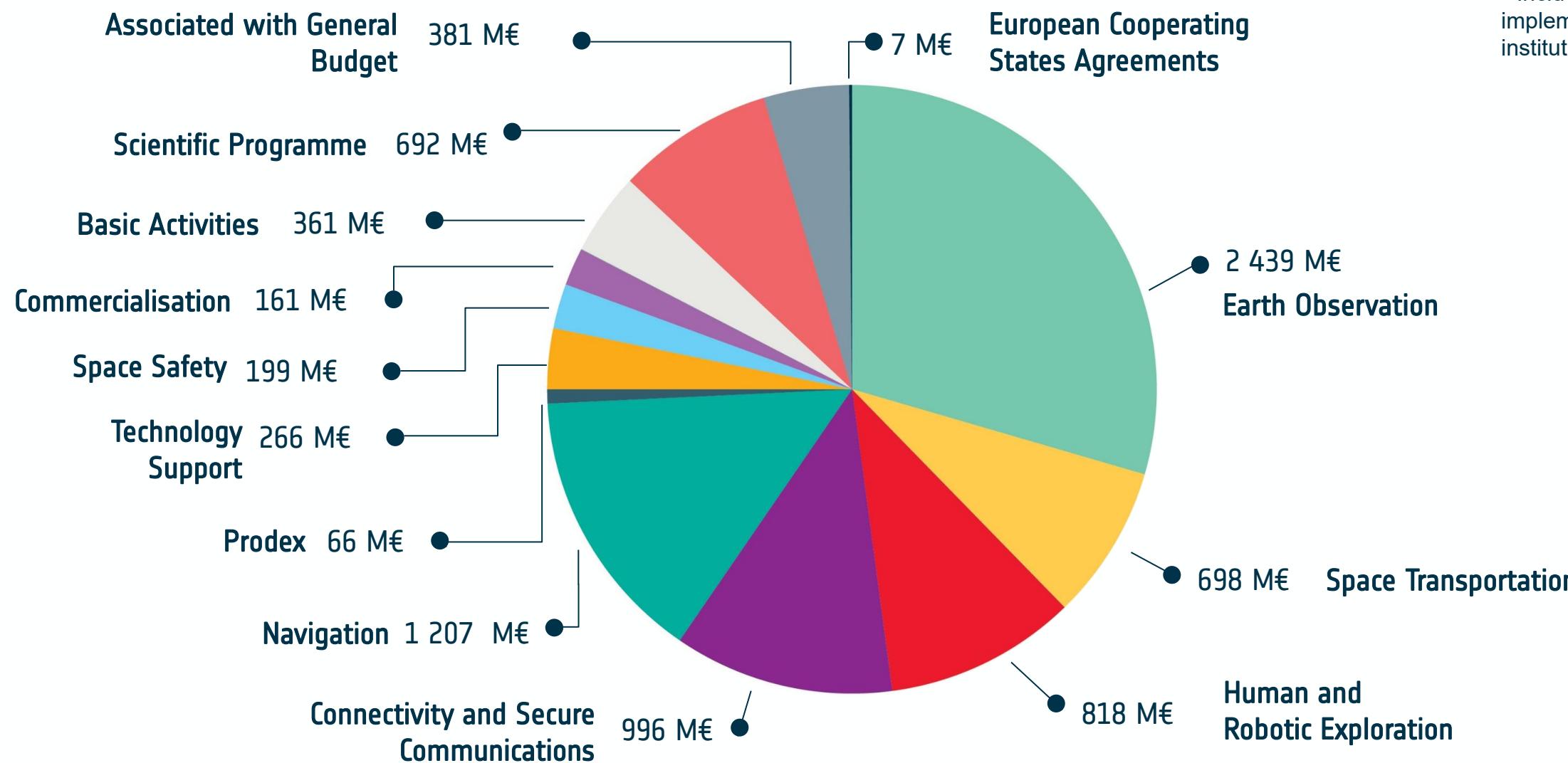
ESA Budget 2026 by funding source

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

2022

2025

-50%

Time-to-hire reduced by

40%

400+

New hires anticipated
in 2026

Phase 2 of ESA Transformation to be initiated in 2026

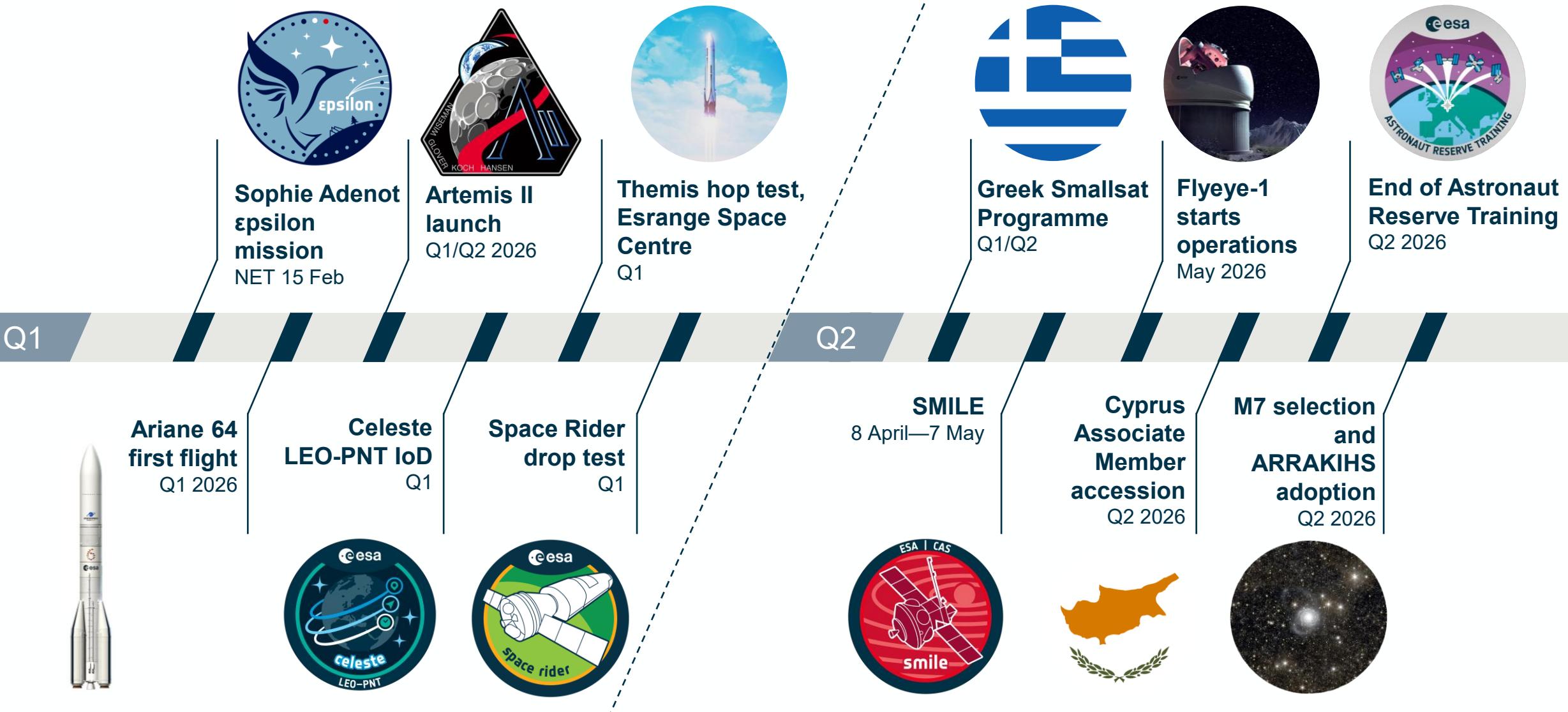
ESA TRANSFORMATION

ESA organisation

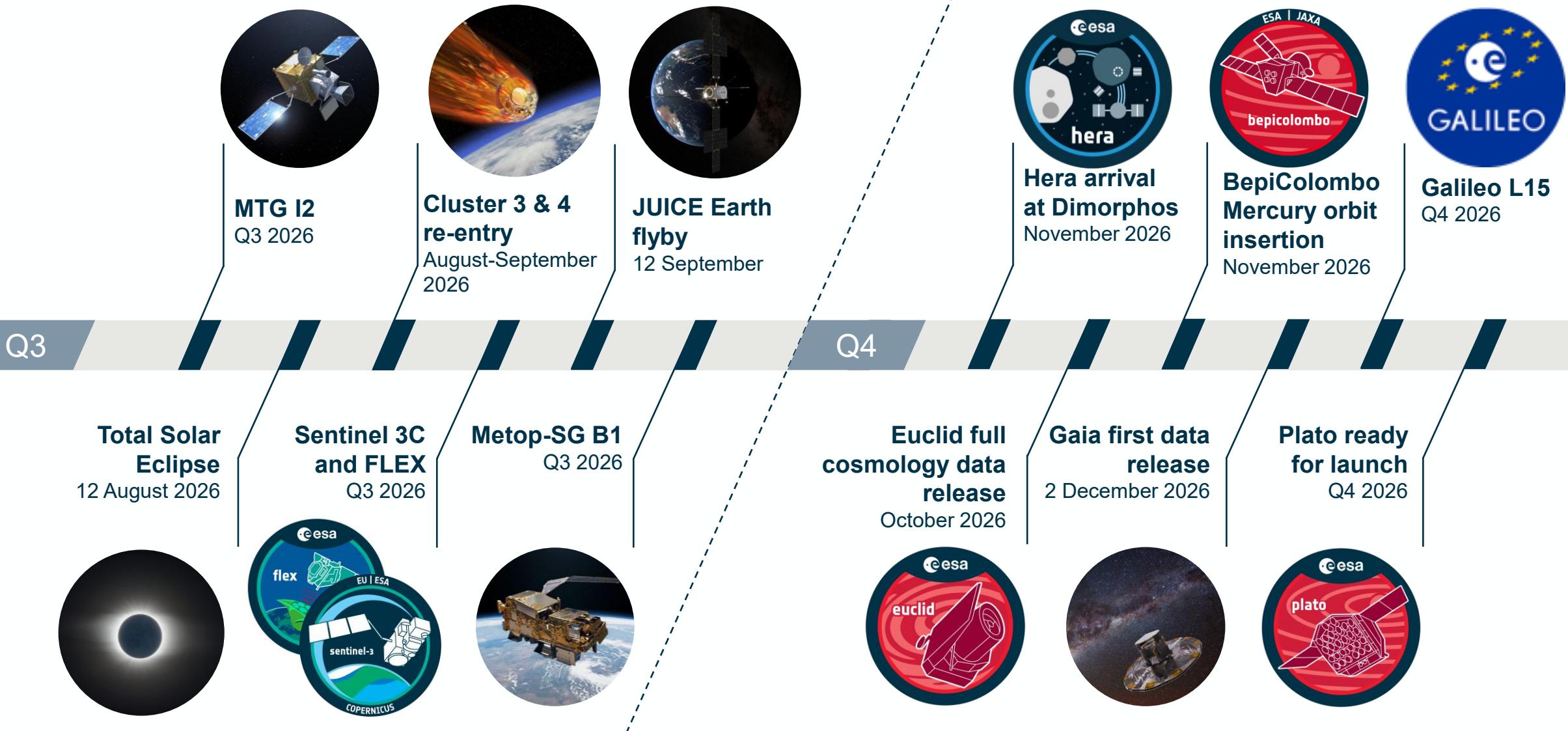
with
Member States

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

A high-resolution satellite image of Europe at night, showing the continent and surrounding islands with a dense pattern of city lights. The image is set against a dark blue background.

THANK YOU!

Bluesky:
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www.esa.int