

PRESS RELEASE

Toulouse, 23 November 2020



ActInSpace® 2020: Despite the global health crisis, 2,300 people participated in the hackathon! Next step: the finals in 2021!

ActInSpace®, the international hackathon, took place on 13 and 14 November, simultaneously over 5 continents, in 40 countries and 61 cities, virtually in most cases (82%) and sometimes in a physical version (18%).

This 4th edition will have been marked by the Covid-19 crisis, which forced the organisers to suspend registrations between March and October. Nevertheless, despite this exceptional situation, project holders were present once again, all hoping to launch their start-up at the end of the competition!

In total, over 2,300 people representing 534 **teams, mainly composed of students and coached by professionals from the space sector**, confronted each other across the world during 24 hours, trying to imagine new products and services for tomorrow, taking up the challenges proposed by CNES, ESA and the partners of ActInSpace®, using their patents or their satellite data.

Driven by the will to create their company while offering solutions for the planet, for its citizens or for employment (i.e. fighting against the effects of global warming, improving everyday life or simply addressing one of the many issues of tomorrow), participants of all ages, from all backgrounds and countries worked hard during these two days, hoping to be selected for the international **ActInSpace®** final, planned next year.

Regarding the profiles of the candidates, it can be noted that 40% were not at all from a scientific or engineering background, as many were literature, human sciences, architecture or art students, which provided a great diversity in the projects presented.

As usual, students (72%) constituted the majority of participants. The remaining 28% were composed of employees (16%), business owners (7%), job seekers (4%) and diverse profiles (1%).

Feminine participation has also grown significantly, with 30% women candidates, against 23% for the last edition of ActInSpace® in 2018.

The next step for ActInSpace® 2020 will be the national finals in each country, followed by the international final, which will all take place in 2021 and will highlight the best projects worldwide.

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ActInSpace® 2020 is supported by 15 international partners: Airbus, (historic Gold partner of the event) and SES, world number 1 supplier of satellite telecom services (Silver partner), as well as AirZero G, Continental, CLS, Dassault Aviation, EBAN Space, ESSP, Geo University, GSA, Invest in Toulouse, Kinéis, Suez, Ubisoft and WEkEO.

[More information on the finalists and their projects: www.actinspace.org](http://www.actinspace.org)

ActInSpace® key-figures:

3 editions over 6 years - 35 start-ups created since the first edition.

In 2020: 2,300 participants among which 72% students, 40 countries, 61 cities throughout the world.

534 projects showcased, 61 challenges taken up and 636 professionals helping the contestants.

About CNES:

CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales) is the government agency responsible for shaping France's space policy and implementing it in Europe. Its task is to conceive and orbit satellites, invent the space systems of the future and nurture new services to aid us in our daily lives. Founded in 1961, it is the initiator of major space projects, launch vehicles and satellites, and the partner of choice for industry fuelling innovation. CNES comprises some 2,500 men and women with a passion for space working to open up new and infinite fields of applications in five core areas of focus: Ariane, science, Earth observation, telecommunications and defence. It is a key player driving technology innovation, economic development and industrial policy for the nation. It also fosters scientific collaborations and has forged numerous international partnerships. France, represented by CNES, is the leading contributor to the European Space Agency.

More info on : www.cnes.fr

About ESA :

The European Space Agency (ESA) is Europe's gateway to space. Its mission is to shape the development of Europe's space capability and ensure that investment in space continues to deliver benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world. ESA is an international organisation with 22 Member States. By coordinating the financial and intellectual resources of its members, it can undertake programmes and activities far beyond the scope of any single European country.

ESA Space Solutions aims at reaching commercial exploitation of space assets, data and capabilities addressing incubation, proving technical feasibility and business development. This includes the development of operational services for a wide range of users through the combination of different systems, and support in creating viable companies as well as to existing companies. ESA BIC's are part of ESA's pan-European network of Business Incubation Centres operated by ESA Space Solutions. The network has now grown to 21 in 18 European countries. Together they form the largest ecosystem in the world for space-related entrepreneurship. Over 900 new start-ups have been fostered and another 220 are taken in annually at the network's business incubation sites.

More info on : www.esa.int / <https://business.esa.int/>

About Aerospace Valley:

Based in France, Aerospace Valley is world's first aerospace cluster, dedicated to the strategic sectors of Aeronautics, Space and Drones, in the Occitanie/ Pyrénées-Méditerranée and Nouvelle-Aquitaine regions. With its 5 excellency ecosystems – Embedded and Communicating Systems, Structures and Mechanical Systems, Propulsion and Embedded Energy, Data and Artificial Intelligence, Products and Services for the Industry – Aerospace Valley drives a supportive, competitive and attractive community, aimed at fostering innovation in view of growth.

Ranking among the top three clusters for the performance of its cooperative R&T projects (among which 580 have already been financed), Aerospace Valley is in charge of animating a dynamic network of international reputation, composed of 850 members (companies, research laboratories, training centres, universities and schools, local authorities, economic development structures).

Since 2017, Aerospace Valley is chaired by Yann Barbaux, Senior Vice President of Airbus and former Head of Innovation at Airbus.

More info on: www.aerospace-valley.com

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