

Press Release

ESA Ministerial Council 2025: A Major Move Forward for European Space Sovereignty

GIFAS welcomes the strong momentum given to the European space sector, backed by more than €22 billion in funding for the European Space Agency (ESA). France's contribution, increased to €3.7 billion, will help meet the country's strategic objectives. This commitment will also help to drive and sustain the competitiveness of France's industrial ecosystem.

Paris, 28 November 2025. At their meeting in Bremen on 26 and 27 November, the space ministers of the 23 Member States of the European Space Agency (ESA) agreed on the strategic direction and financial resources that will shape the agency's policy over the next three years. They adopted an overall budget of more than €22 billion, confirming strong momentum and introducing new priorities centred on sovereignty, security and competitiveness. France will be ESA's second-largest contributor – behind Germany and ahead of Italy – an encouraging signal for the sector.

Europe's Space Sector Rising to the Challenge

The €22.1 billion budget reflects a shared political recognition by Member States that space is a central strategic priority.

This substantial increase confirms Europe's determination to step up its investments amid heightened global competition, particularly from the United States and new entrants. It sends **a positive signal in an international landscape marked by the rapid expansion of civil, military and commercial programmes**. It also reaffirms the relevance of the European model: a space sector underpinned by a state-industry partnership where public investment is essential to sustaining Europe's competitiveness.

A Boost for the European and French Space Industry

With a contribution increased to €3.7 billion from €3.2 billion at the previous Ministerial Council meeting, **France remains ESA's second-largest contributor**, behind Germany (€5 billion) and ahead of Italy (€3.5 billion), despite the challenging national budget context.

Throughout the process, GIFAS championed an ambitious French contribution, essential to safeguarding technological expertise, sustaining a competitive industrial base, meeting the country's strategic objectives and strengthening its influence in current European negotiations,



including the European Space Act and the future EU Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034).

A Foundational Programme for France and the Sector

France's positioning within ESA is broadly aligned with the priorities identified by GIFAS, **which represents 525 companies, including 150 firms and 30% of member startups directly operating in the space sector.**

In line with its National Space Strategy, France has reaffirmed its commitment to investing in autonomous access to space, which represents a significant share of its overall contribution.

France's positioning also provides support for European Union programmes such as Galileo, Copernicus, IRIS² and the future EOGS programme. This commitment is also expected to strengthen the ability of French companies to access future European projects and consolidate their long-term competitiveness, particularly in export markets.

The entire French industry – from major groups to mid-caps, SMEs and startups – is ready to contribute to the major programmes ahead. With an integrated value chain and unique expertise, the sector is fully mobilised to accelerate the industrial ramp-up of Ariane 6, develop secure telecommunications, strengthen the resilience of navigation and Earth observation systems, and remain at the forefront of exploration and associated scientific programmes.

The sector shares a common objective: **ensuring that France and Europe remain major global competitors** by securing the essential space capabilities needed for defence, the economy and sovereignty. **The ESA CMIN 2025 marks an important milestone in this collective effort.**

For more information: [ESA - ESA Member States commit to largest contributions at Ministerial](#)

About GIFAS: The French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) is an industry body that brings together 525 companies ranging from major prime contractors and system suppliers to SMEs and startups. The association's members form a cohesive, united and dynamic high-technology sector specialising in the design, development, construction, marketing and maintenance of all civilian and military aerospace programmes and equipment, as well as defence and security systems. As of 9 October 2025, GIFAS membership comprises 17 aircraft and system manufacturers, 161 equipment manufacturers (GEADS – Group of Aerospace and Defence Equipment Manufacturers), 232 SMEs (Aero-PME Committee), 97 startups (StartAir), 16 associate members and 2 service companies.

GIFAS represents an industry with 2024 sales of €77.7 billion, 82% of which came from exports. The sector directly employs 222,000 people.

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