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Dübendorf, 07 September 2026

Press Release

A European Gateway to Commercial Space is established in Dübendorf

Zurich Gains Direct Access to the International Space Station and the Starlab Space Station

The Centre for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA) is bringing together a fully integrated pathway at the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich, from laboratory preparatory through parabolic flight test and qualification to low Earth orbit. With international partners across Europe and the United States, the hub now provides a practical route to orbital research and development aboard the International Space Station (ISS) - including three initial free competitive experiment slots provided jointly by the Center for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA) and Starlab Space - and, in the future, to commercial space stations such as Starlab.

Starting on 7 September, Dübendorf will bring two complementary levels of access to microgravity into a single operational framework: parabolic flight and orbital research aboard the ISS. The launch of the 8th Swiss Parabolic Flight Campaign and the new CSA-Starlab orbital pathway give Zurich direct access to orbital research and mark an important step toward an integrated European gateway for commercial space activities. Together, CSA and Starlab are launching this Dübendorf-to-orbit pathway by offering the first three selected competitive experiment opportunities with free access to the ISS.

Building on nearly two decades of mission experience, CSA is developing the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich as the ground-based hub of this system, together with the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich Foundation. From a single location, researchers, start-ups, and companies will be able to develop, test, and qualify technologies before progressing from parabolic flight qualification to orbital applications.

International partnerships provide direct access to the next stages of this pathway: Royal Netherlands Aerospace Center (NLR) and Novespace for parabolic flights,



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Starlab for orbital research and future commercial activities in low Earth orbit, and Space Florida for access to the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral launch ecosystem. Dübendorf thus connects European users with major orbital research and launch infrastructure on both sides of the Atlantic. The gateway to space is now operational through CSA and is available to national and international partners.

These partnerships are a key element of this strategy. Dübendorf is being developed as a European upstream and mission-preparation hub for orbital research and commercial activities in low Earth orbit. At the same time, the infrastructure of CSA and the University of Zurich in Florida creates an operational bridge to the U.S. launch ecosystem, serving both the current ISS era and the transition to commercial space stations. Starlab, a U.S.-led, global joint venture among Voyager Technologies, Airbus, Mitsubishi Corporation, MDA Space, Palantir Technologies, and Space Applications Services, is building a next-generation space station and ecosystem designed to provide a new industrial park in low Earth orbit after the retirement of the ISS. Through the Starlab joint venture ecosystem, customers can already conduct research aboard the ISS and establish a direct pathway to Starlab once the station becomes operational.

«For many years, we have developed and flown experiments from Dübendorf and supported missions in low Earth orbit. We are now connecting these capabilities into an integrated access system. Researchers and companies can develop an experiment here, test and qualify it in parabolic flight, and prepare it for orbital use. The ISS provides direct orbital access today, while Starlab provides continuity into the next generation of infrastructure in low Earth orbit,» says Prof. Oliver Ullrich, Chairman of the Board of Directors of CSA.

By the end of 2030, the CSA and the Zurich Innovation Park Foundation are set to develop this gateway into an established European end-to-end system open to companies, start-ups, and research institutions. It will integrate ground-based development, flight and microgravity qualification, direct access to orbital missions, and a transatlantic bridge for business and investment.

«Thanks to strong global partnerships of the CSA, the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich and Dübendorf airfield are developing into a European hub for commercial space activities and a key gateway to the International Space Station and the next generation of space stations. This is an extremely positive development for Zurich as a business and innovation location,» says Carmen Walker Späh, President of the Government Council and Head of the Department for Economic Affairs of the Canton of Zurich.



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Contact CSA for your gateway to space from Oct 1st 2026:

www.spacevalley.ch/gateway

**Conditions and application details for the first three free competitive ISS
experiment opportunities will be published on the Starlab Space website:**

www.starlab-space.com

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About the Center for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA)

Under the strategic objective of establishing space as an innovation flagship in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland, the Center for Space and Aviation Switzerland and Liechtenstein (CSA) and the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich (SIPZ) in Dübendorf are building one of Europe's most comprehensive ecosystems for end-to-end space and aviation research, technology development, and operational implementation. The CSA is a legal entity comprising 13 leading institutions from Switzerland and Liechtenstein with extensive experience in space and aviation. What is created in Dübendorf a European hub for research, trade, and logistics, serving as a transatlantic bridge between European space innovation and Florida's spaceport system. This includes direct flight connections between Dübendorf and the launch sites, enabling the rapid and seamless transfer of space systems, payloads, and products and linking European space innovation with the U.S. commercial space station ecosystem.

About the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich

The Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich is a national deep-tech hub for applied research, technological development and entrepreneurial innovation, focusing on Robotics & Autonomous Systems, Space & Aviation, and Advanced Manufacturing & Materials. Research, industry, start-ups and capital are brought together here in one place to enable and accelerate innovation and bring it to industrial application. Academic partners such as ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich and Empa link the Zurich Innovation Park to world-class research and international networks. With 530,000 m² of floor space and around 15,000 workplaces, a veritable city dedicated to innovation and research is taking shape here. The site, situated on the airfield grounds in Dübendorf in the immediate vicinity of the city of Zurich, offers flexible tenancy terms as well as specialised laboratories and test environments, providing the ideal conditions for testing and scaling up new technologies under real-world conditions.

About Starlab Space

Starlab Space is a U.S.-led global joint venture among Voyager Technologies (NYSE: VOYG), Airbus, Mitsubishi Corporation, MDA Space, Palantir Technologies, and Space Applications Services, with strategic partners including Hilton, Journey, Northrop Grumman, and The Ohio State University. Starlab is developing a next-generation, AI-enabled commercial space station with the aim of ensuring a continued human presence in low Earth orbit and a seamless transition for microgravity science and research as the International Space Station is retired. Starlab's advanced, user-driven design and robust capabilities make it a premier platform for scientific discovery and technological advancement in space. For more information, visit starlab-space.com.