

RULES GOVERNING THE GRANTS – “TIQUETS CATALONIA SPACE LABS” TO PROMOTE THE USE OF INFRASTRUCTURES IN THE SPACE ECOSYSTEM DURING 2026 WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CATALONIA SPACE STRATEGY 2030

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The Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia Foundation (hereafter, IEEC) is a research institute attached to the Generalitat of Catalonia through the competent department in the field of research and is part of its institutional public sector.

The IEEC explores all domains of knowledge and technology related to the space sector and space sciences, such as astrophysics, cosmology, planetary science, Earth observation, and space engineering. Its goal is to advance the boundaries of space research through scientific and technological efforts, maximising benefits for society.

The specific objectives of the IEEC are:

- To foster astronomical and space research.
- To become an internationally recognised centre for attracting talent and fostering collaboration both locally and globally.
- To become an efficient agent of knowledge, innovation, and technology transfer in its field.
- To carry out awareness-raising campaigns for society about science through the communication of scientific culture.

On 25 November 2025, the Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia, through the Secretariat for Digital Policies, approved the Catalonia Space 2030 strategy (hereinafter “the space strategy”) to promote the Catalan space sector and continue the first strategy approved in October 2020. The IEEC, through its Area for the Promotion of the Space Sector in Catalonia (APEC), is one of the entities responsible for promoting and carrying out various activities identified in the strategy, including fostering and generating a competitive space ecosystem in Catalonia at national and international level.

The IEEC and the Generalitat of Catalonia, within the framework of the Catalonia Space 2030 strategy, are launching a call for applications for grants called **Tiquets Catalonia Space Labs**. The aim of these grants is to promote the use of space infrastructures owned by private Catalan entities within the space ecosystem, making it easier for companies to access space infrastructures at a reduced cost.

This call is also made available to the Phi-Lab NET Spain programme. The Generalitat of Catalonia, as the entity providing local funding, and the IEEC, as the programme coordinator, are facilitating this instrument due to its clear focus on accelerating innovation transfer, a goal shared with the Phi-Lab NET Spain programme.

See **Appendix I** of these bases for more information on ESA Phi-Lab NET in Spain or visit the programme website: <https://esaphilabnet-spain.ieec.cat/>

The grants under these rules will be awarded under a non-competitive concurrency regime pursuant to Article 22 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November on General Subsidies and Article 55.1 of Royal Decree 887/2006 of 21 July approving the Regulation of the General Subsidies Law.



CLAUSE 1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of these rules is to regulate the awarding of grants by the IEEC and the Generalitat of Catalonia to private companies with their registered office, tax domicile, workplace, or permanent establishment in Catalonia to finance the use of space-related infrastructures during 2026.

1.2 The aim is to foster collaboration between companies and entities in the space sector in Catalonia. It seeks to strengthen capabilities and connections among Catalan space entities, promoting innovation and efficient use of available space infrastructures.

1.3 The grants will be used to finance the contracting by applicant companies of the use of space infrastructures: both those that form part of the Catalonia Space Labs portal (<https://www.ieec.cat/apec/catalonia-space-labs/>), as well as others located in Catalonia that can justify their use for activities related to the space sector. In the case of infrastructures that are not part of Catalonia Space Labs, in order for the grant to be granted, they must join the portal prior to the grant being granted.

CLAUSE 2. BENEFICIARIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDING THE GRANT

The following may be beneficiaries of these grants: private companies that meet the requirements below:

- a) Be a private company with its registered office, tax domicile, workplace, or permanent establishment in Catalonia.
- b) The company's corporate purpose and activities must be related to projects in the space sector.
- c) Require the use of a space infrastructure located in Catalonia.

In addition, applicant companies must meet the following requirements:

- Be up to date with tax obligations to the State and the Generalitat, and with Social Security obligations. This compliance must be maintained throughout the entire procedure: at the time of application submission, prior to the award resolution, and before receiving any payment or grant instalment.
- Not be in any of the circumstances that prevent acquiring beneficiary status as set out in Article 13 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November on General Subsidies.
- Not have been sanctioned, by final decision, for committing a serious infringement regarding the labour integration of people with disabilities or a very serious infringement in labour relations or occupational health and safety matters during the year prior to the call, in accordance with the consolidated text of the Law on Infringements and Sanctions in Social Order, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 5/2000 of 4 August, or, if sanctioned, have applied the corrective measures provided and paid the required amounts.
- Comply with obligations and not fall under the prohibitions set out in Articles 90 bis and 92 bis of Legislative Decree 3/2002 of 24 December approving the consolidated text of the Public Finance Law of Catalonia (DOGC no. 3791A of 31.12.2002).
- Have an organisation and prevention management system in accordance with Law 31/1995 of 8 November on Occupational Health and Safety, Royal Decree 39/1997 of 17 January approving the Regulation of Prevention Services, and subsequent amendments introduced by Law 54/2003 of 12 December reforming the occupational health and safety framework.
- Not have been convicted by final judgment, neither the legal entity applying nor the natural persons assigned to the execution of the subsidised activity, for any crime against sexual freedom and identity, or human trafficking for sexual exploitation purposes, including pornography, in accordance with Organic Law 1/1996 of 15 January on the legal protection of



minors, as amended by Law 26/2015 of 28 July modifying the child and adolescent protection system.

- Not have been subject to final administrative sanctions or final criminal convictions for having engaged in or tolerated discriminatory labour practices on grounds of sex or gender, as established in Article 11.1 of Law 17/2015 of 21 July on effective equality between women and men.

CLAUSE 3. AMOUNT AND INTENSITY OF THE AID

3.1 A grant of 70% of the cost of using the infrastructure will be awarded, up to a maximum of €15,000 per applicant company.

3.2 The same company may submit multiple grant applications in the same call; these will be processed in order of submission until the maximum amount per company is exhausted. If in one call a company does not reach the maximum of €15,000, it may submit further applications in subsequent calls until reaching that maximum.

3.3 In a single application, the same company may request aid for the use of multiple infrastructures.

3.4 Under no circumstances will the use of an infrastructure owned by the applicant company itself be eligible for funding.

CLAUSE 4. ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

4.1 Eligible costs are those for contracting the use of space infrastructures owned by entities with registered office and/or tax domicile, permanent establishment, or workplace in Catalonia, incurred prior to the grant application (from 1 January 2026 to the date of application submission). The infrastructure must be located within the territory of Catalonia.

4.2 The following infrastructures are eligible for subsidised use:

- a. Infrastructures that form part of Catalonia Space Labs (<https://www.ieec.cat/apec/catalonia-space-labs/>),
- b. Space infrastructures (clean rooms, vacuum chambers, vibration benches, laboratories, etc.) located in Catalonia. In this case, the owning companies will have to join the infrastructure to Catalonia Space Labs. Without this adhesion, the aid cannot be granted.

4.3 Taxes are not eligible.

4.4 Contracts for the use of infrastructures must have been executed and paid by the applicant company before submitting the corresponding application.

CLAUSE 5. PROCEDURE AND METHOD OF SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

5.1 This grant award procedure will be processed under a non-competitive concurrency regime.

5.2 Applications will be processed in the order they are received until the available budget of €100,000 is fully allocated. Once the budget is exhausted, this will be publicly announced.

5.3 Applications must be submitted exclusively electronically through the IEEC electronic headquarters: <https://www.ieec.cat/ieec/seu-electronica/>.



Applicants must complete the generic application form and attach the documentation listed in Clause 6 of these rules.

The person signing the application must have legal representation of the applicant company or entity.

For determining the order of priority, the relevant date and time will be the moment the application is submitted via the IEEC electronic headquarters.

In the case of submitting corrected documentation, the date and time when the applicant correctly submits all required documentation and information will be taken into account. If two or more applications have the same submission date, priority will be given to the one with the earlier submission time.

CLAUSE 6. DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED BY APPLICANTS

The following documentation must be submitted:

1. Application form from **Appendix II**, duly completed and signed by the company's representative(s).
2. Proof of expenditure: invoice issued to the grant applicant for the use of the infrastructure.
3. Proof of payment: bank transfer receipt or bank statement.
4. Certificate of bank account ownership where the grant amount is to be received.

In addition, the application must include the following documentation:

- Articles of incorporation and any amendments, duly registered in the Commercial Registry or corresponding official registry, and the entity's NIF (tax ID).
- Public document of power of attorney for the entity's representative, duly registered in the corresponding public registry, together with the representative's DNI (national ID) and NIF (tax ID).
- Documentation proving the company is private and has its registered office, tax domicile, workplace, or permanent establishment in Catalonia.
- Documentation proving compliance with tax and Social Security obligations:
 - (i) Positive certificate issued by the competent authority confirming the entity is up to date with state tax obligations and has no tax debts.
 - (ii) Positive certificate issued by the competent authority confirming the entity is up to date with tax obligations to the Generalitat of Catalonia and has no tax debts.
 - (iii) Positive certificate issued by the competent authority confirming the entity is up to date with Social Security obligations.

The granting body may request additional supporting documents to verify proper justification of the subsidy. If rectifiable defects are identified in the justification, the beneficiary will be notified and given a period of 5 working days to correct them.

CLAUSE 7. DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Four submission periods are planned:



1st call: From 9 January to 8 March 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

2nd call: From 8 April to 8 June 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

3rd call: From 8 July to 8 September 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

4th call: From 8 October to 8 December 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Calls 2, 3, and 4 are subject to the results of previous calls and available budget.

Four partial resolutions are expected on the following dates:

- First partial resolution: 1 month after the submission deadline.
- Second partial resolution: 1 month after the submission deadline.
- Third partial resolution: 1 month after the submission deadline.
- Fourth partial resolution: by 22 December 2026.

CLAUSE 8. AWARD OF THE GRANT

Once the submitted documentation has been reviewed, the IEEC will issue a final resolution and notify it to the beneficiaries. The resolution will also be published on the IEEC transparency portal.

Companies benefiting from grants in the area of climate resilience may be included in the ESA Phi-Lab NET Spain portfolio (<https://esaphilabnet-spain.ieec.cat>), given the programme's specialisation in this field. Similarly, all projects and beneficiary companies may be featured in the various communication instruments of the Catalonia Space 2030 strategy, as agreed with the Generalitat of Catalonia and the IEEC.

CLAUSE 9. PAYMENT OF THE GRANT

Once the grant has been awarded, the IEEC will proceed to pay the amount into the company's account indicated in the application.

CLAUSE 10. REIMBURSEMENT

Reimbursement of the grant will be required in the cases provided for in Article 37 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November on General Subsidies and other applicable regulations, which will entail the obligation to return all or part of the awarded grant, together with corresponding late-payment interest.

CLAUSE 11. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Submitting an application implies full acceptance of these rules by the applicant entities.

The beneficiary entity undertakes to carry out the activity for which the grant is requested within the time and manner established in these rules, to provide all requested information regarding the awarded grant, and to submit to verification and control actions by the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia in accordance with applicable regulations.



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Any material inaccuracy, falsehood, or essential omission in any data or document accompanying the grant application will render the procedure ineffective from the moment it becomes known, after hearing the interested party. Consequently, the detection of such circumstances will result in the rejection of the grant application, without prejudice to it being grounds for revocation of the subsidy if discovered after award.

Any matter not covered in this call will be resolved by the granting body.

Castelldefels, March 2026.

Xavier Luri
Director of IEEC
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Pilar Montes Marbà
Director of the Management Area/ Manager of the IEEC
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APPENDIX I – ESA Phi-Lab NET Spain

What is it?

In response to ESA tender AO/1-12128/24/UK/AL/ra for an ESA Phi-Lab in Spain, the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC) submitted a proposal to host an ESA Phi-Lab NET Spain in Barcelona, focused on climate resilience, with the following main objectives:

- Improve understanding of climate change and strengthen climate resilience in Spain through nature-based solutions, with results exportable to other European and Mediterranean regions that could also benefit.
- To lead in the development of sustainable and resilient technologies aimed at predicting and mitigating climate change effects.
- Act as an economic development hub, offering economic operators (companies, entities) opportunities to develop innovative technologies and bring these solutions to market.

ESA Phi-Labs belong to the ScaleUp commercialisation programme, providing funding, research support, and access to laboratories and infrastructures to economic operators with the goal of conducting commercially viable research under one roof.

ESA Phi-Lab NET Spain offers economic operators applying to its various calls support in three key areas: knowledge, infrastructure, and funding. This presents a unique opportunity for both companies and the Phi-Lab consortium to foster innovation.

This platform facilitates businesses in developing new solutions for potential commercial uses, leveraging the expertise of researchers and accessing available facilities. Simultaneously, it assists researchers in converting their research into business opportunities.

Consortium and roles

ESA PhiLabNET Spain comprises 12 entities: IEEC (coordinator), i2cat, ICGC, FG CSIC, KIM, Arribes, UPC, Innova IRV, UV, BSC, ICFO, UAB (Melissa pilot plant).



APPENDIX II. APPLICATION FORM (all fields are mandatory)

IDENTIFYING DETAILS OF THE COMPANY:

Company name:

Tax ID no. (NIF):

Registered office, tax domicile, workplace, or permanent establishment within Catalonia:

DETAILS OF THE ENTITY'S REPRESENTATIVE:

Name and surname:

National ID (DNI):

Position:

Email:

That she/he has sufficient capacity to represent the company/entity _____, in accordance with: _____.

Note: In the case of a legal entity, the individual acting on behalf of the entity must be designated as the authorised representative in a public deed or in the entity's Articles of Association, specifying the position held and the corresponding responsibilities.

- Declares compliance with all requirements laid down in Clause 2 of the rules.

DETAILS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE USED:

TYPE OF INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE USED:

COMPANY/ENTITY OWNING THE INFRASTRUCTURE:

ADDRESS OF THE LOCATION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE:

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE PROJECT REQUIRING USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE (less than 200 words)

OBJECTIVE OF USING THE INFRASTRUCTURE: (less than 200 words)

(For information only) DOES THE OBJECT OF THE TESTING HAVE OR POTENTIALLY HAVE A RELATION TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE? YES / NO

EXPECTED IMPACT: (less than 100 words)

DATE AND DURATION OF USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE:

TOTAL COST OF USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE (excluding VAT):



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AMOUNT REQUESTED (excluding VAT):

(Name and surname of the representative of the user entity of the infrastructure)

(Signature of the user entity of the infrastructure)

