

## Frequently Asked Questions (version 31 July 2020)

If you have a question that is not answered here, please contact [unoosa-access-to-space \[at\] un.org](mailto:unoosa-access-to-space@un.org)

### **Q: What is the collaboration between UNOOSA and Avio S.p.A. about?**

**A:** UNOOSA and Avio S.p.A. signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on providing opportunities to access space to UN Member States, in particular, developing countries.

UNOOSA Director Simonetta Di Pippo said: "We are pleased to announce this latest addition to the portfolio of orbital opportunities under the Access to Space 4 All initiative that UNOOSA offers to UN Member States, and in particular to developing countries, together with strategic partners that are leaders in the space sector, such as Avio. This project will provide selected institutions with a unique opportunity to launch their space technology free of charge, expanding access to the benefits of space. This is also thanks to the agreement of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with the endorsement of the General Assembly that UNOOSA should pursue greater engagement with industry and private sector entities, for example for Access to Space 4 All. After the successful deployment last year of the first Kenyan 1U Cubesat from the International Space Station, thanks to UNOOSA's partnership with the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency, which allowed Kenya to become a space nation, we are proud to announce another partnership under this Initiative, which already includes several space agencies, private companies and a research centre."

### **Q: What will be the opportunity about?**

**A:** Through this opportunity, UNOOSA and AVIO will provide a launch opportunity using a Vega C launcher for a CubeSat or aggregates of CubeSats of maximum 3U. AVIO shall bear the costs of launch of the CubeSat(s). The Selected Entity shall bear the remaining costs, such as, CubeSat design, implementation, testing...

Applicants will be expected to make the link between their design and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and its [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) and are also expected to contribute to broaden space activities and applications and to foster capacity-building in space science and technology.

For detailed information, please check the Announcement of Opportunity once it is released.

### **Q: What are the benefits of this opportunity?**

**A:** Preparing a CubeSat to be launched in VEGA-C will allow participants to familiarize with the requirements and constraints of this particular launcher and understand how to adapt their engineering processes accordingly.

It allows the applicants to take a step further in the design, implementation and testing of CubeSats.

Not only that, the available volume (3U) allows applicants to design more complex CubeSats, due to this, we expect that partnerships are forged, increasing the opportunities for international collaboration.

### **Q: What are the challenges of this opportunity?**

**A:** Due to the range of possible orbits, this opportunity makes particular emphasis in the application of the [Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines](#) and the [Guidelines for the Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities](#).

**Q:** Is UNOOSA facilitating the creation of partnerships?

**A:** UNOOSA has created a matchmaking platform in the form of a virtual board for participants to use it to advertise their requests or offers for partnership.

Please register in the link below:

[Click here to register to start using the matchmaking platform](#)

The use of the matchmaking platform is not mandatory, just a tool to help potential applicants. Potential applicants can also rely on their own connections.

**Q:** Is there a limit on the size of teams applying?

**A:** There is no limit on the number of members of a team, so teams can have as many members as are deemed necessary by the applicants. Inclusive and diverse teams are encouraged and diversity is part of the selection criteria.

**Q:** Should the participant take care of all the necessary regulatory clearances?

**A:** Applicants need to ensure compliance with all applicable domestic and/or international regulations.

**Q:** Can private companies from developing countries participate?

**A:** This opportunity does not allow that. Research institutes, universities, and other public organizations are eligible to apply for this Opportunity. Private companies, non-governmental or non-profitable agencies are ineligible.

For detailed information, please check the Announcement of Opportunity once it is released.