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## THE CALENDAR

**1<sup>ST</sup> PHASE:** *International Call for Interest of Qualified Entities for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria.*

- **By 24 September** – Publication, announcement and distribution of invitations for *“Expressions of Interest for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria”*;
- **24-29 September**, Ponta Delgada, Azores – ESA meeting on Earth Observation and Altimetry, Ponta Delgada, Island of São Miguel, Azores, together with public announcement of the invitations for *“Expressions of Interest for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria”*
- **1-5 October, Bremen, IAC meeting, Bremen** – Presentation of a *“Breaking News Event”* to promote invitations for *“Expressions of Interest for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria”*, to be jointly organized by ESA, the Portuguese Government and the Regional Government of Azores;
- **11-12 October 2018, Lisbon** – Presentation at ESA’s GSTP 25th anniversary, including promotion of invitations for *“Expressions of Interest for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria”*;
- **25 October 2018, Madrid** - ESA Intermediate Ministerial Meeting, where the invitations for *“Expressions of Interest for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria”* will be promoted through the Portuguese Government;
- **31 October 2018** - Closing deadline to submit *“Expressions of Interest for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria”*;
- **October-December 2018:** Public engagement initiatives with local population in Santa Maria Island, with the potential participation of bidders

**2<sup>ND</sup> PHASE:** *Overture of International Call for Tender for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria.*

- **6 November 2018** - Presentation of ESA’s FLPP studies, at ESA headquarters, in Paris;
- **November 2018** (*date to be confirmed*) – Public announcement and formalisation of the **Call** for the *“International Call for Tender for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria”*. It includes the definition of detailed assessment and selection

process by an international high-level expert committee, to be appointed by the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation, and with the technical support of ESA;

- **27-28 November 2018, Houston, Texas** – “Space Commerce Conference and Exposition” (“SpaceCom Expo”), including promotion of the *“International Competitive Bidding for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria”*;
- **January-February 2019** - Closing date for the submission of outline proposals, containing the required essential information, of the *“International Call for Tender for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria”*;
- **February-March 2019** – Initiation of the assessment process, including a public presentation of bids.

**3<sup>RD</sup> PHASE:** *Conclusion of International Call for Tender for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria.*

- **March-May 2019** - Final Assessment Phase, based on the detailed analysis by an *International High-Level Expert Committee*;;
- **End of April 2019:** Final negotiation with Enterprises/Consortia;
- **April/May 2019** - Establishment of a contract for the development and operation of the Spaceport;

Contractual/grant period: *Installation of Launch services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria*

- **May/June 2019 to May/June 2021 (2 years)** - Implementation phase;
- **Spring/Summer 2021** - First expected launch services operating from the Azores.