

# 8<sup>th</sup> NEW SPACE ATLANTIC SUMMIT

THE FUTURE OF PORTUGAL IN SPACE  
Contributions for a renewed National Strategy

May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Central Tagus – Lisbon

AGÊNCIA ESPACIAL PORTUGUESA

The Draghi, Letta, and Heitor reports identify strategic vectors for strengthening Europe's position in the context of accelerated global transformation, growing competition, and geopolitical instability. Although they tackle different challenges – strengthening the Single Market, structural reforms, and coordinated investment in innovation and technology – they converge on fundamental axes: innovation as a driving force for transformation, strategic investment as a necessary condition for achieving the defined priorities, and European coordination as a factor of scale and impact. Innovation is also seen as a determining element for re-industrialisation and for strategic autonomy in critical domains such as security and defence. The Single Market represents the common basis for articulating these dimensions and affirming European leadership in a volatile global context. From this perspective, the space sector assumes a structuring role, not only as a catalyst for innovation and competitiveness but also as an essential component of European strategic autonomy, with a transversal impact on security, defence, critical infrastructures, and the digital and climate transition.

DAY 1

May 13<sup>th</sup>

2:00PM

## Opening Session

Ricardo Conde, President of the Portuguese Space Agency

João Rui Ferreira, Secretary of State for Economy

2:20PM

## An Innovation Agenda for Europe

European innovation is facing challenges that require common strategies, coordinated actions, and accelerated investment, as evidenced by the "Align, Act, Accelerate" report. The creation of a true European market for knowledge, science, and innovation – based on critical mass, excellence, and cross-border collaboration – is presented as an essential condition for Europe to consolidate its scientific, economic, and strategic leadership on the global stage. In this context, the space sector stands out as a priority area for investment and cooperation, with a direct impact on technological autonomy, competitiveness, and the ability to respond to global challenges.

**Keynote speaker: Manuel Heitor, Coordinator of the "Align, Act, Accelerate" Report**

2:35PM

**Transforming Portugal through Technological Innovation**

How can Portugal take advantage of the convergence between technological innovation and institutional partnerships to accelerate its socioeconomic development? What strategies should be adopted to boost economic growth, increase competitiveness, and simultaneously push ahead with Green Europe? This panel brings together experts with complementary backgrounds – one with solid experience in modernisation and technological adaptation in Portugal and the other with in-depth knowledge of the implementation of European space programmes, which leverage new technologies to foster economic growth and strengthen security.

**Henrique Gouveia e Melo, former Chief of Defence Staff**

**Rodrigo da Costa, Executive Director of the European Union Agency for the Space Programme**

**Moderation:** Ricardo Conde, Portuguese Space Agency

3:05PM

**NEXT GEN Innovators**

The future of innovation takes centre stage at the **New Space Atlantic Summit**. The session will feature the presentation of projects from both the space and non-space sectors by young Portuguese students.

3:25PM

**PM Innovation in Telecommunication: Non-terrestrial Networks Integration**

In a context of growing digital interconnection and connectivity challenges, non-terrestrial networks are emerging as an innovative solution to complement traditional infrastructures. This panel will present projects developed by Portuguese companies that aim to reduce costs, mitigate risks, ensure secure communication, and boost access to telecommunication services, especially in remote areas and complex environments, while also contributing to a more resilient and competitive European ecosystem.

**Arlindo Marques, R&D Manager at SINUTA**

**Nuno Filipe Monteiro, Senior Consultant at Altice Labs**

**Rui Semide, CEO of N10ngled**

**Tiago Rebelo, CEO of Connected**

**Moderation:** Tiago Peres, Portuguese Space Agency

4:10 PM

**Coffee Break**

4:25PM

**Earth Observation - From data to decision**

As the digital transformation accelerates, space data are gaining new relevance in making informed and timely decisions. This panel presents Portuguese projects that highlight the role of Earth observation data in improving operational efficiency and planning in areas such as territorial monitoring and management, security, defence, sustainability, and public health, thus putting space at the service of communities.

**Ana Oliveira, Space Director at Colab +Atlantic**

**André Dias, Space Director at CEiiA**

**INESC TEC (tbc)**

**Miguel Miranda, Executive Director of Air Centre**

**Ricardo Cabral, CEO of Spotlight**

**Moderation:** Carolina Sá, Portuguese Space Agency

5:15PM

**Governance, Ambition, and Strategy: Europe's Future in Space**

Hermann Ludwig Moeller, Director of ESPI

At a time when Europe is facing a strategic crossroads – marked by innovation gaps, structural dependencies, and geopolitical urgencies – space is emerging as one of the great arenas in which the continent's ambitions, sovereignty, and capacity to act are played out.

5:30PM

**Day 1 Closing Session**

Hugo André Costa, Executive Director of the Portuguese Space Agency

MAY 14<sup>th</sup>

DIA 14 DE MAIO

10:00AM

**Opening Session**

Ricardo Conde, President of the Portuguese Space Agency

Ricardo Pinheiro Alves, President of idD

Nuno Melo, Minister of National Defence

10:20AM

**AM R&D in the New International Economic Order**

In a scenario of geopolitical instability and constant global transformation, research and development (R&D) activities play a central role in redefining the international economic order. This session explores emerging tendencies and challenges, highlighting how innovation, international cooperation, the prospects of new geopolitical and economic alliances, and market ambition serve as incentives to boost Europe's growth and competitiveness. This debate will address the impact of technological, economic, and political transformations on the global stage, focusing on the need for R&D strategies to respond to current demands, both in terms of security and defence and in broader strategic areas, especially in the field of emerging technologies.

José Manuel Mendonça, Senior Researcher at INESC TEC

Luís Amado, former Minister of Foreign Affairs

Moderation: Ana Santos Pinto, Member of the Executive Council of IPRI-NOVA

10:50AM

**European Earth Observation Capacity based in Portugal**

Francisco Vilhena da Cunha, CEO of GEOSAT

11:00AM

## AM European Autonomy in Space – The Portuguese Contribution

In the current international geopolitical context, Europe's autonomy and resilience must be guaranteed in a number of areas, particularly in the space sector, a recognised fundamental pillar of defence and security. Several Portuguese initiatives stand out in the development of innovative solutions, both at an industrial level and in the provision of new space-based services that strengthen Europe's technological and operational autonomy. The contribution of these key players gathered in this panel will make it possible to learn about national solutions in spheres such as access to space and propulsion, advanced earth observation services, navigation systems, and space traffic monitoring and management services, highlighting Portugal's decisive contribution to the advancement of the European space sector.

**Bruno Carvalho, Executive Director of ACS**

**Carlos Cerqueira, Business Development Director of Neuraspace**

**Nuno Ávila, Director of Deimos**

**Tiago Pardal, CEO of Omnidea**

**Moderation:** Hugo Costa, Portuguese Space Agency

11:45AM

## Coffee Break

12:00PM

## Defence Economics and the New Space Paradigm

The convergence between space innovations and defence economics reveals new opportunities for modernising and strengthening national security, as well as positioning Portugal as a key player in the reinforcement of European security. This session will address the current situation and the need to revitalise defence economics in Portugal, in line with the guidelines of the White Paper on European Defence. The dialogue will be attended by the key players in the sector, debating both national and international needs and short- and medium-term goals in the area of defence. There will also be a presentation of ongoing initiatives in the various areas of the sector, such as communication, navigation, and cyberspace, contributing to increased strategic autonomy and the evolution of the defence sector.

**Alberto Pedro, Managing Director of GMV Portugal**

**Cancela Roque, Head of the Communications and Information Centre, Cyberspace and Space at EMGFA**

**Portuguese Air Force (tbc)**

**CTI Aeroespacial (tbc)**

**Sérgio Barbedo, President of Thales Edisoft Portugal**

**Moderation:** Teresa Ferreira, GMV

12:30PM

## Dialogues on Defence Economics

In this panel, two national references share their perspectives on the strategic lines that Portugal should adopt in the area of Defence, with the aim of consolidating authentic defence economics. The debate focuses on the integration of policies and practices, in particular industrial and demand policies, and the relationship between Defence and industry, which promote greater resilience and autonomy, preparing the country to face the challenges of a constantly evolving global scenario.

**Filipe Arnaut Moreira, Specialist in Geopolitics**

**Nuno Sebastião, Board Member and Investor, Neuraspace**

**Liliana Reis, University Professor**

**Moderation:** Isabel Nunes, Managing Director of the National Defence Institute

1:00PM ● **Lunch**

2:30PM ● **Portuguese Research in Space Exploration**

Portuguese Research in Space Exploration reveals the diversity of projects developed in different areas. Each presentation highlights advances in aerospace medicine, applied physics research, and scientific coordination with international organisations. The ensemble of initiatives highlights the dynamism of the national scientific panorama and Portugal's pioneering contribution to space exploration.

**Edson Oliveira, Neurosurgeon, Founder of the Centre for Aerospace Medicine Studies**

**Hugo Gamboa, Researcher at LIBPhys**

**Inês Antunes, Scientific Coordinator at the European Space Agency**

**Margarida Silveira, Associate Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico (tbc)**

**Rui Curado, Researcher at LIP**

**Moderation:** Joan Alabart, Portuguese Space Agency

3:15PM ● **The road to industrialisation in the space sector**

Num cenário de crescente investimento no setor espacial, a industrialização está a ser redefinida. In a scenario of growing investment in the space sector, industrialisation is being redefined by the emergence of new integrators and service providers. This session will present initiatives that demonstrate how innovative integrated production solutions, process automation and turnkey systems for small satellites, as well as advances in data processing and communication, are transforming the value chain and affirming Portugal's position in the space sector.

**André Oliveira, CEO of N30**

**Ivo Vieira, CEO of Lusospace**

**Rafel Jorda Siquier, CEO of OpenCosmos**

**Bryan Dean, CEO of Dragonfly**

**Moderation:** José Neves, AED – Cluster Portugal

4:15PM ● **Coffee Break**

4:30PM ● **Science, Innovation and Technology**

In a European context, the industrialisation of the space sector is strategic for strengthening autonomy and competitiveness. For Portugal, building an integrated industrial chain boosts national economic growth and strengthens the European space market. In this session, different projects demonstrate how Portuguese initiatives turn challenges into opportunities, positioning the country as a key player.

**Emir Sirage, Executive Director of the New Space Agenda**

**Manuel Abreu, Researcher at IAstro**

**Miguel Santos, Commercial Director at FHP**

**Nuno Correia, Director of the Composite Materials Unit at INEGI**

**Rodolfo Martins, Managing Director at Evoleo**

**Rui Rocha, Professor at ISTNanoLab**

**Moderation:** Marta Gonçalves, Portuguese Space Agency

5:15PM

**Destination Bremen: Portugal at the ESA Ministerial Council (CMIN25)**

A proposal for national capacity building

This session will present Portugal's initial subscription proposal for the next ESA Ministerial Council (CMIN25), scheduled for November in Bremen, Germany. Currently under development, the proposal aims to align national industrial and technological policies with the European space agenda, strengthening the capacity building of Portuguese industry and academia.

**Luís Serina, Portuguese Space Agency**

**Joan Alabart, Portuguese Space Agency**

5:40PM

**Presentation of the 2025 Innovation in Space Sciences and Technologies Award**

The 2025 Innovation in Space Sciences and Technologies Award ceremony celebrates the most innovative initiatives by Portuguese organisations, with relevant contributions in fields such as Space Sciences, Astronomy, Radio Astronomy, Space Medicine and Exploration, Earth Observation, Space Transportation, Telecommunication, Instrumentation, Space Security, and Education.

**José Manuel Mendonça, President of the Jury**

**Ricardo Conde, President of the Portuguese Space Agency**

**Fernando Alexandre, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation**

6:05PM

**Closing Session**

**Fernando Alexandre, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation**

6:15PM

**Cocktail**