**NEW SPACE ECONOMY CHALLENGE**

Business Finland invites Finnish companies, research institutes, municipalities and cities to participate in the New Space Economy Challenge. In the first phase Business Finland calls for idea papers, where the solutions and plans don’t have to be finalized yet. Idea papers will then be grouped and parties that submitted them will be invited in workshops for further elaboration and building collaborations. The advising and sparring for funding of projects will take place in early 2021. Business Finland will select the best project proposals to be funded. Business Finland will offer sparring to enable building of projects with remarkable impacts in Finnish economy and society.

**THEMES OF THE IDEA CHALLENGE**

**New Space Economy Challenge focuses the following themes:**

1. Nano/small satellite and HAPS (High-altitude platform systems) manufacturing and testing
2. Satellite and HAPS communications and ground station solutions
3. Situational awareness in intelligent solutions alternatively for:

* Autonomous systems
* Sustainable cities
* Precision agriculture
* Fast changes in environment

**Under theme C, the solutions have to make use of satellite, HAPS or drone platforms and/or data collected via these platforms.**

Please note: The themes of the idea challenge are restricted to the above mentioned. The themes may be combined as long as it’s clear which of them is the dominant theme of the idea.

The ideas and related solutions must have significant positive impact on the applicant’s international competitiveness. The challenge to be solved may relate with either increasing the value of an existing product or service, or entirely new product or service concept. No finalized product or service is expected to be developed as a result of the idea challenge: Even after the potentially applied and funded research, development and innovation project, you’ll still need to finalize research and development before the actual market launch or a product or service.

During autumn, when the sparring and advising of innovation projects starts, all the financial services in Business Finland are available. Further information may be found on Business Finland website:

[www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/](https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/)

**THIS IS HOW NEW SPACE ECONOMY CHALLENGE WORKS**

You can participate in the idea round of the challenge by filling in all the information requested in the application form. Please follow the given headings and numbering. In the beginning, the applicant must choose New Space Economy Challenge.

* Pages: three (3) A4-pages at the most, font size 10
* Please download the idea form (doc) here: <https://www.businessfinland.fi/4a7b20/globalassets/finnish-customers/02-build-your-network/digitalization/new-space-economy/nse-challenge/nse-challenge-idea-form_eng.docx>
* Please submit the idea form with secure connection: <https://secure.businessfinland.fi/programs>

**SCHEDULE**

* The search for ideas is open on **September 28th 2020 – October 30th 2020**
* Communication and invitations of participants to the workshops in mid-November.
* Thematic workshops on November-December.
* Sparring of the potential projects from January 2021 onwards.

The New Space Economy Finland program will provide the latest information of the schedule and progress of the idea challenge on the program website.

**EXPLORE THE NEW SPACE ECONOMY PROGRAM:**

<https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/programs/new-space-economy/>

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE CHALLENGE PLEASE CONTACT**

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