

From EU Soil to Outer Space: Regulation as an enabler for Spaceports

AEAAS PROJECT HANDBOOK

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Public Version

Deliverable D1.1

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PART I. PROJECT ID AND SUMMARY

Acronym: AEAAS – Alliance for European Autonomous Access to Space

Title: From EU Soil to Outer Space: Regulation as an enabler for Spaceports

Project No.: 101295883

Responsible Unit: HADEA/B/04 || **Project officer:** Athanasios PETRIDIS

Call: HORIZON-CL4-2025-02 submitted for HORIZON-CL4-2025-02 / 25 Sep 2025

Topic: HORIZON-CL4-2025-02-SPACE-11 - CSA on access to European spaceports

Type of Action: CSA (Coordination and Support Action)

Key Words: Sovereignty; Interoperability; Spaceports; European Union; Sustainability; Safety; New Space Economy; Launching Operation(s); Resilience; Independent Capabilities; Reliable Access; EU Space Policy.

Duration: 12 Months

Official Project Start Date: **01/07/2026**

Limit for Project End Date: **30/06/2027**



Members of the Consortium:

No.	Designation	Legal Name
1	Abreu	Abreu & Associados - Sociedade de Advogados, S.P., R.L.
2	Atlantic	Atlantic Spaceport Consortium, Lda.
3	CST	Commercial Space Technologies Limited
4	Reflect	Reflect Solutions Limited
5	HKLW	HEUKING KUHN LUER WOJTEK PARTNERSCHAFT MIT BESCHRANKTER BERUFSHAFTUNG VON RECHTSANWALTEN UND STEUERBERATERN
6	Alpha	ALPHA IMPULSION SAS
7	ASTech	ASSOCIATION ASTECH PARIS REGION
8	Stellar	STELLAR KINETICS LIMITED
9	HyImpulse	HYIMPULSE TECHNOLOGIES GMBH
10	Impulso	Impulso.Space Srl
11	Isar	ISAR AEROSPACE SE
12	Borie	BORIE CONSEILS EXPORTS SAS
13	PTSpace	AGENCIA ESPACIAL PORTUGUESA - PORTUGAL SPACE
14	DLR	DEUTSCHES ZENTRUM FUR LUFT - UND RAUMFAHRT EV



PART II. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT

Section 1. Objectives

Primary Objective: Enhancing EU's autonomy and competitiveness in access to Space by:

Mapping, assessing, and benchmarking available worldwide legislative practices and other regulations against a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) focused on safety, sustainability, interoperability, and robust security; and

Producing a deliverable portfolio which includes critical outputs, such as a Regulatory Review and Assessment KPI Reports, a White Paper on Regulatory Pathways, and a Final Common Regulatory Practices Proposal.

Description:

The main goal of the Project is providing standardized regulatory practices for spaceport and launch operations to enhance European Union (EU)'s autonomy in access to Space and increase competitiveness in the Space Sector. This goal entails:

Objective 1 Mapping, listing, reviewing and assessing, in a five-month study, the best practices, standards and guidelines for launch operations from European spaceports, as well as identifying the technical challenges to be addressed, taking into account experiences from worldwide existing spaceports (Objective 1, achieved through the tasks in Work Package ('WP') 2, directed at the collection of spaceport-related regulatory practices, and WP 3, where we will create KPIs to assess the information collected and select the "best practices, standards and guidelines");

Objective 2 Identifying, at least, three different paths for spaceport regulations that highlight and support safe and sustainable launch operations and interoperability of spaceports over a short-term (three-year) to medium-term (five-year) horizon (Objective 2, achieved through the tasks in WP 3, and in the first part of WP4, where regulatory pathways will be explored autonomously in a deliverable White Paper);

Objective 3 Proposing common regulatory practices and guidelines for European Spaceports and an evaluation of their impact on launch operations (Objective 3, achieved through the tasks in the later stage of WP 4 with



the submission of a turnkey regulatory proposal and the final impact-assessment activities under WP6, notably T22); and

Objective 4 Engaging, within the timeframe of the Project, at least 200 European stakeholders for the development of safety and interoperable equipment through suitable technological solutions (Objective 4, achieved through the engagement activities planned to be implemented under WP 5, which include one industry workshop and the application of 16 stakeholder feedback surveys).

The Objectives of the Project listed above will materialize in uniquely communicable and exploitable Results, including papers, reports, roadmaps and proposals, as well as workshops and conferences.

Depiction of the relationship between the Objectives above ('Outcomes') and the Deliverables generated to achieve them described below ('Results'):

Outcome	Result
A worldwide mapping, listing, and review of regulatory practices, standards, and guidelines	Deliverable D.2.: Three-Part Explanatory Report, containing review of over 40 jurisdictions
A mapping, listing, review and assessment of the best regulatory practices, standards, and guidelines.	Deliverable D.3. and D.4: Outcome KPI Report and Application Report on the motivations and justifications for identification of "best practices"
Consideration of different regulatory approaches and pathways to spaceports	Deliverable D.5.: White Paper considering potential pathways for spaceport regulations
A proposed set of common regulatory practices and guidelines for European Spaceports	Deliverable D.6.: Fully developed proposal for the regulation of spaceports, which shall include standards and guidelines to ensure safety and interoperability
Evaluation of the proposal's impact on launch operations	Deliverable D.8.: Impact Assessment Report on project effectiveness and areas for improvement
Widespread adoption of best practices among European launch and spaceport operators through the engagement of stakeholders	Deliverable D.7.: Engagement Strategy and Activities Plan to be implemented in the future

Section 2. Scope

The Alliance will review over 40 jurisdictions under more than 30 individualized regulatory key items, to identify best practices, standards, and guidelines, as well as regulatory gaps and shortcomings that currently hinder European space activities. The



final deliverable will be a comprehensive set of common regulatory practices and guidelines for European spaceports.

The spaceport ecosystem (spaceport operators, launch services providers, providers of brokerage and intermediation, vehicles and infrastructure manufacturers, and public entities involved in licensing and oversight) is expected to benefit from and take up the results of the project.

Local populations are expected to benefit from economic development following the implementation of spaceports.

The European and international institutions, as well as national regulators are expected to implement the results of the project.

Section 3. Strategic Goals

The European Union lacks a cohesive, attractive strategy for autonomous access to space, to ensure sovereignty and market leadership.

Autonomy in access to space, in the specific case of this project, entails ready access to spaceports (i.e., infrastructure that enables large and/or small scale and frequent space vehicles' launching, space data collection and mission control), to ensure EU's freedom of action in case of armed conflict or disengagement with prior partners, and the offer of a domestic competitive alternative to avoid having European launchers operate outside of the EU.

Recognizing the urgent need for a unified European framework concerning spaceports, our Project aims to deliver a foundational, turnkey regulatory proposal to address those autonomy needs, that will serve as a direct input for the new EU Space Act, designed to strengthen the internal market, enhance our strategic autonomy, and position the EU as a global leader in the New Space economy.

Through the objectives above we shall ensure the EU is a reliable and attractive region for the spaceport economy. While reducing operating costs and fostering innovation, the regulatory proposal shall strengthen the internal market and international cooperation and promote European sovereignty and autonomy. The proposal of a robust set of common regulatory practices and guidelines for European Spaceports will incentivize uptake and adoption by stakeholders, promote investment and development of safe and interoperable spaceports in Europe. In developing pathways for a regulatory framework, the Alliance will also consider how regulatory design affects Europe's global competitiveness in the spaceport sector. This shall enable fast, predictable, proportionate, and harmonized licensing across Member States. To this end, we will



benchmark international models and emphasize mechanisms that reduce fragmentation, support transparent access, and encourage innovation, including for SMEs and new entrants.



PART III. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Section 1. Summary Tables

Work Package Summary Table

No.	Nature	Co-Leads	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
1	Project management	AB + ASC	1	12	<u>1, 10, 11</u>
2	Review of worldwide spaceports' regulations	CST+SK	1	3	<u>2</u>
3	Assessment of best practices	ASC + IS	2	5	<u>3, 4</u>
4	Regulatory framework proposal	AB + H	4	11	<u>5, 6</u>
5	Engagement of stakeholders	AST + IS	1	6	<u>7</u>
6	Communication, dissemination and exploitation	AST + AB	1	12	<u>8, 9</u>

Main Tasks Summary Table:

WP 2 - Survey	<i>T4 (Data Collection)</i>
	<i>T5 (Review of Information)</i>
WP 3 – Assessment	<i>T7 (Setting Outcome KPIs)</i>
	<i>T8 (Application of criteria and Assessment of practices, standards and guidelines)</i>
	<i>T9 (Preparation of deliverable Report on Existing Best Regulatory Practices, Standards and Guidelines)</i>
	<i>T10 (Identification of Regulatory Shortcomings and Bottlenecks through preparation of Gap Analysis)</i>
WP 4 – Proposal	<i>T12 (Identification of Regulatory Pathway)</i>



WP 4 – Proposal	<i>T13 (Structuring of Regulatory Proposal (Norms and Standards))</i>
	<i>T14 (Fleshing out the Regulatory Proposal)</i>
WP 5 – Engagement	<i>T16 (Ensure Stakeholder Engagement for Feedback)</i>
	<i>T17 (Time-Specific Initiatives)</i>
	<i>T18 (Promoting Stakeholders Dialogue and Knowledge Transfer)</i>
WP 6 – DEC	<i>T20 (DEC Strategy)</i>
	<i>T21 (Communication channels)</i>
	<i>T22 (Post-Publication Impact Assessment)</i>

Deliverables and Milestones Summary Table:

Main Deliverables:

No.	WP Ref. ¹	Designation	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date
D1	D1.1	Project Handbook and Quality Plan	Other	Public	M1
D2	D2.1	Three-Part Explanatory Report	Report	Public	M3
D3	D3.1	Practice Assessment KPIs Report	Report	Public	M5
D4	D3.2	Best Practices, Standards and Guidelines and GAP Reports	Report	Public	M5
D5	D4.1	White Paper on Regulatory Pathways	Other	Public	M7
D6	D4.2	Final Proposal for Common Regulatory Practices	Other	Public	M11
D7	D5.1	Engagement Strategy	Other	Public	M3
D8	D6.1	Impact Assessment Report	Report	Public	M12
D9	D6.2	DEC Strategy and Results Report	Report	Public	M12
D10	D1.2	Data Management Plan - 1st Version	DMP	Public	M3
D11	D1.3	Data Management Plan - Final Version	DMP	Public	M9

Milestones:

Number	Name	Due Date	Means of Verification
M1	Publication of White Paper	M6	Access link to White Paper web location sent directly to EU Commission.

¹ Relative Number in WP



M2	Publication of Proposed Common Regulatory Practices	M11	Access link and individual copy of Proposal sent directly to EU Commission.
M3	Hosting Space Conference	M10	Prior invite and Session recording sent directly to EU Commission.



Section 2. Risk Management Plan

Risk Management Procedures

A Risk Register shall be implemented, reviewed and updated.

Meetings Schedule

A regular meeting schedule shall apply throughout the Project lifecycle.

Reporting Deadlines

The Consortium shall issue an Internal Progress Report once every two months.

Section 3. Governance of the Consortium

Execution of the Consortium

The governance structure of the Consortium comprises four bodies, as established in Section 6.1 of the Consortium Agreement: (i) the General Assembly; (ii) the Coordinator; (iii) the Steering Committee; and (iv) the Advisory Group.

The Consortium further adopts a Co-leadership mechanism within each Work Package to ensure engagement, harmony, and continuity.



PART IV. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND MONITORING PLAN

The Quality Assurance and Monitoring Plan (QAMP) defines the framework, standards and procedures required to ensure that AEAAS achieves its objectives within the planned scope, timeline and budget.

It provides the consortium with a roadmap for maintaining high-quality outputs, monitoring progress against defined milestones, and proactively signalling risks that could hinder the project's success.

The QAMP seeks to ensure that the results generated in AEAAS are novel, truthful, and backed by technical data. In particular, by employing this QAMP, the consortium seeks to ensure that the work generated by all partners is technically, operationally or legally correct and does not result from plagiarism or the use of incorrect data. The use of generative AI will also be discussed in this chapter.



PART V. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS STRATEGY

The Alliance fully integrates open science practices as an integral part of the proposed methodology, ensuring that project Results are accessible, reproducible, and beneficial to society.

All publications arising from the Project shall appropriately acknowledge the contribution of all Parties and the EU Horizon Europe Programme funding. The Project entails, additionally, project branding, including but not limited to project name, logo, visual identity, and associated trademarks (the "Project Brand"). The Project Brand shall be jointly owned by all Parties in equal shares. The Consortium shall maintain a Data Management Plan.

AEAAS Trademark:

Status: Application submitted on June 18th, 2026. Awaiting registration by EUIPO. Application no. 19383016. Class 45 – Legal Research.

Sign (b/w):





PART VI. DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Data Management Plan (DMP) shall be prepared in accordance with the applicable Horizon Europe requirements and the templates made available by the European Commission, and shall describe the data expected to be collected, generated, processed, stored, shared and preserved during the Project, as well as the procedures adopted to ensure that such data is managed in a secure, lawful, traceable and reusable manner.

The DMP shall be treated as a living document. It may be updated whenever there is a material change in the type of data collected, the use of stakeholder input, the publication strategy, the storage location, the applicable access conditions, or the data protection assessment.



DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Version: 1.0 | **Date of Latest Update:** July 31st, 2026

Author(s): AB + ASC

Approved by: General Assembly

First version submitted to EC on July 24th, 2026.

Table of Changes:

Date	Description of Changes	Approved by
24.06.2026	Section on Registration of AEAAS Trademark added.	AB
31.07.2026	Public-version factual corrections completed.	AB + ASC

Distribution List (Level of Dissemination of the Document)

This Handbook shall be made publicly available on the AEAAS website:
<https://aeaas.eu/>.