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## THE INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT OF PORTUGAL

The Government of Portugal and the Regional Government of the Azores intend to set a financial, legal and technical framework able to attract worldwide enterprises/consortia interested in working with Portuguese enterprises and research laboratories in the development of a spaceport and the operation of international launch services to space from the Island of Santa Maria, in the Azores.

The main components of that framework, to be committed after analysis of “Expressions of Interest”, can include the following:

1. Award **grants for precompetitive research and development (R&D) and innovation projects** up to 10 M€ per year in the areas of micro launcher development and operation, small satellite development and new applications of Earth Observation, to be performed in Portugal and to be made available for the period 2019-2023. The grants will be awarded through the *Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation*, FCT) and the *Portuguese Innovation Agency (ANI)*, whilst the establishment of the Portuguese Space Agency, “*Portugal Space*”;
2. Support the **design and building of the basic infrastructures** required to facilitate the access to a spaceport in the Island of Santa Maria, in the Azores, representing an investment around 6 M€ in 2019-2020, including:
  - a. The basic infrastructure in the **seaport of Vila do Porto**, in the Island of Santa Maria;
  - b. Improvements of the existing infrastructure in the **large airport** of the Island of Santa Maria - previously a major hub in transatlantic travel;
  - c. Adequate **road access** between the seaport of Vila do Porto, the airport and the location(s) of the spaceport and launch services;
  - d. Adequate **infrastructure in the spaceport**, in order to facilitate the installation of a control centre, launch pad and specialized hangars/workshops facilities (e.g., energy and communications).

**3. Being and institutional anchor customer for space launches of small satellites dedicated to Earth observation** and including climate, environment and biodiversity monitoring, as part of the AIR Centre initiative and in close collaboration with ESA's related activities, in a way to secure initial launch services operating from the Azores in 2021 and, thus, stimulate the interest from commercial customers from all over the world;

**4. In addition, ESA will consider the development and support of the "ATLANTIC International Satellite Launch Programme" through open competitive processes,** enabling the sustainable development of new systems and technologies oriented towards new launchers, small satellites and new Earth observation applications.