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## THE PROCESS

A three-phase assessment process will be considered, as follows:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PHASE:** *Call for Interest of Qualified Entities for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria:*
  - A brief statement (about 4 pages), with a clear description of interest to build, install and/or operate a spaceport and launch equipment enabling launching services from the Azores as of 2021 for small satellites (see details below in this document);
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PHASE:** *Overture of International Call for Tender for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria:*
  - Publication of the procurement rules, including evaluation criteria;
  - Public presentation to an International *High-Level Expert Committee* (in early February 2019), to be nominated by the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (FCT), upon consultation of the Government of Portugal and the Regional Government of Azores;
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PHASE:** *Conclusion of International Competitive Bidding for Launch Services to Space from the Island of Santa Maria:*

By completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase, a contractual period of about two years will be initiated to install launch services to space from the Island of Santa Maria.