Fraunhofer IPM

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUES IPM

PRESS RELEASE

New Space Acceleration Days 2026 at Fraunhofer IPM

Turning up the pace in New Space

From February 4–5, industry, research, and space sector representatives met at Fraunhofer IPM in Freiburg to advance the New Space economy. They discussed how to transform New Space from individual missions into a scalable industry. What challenges does this industry face? During the event, over 60 participants from industry, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, New Space startups, and government aerospace institutions shared their insights.

Over the past 20 years, the increasing privatization of space travel has created a new and dynamic market. Both traditional companies and startups are driving technical innovations and developing new business models for the "New Space." Many representatives from the emerging industry attended the New Space Acceleration Days, an event organized by Fraunhofer IPM in collaboration with Fraunhofer EMI, Fraunhofer IPA, Fraunhofer FKIE, Fraunhofer IML, and Fraunhofer AVIATION & SPACE, among others.

Representatives from well-established aerospace companies, such as Tesat-Spacecom and the long-standing gear manufacturer Wittenstein SE, as well as Brose Fahrzeugteile SE & Co. KG, explained that the cost of accessing space is falling rapidly. During their keynote presentations, they described how Europe can leverage its industrial strength in space by promoting industrialization, networking, a coordinated roadmap, standardi-zation, and cross-industry learning – for instance, by drawing from automotive, logis-tics, and manufacturing processes. In a panel discussion, representatives from the European Space Agency (ESA), the German Space Agency at DLR, the EU CASSINI initiative, and the venture capital irm Acito lux discussed the political and economic conditions necessary for a successful investment and how to advance the European space industry. Startup companies such as ConstellR, OroraTech, and LEOspace showed their New Space business models. Fraunhofer researchers presented on the scalable production of space components, logistics, test infrastructure, and resilient supply chains.

"The New Space sector offers enormous economic opportunities," said Prof. Dr. Karsten Buse, director of Fraunhofer IPM, in his welcoming speech. "Fraunhofer will seize these opportunities together with the industry." Fraunhofer AVIATION & SPACE, an association of 37 Fraunhofer institutes specializing in aerospace, is planning the next New Space Acceleration Days within the coming six to twelve months.

Editorial notes
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Lectures, panel discussions, and networking: The New Space Acceleration Workshop provided an opportunity to exchange experiences, discuss framework conditions, and develop new ideas for the New Space economy.



Dr. Nadya Ben Bekhti-Winkel, deputy head of the SPACE office at Fraunhofer AVIATION & SPACE, and Prof. Dr. Karsten Buse, director of Fraunhofer IPM, inaugurated the event.

The **Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft**, based in Germany, is a leading applied research organization. It plays a crucial role in the innovation process by prioritizing research in key future technologies and transferring its research findings to industry in order to strengthen Germany as a hub of industrial activity as well as for the benefit of society. Founded in 1949, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft currently operates 75 institutes and research units throughout Germany. Its nearly 32,000 employees, predominantly scientists and engineers, work with an annual business volume of 3.6 billion euros; 3.1 billion euros of this stems from contract research.

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