

Application Guide

Danish ESA ARTES Kick-Start call
2025

September 2025



Uddannelses- og
Forskningsstyrelsen

Danish Agency for Higher
Education and Science

Danish ESA ARTES Kick-Start call 2025

In this document, you will find information about the Danish 2025 ARTES Kick-Start call and the application process for the call.

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1. What can I apply for?

Danish companies can through the European Space Agency's (ESA's) Business Applications Space Solutions program (BASS) apply for funding for a Kick-Start Project.

A Kick-Start activity aims to assist companies in taking the necessary initial steps to assess the technical and business feasibility of space-based solutions. The call is also targeting start-ups and companies that do not usually utilize space data in their products or services but wish to do so.

The BASS program is a part of ESA's program of Advanced Research in Telecommunications Systems (ARTES).

- [Read more about ARTES BASS here.](#)

2. How much can I apply for?

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science (going forward: The Agency) has allocated EUR 900,000 in funding for Danish companies that apply through ESA's Open Call for Proposals for Kick-Starts before 31 October 2025 13:00 CET.

Each Kick-Start activity is covered by EUR 75,000, so up to 12 Danish Kick-Start activities may be funded.

The EUR 75,000 must be equivalent to 75% of the activity's costs, and a co-funding of EUR 25,000 is thus required by the company.

If more than 3% of the total project cost lies outside of Denmark, a separate approval will be needed to sign a contract award. Such an approval will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

3. Who can apply?

To apply for funding for a Kick-Start activity in 2025, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The applicant's company or institution must be registered in Denmark.
- The applicant's portion of the activity must take place in Denmark.
- The applicant must meet ESA's requirements in relation to the "OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR KICK-STARTS".

- [Read more about ESA's requirements on esa-star \(ref. OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR KICK-STARTS \(BASS ARTES 4.0\) – Tender Action Number: 60019\)](#)

4. How do I apply?

To seek funding for a Danish Kick-Start activity in 2025 the application process is as follows:

- Step 1 (optional): The applicant may participate in a workshop organized by The Agency and ESA on the subject of applying to ESA ARTES BASS Kick-Start and Demonstration Project calls.
❖ **The workshop will take place on 22 September 2025.**
- Step 2 (optional): The applicant may seek feedback and guidance from the ESA Technology Broker Denmark prior to sending their application to ESA.
- Step 3: The applicant submits an application to ESA through [esa-star](#) before the ESA deadline.
❖ **Deadline: 31 October 13:00 CET**
- Step 4: ESA evaluates the received applications. Following the ESA evaluation, up to 12 Danish applicants will be supported and be able to proceed with contract agreements with ESA.

Read more about the four steps in the sections below.

Important note: By submitting an application to ESA, the applicant confirms that The Agency may publish the activity on its website, newsletter, and LinkedIn, in case the activity is offered a contract by ESA.

Step 1 (optional): Participate in an ESA workshop on why and how to apply to the ARTES BASS Kick-Start Project calls

The Agency and ESA together organize a workshop on the possibilities of the ARTES BASS Kick-Start and Demonstration Projects. The workshop will be held in Copenhagen and will cover the following:

1. A presentation of the ESA ARTES BASS program.
2. An account of Danish companies awarded a Kick-Start contract in 2025.
3. A walk-through of the Danish pre-authorisation process for the Kick-Start Open Call of August 2025.

The workshop will take place on Monday 22 September 2025, with scheduled presentations and Q&A between 10:30 and 13:00, and the possibility for networking and bilateral meetings with ESA in the afternoon. Beware that the workshop will be in-person at the Agency's office in Copenhagen; virtual attendance will unfortunately *not* be possible.

To register for the workshop, send an e-mail with the subject **“Registration for ARTES BASS Kickstart Workshop 2025”** to amv@ufm.dk, with [UFS-FVI-RUM@ufm.dk](#) in copy. The registration deadline is 18 September 2025

In the e-mail please specify

- name of company
- number of participants
- whether the company has previously applied to ESA.

The workshop is not a mandatory step in the application process.

Step 2 (optional): Seek guidance with the ESA Technology Broker Denmark

Businesses that have not previously worked with ESA have the opportunity to seek professional feedback and guidance on the application process from ESA Technology Broker Denmark. The broker has a great deal of experience with supervising Danish ESA applicants. Contact detail can be found further down in the guide.

This is not a mandatory step in the application process.

Step 3: Submit application to ESA

The application must be submitted to ESA through esa-star. The deadline for submitting the application to ESA is 31 October 13:00 CET.

- [Link to ESA's application format \(ref. OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR KICK-STARTS \(BASS ARTES 4.0\) – Tender Action Number: 6-60019\) on esa-star.](#)

NB: When submitting the application to ESA, one or several Letter(s) of Interest from users/customers must be attached to the proposal. It is highly recommended that the applicant early in the process register their business in esa-star by completing the online questionnaire on the [esa-star registration website](#).

Step 4: ESA evaluation and selection of activities

After the above-mentioned deadline ESA evaluates the applications according to their own requirements and criteria. The quality of the application will be evaluated on the basis of the ESA evaluation criteria and associated Weighting Factors that can be found under the call in esa-star Tendering.

Following ESA's evaluation, applicants that ESA evaluate with a score of 75 or higher (hereafter "Very Good", as based on [ESA's categories](#)) will move on to contract agreements with ESA. The Agency is not involved in ESA's evaluation of the proposals.

Should more than 12 applications by ESA be scored as “Very Good”, ESA will liaise with The Agency, for The Agency to decide upon a new threshold based on the funding available. In the event that fewer than 12 applications are considered as “Very Good”, ESA will liaise with The Agency, for The Agency to decide upon a new threshold based on the funding available. Should there not be 12 proposals of a high enough quality to be awarded contract, the remaining funding will be transferred to a later ARTES BASS call.

ESA will inform the applicants who were not recommended for a contract award.

Appeal Options

The Agency has conducted an analysis of the legal status of the application process within the Danish Administrative Law. The conclusion is that the process related to the issuing of Danish pre-authorisation letters cannot be considered decisions under Danish administrative law. ESA, an independent international organization, makes the final decision in accordance with ESA's convention and its derived administrative rules. It is, therefore, not possible to appeal ESA's decisions to Danish authorities. However, it is possible to appeal to ESA's (industrial) ombudsman.

5. ESA Technology Broker Denmark's Contact information

To learn more about how the ESA Technology Broker Denmark supports applicants – who have not previously worked with ESA – in the application process, please contact:

Poul Zimmermann Nielsen
Space Commercialisation Manager
pzn@esabic.dk

6. The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science's Contact information

If you have any questions concerning the call, you are welcome to contact The Agency for clarification.

- Alexandra Martinussen Vikner, amv@ufm.dk, +45 72 31 95 01

Please send in copy to UFS-FVI-RUM@ufm.dk.