



# Criteria and examples for eligible projects under Art. 18 and 19 NASO of 17 December 2021

The Confederation supports national activities in the space sector. Under Art. 18 and 19 of the Ordinance of 17 December 2021 on the Promotion of National Activities in the Space Sector (SR 420.125, NASO), federal funding can be provided for the preparatory, implementation and follow-up phases of participation in international space programmes and projects.

Does my project qualify for funding under NASO?

The information and examples below are intended to guide applicants but should not be taken as definitive criteria. There is no entitlement to funding. Even if all of the answers to questions relating to your project idea are deemed suitable, this does not mean that your project can and will be funded.

- **Intention:** The project pursues scientific and/or technical aims while seeking at the same time to solve a practical problem. In doing so, the project addresses technological and space research needs as expressed in Switzerland's [Space Policy](#).
- **Origin of the research question:** The research question was developed by researchers in consultation with users. ESA or other space agencies are interested in this research question and corresponding findings.
- **Practical use in the near future:** The project is self-contained and has the potential to produce results that can be put to practical use in the near future, i.e. within the next two to three years. Project output can be used by ESA or another space agency.

Here are a few examples of projects that would in principle be eligible for funding under Art. 18 NASO:

- A study that helps to define more precisely the types of instruments needed for a planned and competitively selected space mission;
- Preliminary work to develop a scientific experiment for an ESA space mission;
- Preparatory work to minimise technical risks associated with participation in a space mission with a scientific instrument (e.g. used by NASA or another space agency);
- Preparatory research that places Switzerland in a longer-term advantageous position in new thematic areas of space activities, in line with Switzerland's Space Policy;
- Advisory services provided in relation to important space-related topics and activities to help Swiss stakeholders in the space industry to establish networking contacts (provided that SERI has an interest in supporting such advisory services and networking activities).



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Examples of applications that would not qualify for funding under Art. 18 NASO:

- All manner of requests for sponsorship (for events, activities, student projects, etc.)
- Requests for funding of infrastructure that is not directly required for a research project.