Europlanet Industry–Academia Pairing Scheme Pilot
List of Host Organisations

The following four Host Organisations have agreed to participate in this pilot project

SSC Space – Iberia (Spain)

SSC Space is a leading European company providing global space services, acting as a crucial bridge between Earth and space, supporting institutional and commercial customers across all major continents, covering scientific mission support, payload and spacecraft operations, systems engineering and launch and ground segment services. In particular, SSC Space Iberia provides high-quality scientific services for all ESA planetary missions at the European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC) in Madrid, with extensive experience in science operations planning, data processing, and long-term data archiving. SSC Space personnel include expert researchers and engineers directly involved in Mars Express, ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter, JUICE, Bepi Colombo, Envision, Solar Orbiter and many other astronomy missions, not only coordinating the science operations, but also involved in the scientific exploitation of planetary data (remote sensing imaging and spectroscopy, etc), systems engineering and software development for spacecraft, payload and space geometry simulations. SSC Space also has strong links with the planetary science community in Europe and especially in Spain and Portugal through the coordination of the Europlanet Iberian Hub, ensuring strong synergy with the main planetary research groups currently working on data analysis in most ESA planetary missions.

What you can explore: SSC Space services at ESAC involve all areas of planetary science operations, from planetary science data processing and analysis to space engineering activities: payload commanding, spacecraft subsystem modelling, and software development for data pipelines and mission simulators.

Who they are looking for: any planetary science or aerospace engineering background, especially if closely related to ESA planetary missions: science analysis of observations and modelling, instrument development, space engineering, software development, etc.

You might take part in: weekly planetary science-operations meetings to observe how the interfaces between instrument and mission operations teams work in ESA missions; technical discussions on observation planning, instrument requirements and spacecraft constraints; and a visit to ESAC, with the possibility of attending public activities and giving an internal scientific or technical seminar.

You will be hosted at: European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC), Villanueva de la Cañada, Madrid, Spain

When you can visit: between 16 November and 18 December 2026, for three to five days.

SITAEL (Italy)

SITAEL S.p.A., part of Angel Holding, is one of the largest privately owned Italian aerospace companies. It operates three product lines: end-to-end missions based on small/medium satellites (150–500 kg) as platform, satellite and E2E prime, up to constellation deployment; electric propulsion (Spark and Pulse Electric Propulsion Systems from 100 W to 20 kW); and avionics units and subsystems — data handling, processing and control units, mass memory, high/low-voltage DC/DC converters, EP power and processing units and PCDUs — flying on international institutional and commercial missions. A pairing placement at SITAEL would offer an early-career researcher the opportunity to experience first-hand how scientific and engineering expertise is transformed into space-qualified technologies and operational satellite systems within a multidisciplinary industrial environment.

What you can explore: the engineering processes behind turning mission requirements into flight-ready space systems, focusing specifically on mission design, system-level trade-off, spacecraft and payload interface, mission operations.

Who they are looking for: the main technical/scientific areas of interest for the placement are spacecraft engineering, remote sensing, AI based processing of remote sensing data, Optical Payload (for Earth/Planetary but also deep space observation), specific features and challenges in spacecraft accommodation.

You might take part in: the participant may take part in meetings and discussions on mission design, system-level trade-off, spacecraft and payload interface, mission operations, as well as discussions with Mission, System and Avionics team members about interesting applications in the Earth/Planetary/Deep Space Observation and how spacecraft engineering can facilitate them.

You will be hosted at: You will be hosted at SITAEL S.p.A. office, Via Mirri 2, Rome, Italy

When you can visit: 30 November until 4 December and 9-18 December 2026 (3 to 4 days)

Paneureka (France)

Paneureka is a small private company active in fundamental and applied research, training and science outreach, based at the Savoie-Technolac science and technology park in south-eastern France, near Chambéry. Its research focuses particularly on planetary atmospheres, spanning fundamental studies of atmospheric processes—such as the dynamics and evolution of Martian dust storms—and applied research on the production and analysis of gridded planetary datasets, as well as the development of scientific methods, software and tools. This work combines spacecraft observations, data analysis, numerical modelling, data assimilation and machine learning. Paneureka also contributes directly to international Mars exploration activities. Examples include participation in the science team of the Emirates Mars Mission, work on the environmental characterisation of the Entry, Descent and Landing phase of ESA's ExoMars Rosalind Franklin rover, and coordination of a mission concept dedicated to monitoring Martian meteorology. Training and science outreach form the two other pillars of the company's activities. Examples include the supervision of students through research projects and

internships, particularly at Master's level; knowledge-exchange activities for planetary-science professionals, including the organisation of scientific workshops; and participation in science festivals and engagement with schools through interactive activities. A pairing placement at Paneureka offers the opportunity to experience first-hand how a small private company brings together scientific research, technical development, student supervision, professional knowledge exchange and public engagement within a highly international and collaborative planetary-science environment.

What you can explore: Mars science and exploration through remote sensing, numerical modelling, data assimilation and machine learning. You may also gain exposure to how scientific requirements are translated into mission concepts, and how research needs are turned into tools and applications. Science communication and outreach may also form part of the experience.

Who they are looking for: students and early-career researchers with interests in planetary science, atmospheric science, data analysis and modelling, scientific programming, data visualisation, machine learning, or related areas.

You might take part in: scientific and technical discussions on ongoing Mars research and mission-related activities; job shadowing and professional online meetings with international partners; guided exposure to planetary data analysis, modelling, visualisation and scientific-tool development; a visit to the Savoie-Technolac science and technology park; reflection on how a small company connects research with applications, training and public outreach; and presentation of your own work.

You will be hosted at: Savoie-Technolac, Le Bourget-du-Lac, France.

When you can visit: 16-20 November or between 30 November and 18 December 2026, for three or four days.

EuroSpaceHub (The Netherlands)

EuroSpaceHub is a European space and aviation innovation ecosystem connecting universities, research centres, industry, start-ups, accelerators and technology-transfer organisations. Its activities focus on strengthening collaboration between academia and industry, supporting entrepreneurship and technology transfer, and helping researchers and innovators understand how scientific and technical ideas can be developed into applications, partnerships and business opportunities. EuroSpaceHub LUNEX develops planetary projects on data analysis, instruments, field tests, Moon base astronauts simulations, and space start-ups support. For an early-career researcher, a placement with EuroSpaceHub offers an opportunity to explore the interface between research, innovation, entrepreneurship and the wider European space ecosystem.

What you can explore: space innovation and entrepreneurship; technology transfer and research valorisation; academia–industry collaboration; NewSpace and the space economy; small satellites and space applications; innovation ecosystems; start-up development and business models; European funding and investment opportunities; communication and networking within the space sector.

Who they are looking for: early-career researchers or space professionals interested in space innovation, entrepreneurship, academia–industry collaboration, technology transfer, networking, and the wider European space ecosystem.

You might take part in: the participant may take part in meetings and discussions on space innovation, entrepreneurship and academia–industry collaboration, and gain exposure to ongoing EuroSpaceHub activities and its wider network of space-sector partners. The placement may also include discussions on technology transfer, business development, funding opportunities or the translation of research expertise into applications and collaborations within the NewSpace ecosystem

You will be hosted at: Between University of Leiden and the Space Business Innovation Centre Noordwijk, The Netherlands.

When you can visit: between 14 and 18 December 2026, for three to five days.