

DENMARK MOVES CLOSER TO ROCKET LAUNCHES FROM THE NORTH SEA

*ESA, Europe's answer to NASA, supports new project
to strengthen security and satellite surveillance*

Denmark is taking a significant step into the space age. The Danish space company EuroSpaceport has signed an agreement with the European Space Agency (ESA) and Polish aerospace company SpaceForest to support the preparation of the first in a series of planned rocket launches from the North Sea.

"ESA has chosen to support this project to improve the chances of the North Sea becoming a commercial launch site. We see this as an endorsement of our joint effort – both technically and in terms of relevance. We will begin with test launches for our Polish partner, and within a few years, we aim to launch commercial rockets carrying satellites," says Nicolas Kristoffersen, CEO of EuroSpaceport.

The launch will be carried out in collaboration with several leading Danish offshore partners, including Blue Water Shipping, SEMCO Maritime, ESVAGT, and institutions such as Business Esbjerg and Port of Esbjerg. As part of the partnership, SpaceForest will

test their rocket systems from a sea-based platform.

"This is not just a technological project – it is a strategically important initiative for both Denmark and Europe," says Nicolas Kristoffersen.

"Our mission is to create a flexible, sea-based spaceport that enables Europe to help solve some of the greatest challenges of our time – from Arctic and Greenland surveillance to strengthening Europe's space supply security."

Political Support Since 2023

Since 2023, Denmark's efforts to develop a sea-based spaceport off the coast of Esbjerg have created political attention. Minister for Higher Education and Science Christina Egelund attended the mission presentation alongside national and local stakeholders. The project enjoys broad political support from both Esbjerg Municipality and Members of Parlia-



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ment with a focus on research, climate, and security.

Mayor Jesper Frost Rasmussen comments: “We see great potential in making Esbjerg a hub for the space industry and satellite launches. This can create new jobs, attract key competencies, and strengthen our role in climate and security monitoring.”

A Project with Geopolitical Relevance

Against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine, satellite collaboration uncertainties, and increasing geopolitical interest in Greenland and the Arctic, the need for independent European launch capacity and testing of new technologies is growing rapidly.

“We are seeing increasing demand from European clients, universities, and security stakeholders who need fast and flexible access to suborbital and orbital launches,” explains Kristoffersen.

“EuroSpaceport can deliver a safe and operational solution within a few years.”

Job Creation and Industry Development

Launches will take place from a modified offshore vessel located approximately 75 km off the coast of Esbjerg. The project is rooted in Esbjerg’s strong offshore and energy sector cluster. The long-term ambition is to position Esbjerg as the center of Denmark’s space industry – driving new businesses, education programs, research environments, and highly specialized jobs. EuroSpaceport is also working with Aalborg University on various aspects of the project.

ESA Support and the Boost! Program

ESA’s support comes through its Boost! program, which will co-finance Phase 1 of the project – including approval, and technical and legal assessments – with the aim of full-scale launches in Phase 2. EuroSpaceport is collaborating closely with ESA, SpaceForest, and Danish authorities to make Denmark the first country in Europe with an operational sea-based spaceport.

About EuroSpaceport

EuroSpaceport ApS is a Danish space company developing Europe’s first sea-based spaceport, with headquarters in Esbjerg. The company works with leading offshore partners to enable safe, flexible, and sovereign satellite launches from the North Sea – strengthening Europe’s access to space. ■

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