

esa-star Publication, esa-match and esa-star ECM

Introduction

The European Space Agency is introducing a number of improvements to its esa-star system. These include three new modules, together with the launch of a single dedicated portal for users from economic operators.

Since its introduction in 2016, esa-star has continuously evolved to provide additional features, expanding to cover the end-to-end procurement process in all its variants. esa-star is also growing to accommodate supplementary areas which support, either directly or indirectly, the central procurement function.

New modules

esa-star Publication

EMITS (originally denoting the Electronic Mail Invitation to Tender System) has been ESA's main procurement communication tool since the beginning of the 1990s. EMITS is used for publishing such items as procurement-related news, the periodically updated List of Intended Invitations to Tender, active open competitive Invitations to Tender, and procurement reference documentation and standards. Until the deployment of esa-star and its Registration module, EMITS was also used by economic operators to register as potential bidders or suppliers via the Industry Outlook sub-function.

In 2016, with the release of esa-star, EMITS was modified to provide some degree of integration with the esa-star suite and was adapted to cater for the dispatch of restricted-competitive and non-competitive tender actions. In this way EMITS became the esa-star module for outbound tender-related communications.

Having been the primary point of contact between economic operators and ESA for many years, the EMITS system will now be replaced by esa-star Publication.

esa-star Publication provides the familiar EMITS functions and content presented in a more updated and user-friendly format. The module works seamlessly with esa-star Tendering, and

has a number of useful new features such as ESA Interacts, a two-way communication tool devised as an intermediate category between News and Tender Actions proper.

A few rarely used EMITS features, including the publication of both entity news and external entity tender actions for non-ESA programmes, will not be carried over to esa-star Publication.

esa-match

The esa-match module is the Agency's new matchmaking platform, giving economic operators the chance to showcase their competences and capabilities, find potential partners and opportunities, and establish business relationships.

All entities registered and validated by ESA in esa-star Registration from ESA Member States, Associate States, Cooperating States and EU Member States will have their own profile in esa-match. They will be able to use the directory to search for partners, browse current tenders or place a Marketspace ad to find collaborators or consortium members. Entities can also contact each other directly through the platform and manage their profiles.

esa-star ECM

esa-star ECM (Entity Capability Mapping) is a tool aimed at supporting the [Harmonisation Process](#) for entity competences and products.

Capability data is entered and managed by entities in the esa-star Registration and esa-match systems (if applicable). This part of the Harmonisation Process is then handled digitally within ECM with the participation of various stakeholders, such as ESA Technical Experts and Competence Domains, National Delegates and European institutions. The outcome is the assessment and validation of a set of technologies and products for all the entities included in the harmonisation review.

At the end of the process, entity users can decide whether to make the harmonisation results visible in esa-star Registration and/or their esa-match profile.



Doing Business with ESA portal

Another significant benefit for economic operators will be the ability to access the entire esa-star toolset, together with associated ESA corporate applications like esa-p, via the dedicated Doing Business with ESA portal. All applications will be connected, making it easier for entity users to access the various systems and retrieve information.