

**The Estonian Research Council and Tartu Observatory
have the pleasure to invite you to seminar**

”Estonian Space Research and Technology for European Community”

Tuesday, 9 December 2014, 14:00-17:00

Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU, Rue Guimard 11/13, 1040 Brussels

We invite you to learn about the Estonian competences in Space Science, Technology and Earth Observation, which are open for international collaboration. On the basis of excellent scientific achievements and modern technological solutions, extended collaboration with enterprises and the public sector enables active participation in the European Union research frameworks, Earth Observation Programme Copernicus and collaborate with European Space Agency.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

14.00 – 16.00 Estonian Space Research and Technology for European Community

Speakers

- **Mr Madis Võõras**, Head of the Estonian Space Office, Enterprise Estonia
- **Peter Breger**, European Commission DG Enterprise & Industry, Deputy Head of Unit, Copernicus Services
- **Dr. Mihkel Kama**, Astrophysicist, Leiden University
- **Dr. Anu Reinart**, Director of Tartu Observatory, National Delegate of Copernicus User Forum

Topics

- **Current developments in Estonian Space policy and actions**
- **Copernicus as a program for the whole World to save the Planet**
- **Involvement of Estonia in Copernicus services and further plans**
- **Estonian First satellite EstCube-1 and its images about Earth**
- **Future for space research – new challenges that can be solved in international collaboration.**

The presentations are followed by a roundtable, which aims to discuss how small Member States like Estonia can be active partners in the European Space actions and its flagship program Copernicus.

16.00 – 17.00 Networking reception

Please register [here](#) before December 4th. We look forward to meeting you!

Background information for the seminar

“Estonian Space Research and Technology for European Community”

Space research and technology are indispensable for European citizens' welfare and economy. Space actions rely on the mutual international collaboration and on the same time trigger technological development and scientific achievements in each acting partner separately. European space programmes like Copernicus empower public administrations and businesses to improve their services, to enhance their relations with citizens and customers respectively, and to take better informed decisions on future spatial development with socio-economic and environmental considerations in mind.

As a member state of European Union, Estonia has been able to develop its competences in info-communication technology, electronics, natural sciences and higher education so, that in 2013 Estonia became a real “space state” with its’ own nanosatellite launched to orbit. [ESTCUBE-1](#) serves a perfect example of creating international cooperation and infrastructure for future space projects and educating a new generation of space engineers.

This has been possible due to the long space research and technology traditions in Estonia, but even more for the international collaboration in the frames of the [European Space Policy](#). After successfully participating in the European Space Agency’s (ESA) preparatory programmes, Estonia is preparing to become a full member state of ESA, which opens further research and technology development opportunities. Only in joint international activities can small countries open its excellent science to discover Universe. Our highest priorities lay in the development of Earth Observation methods and specific technology usable in space – instruments, nanosatellites and services.

As a space research centre, [Tartu Observatory](#) realises its excellence in the space science for the interests of Estonia and Europe. The main areas of our activity include the research and development in the fields of astronomy, remote sensing and space technology. High competence of internationally recognized senior researchers and engineers meet with splendid enthusiasm of young scientists to find solutions for new challenging questions.

This has been effectively used also to inspire a young generation of researchers and engineers for the benefit of promoting STEM education and careers.

