

# ESA Technology Vision 2024 – 2040

## Security for Space Systems

**2024 Security for Space Systems Conference (3S)**  
27-28 May 2024, ESTEC, the Netherlands

Massimo Crisci (TEC-ES) / Antonios Atlasis (TEC-ESS)  
[security4space@esa.int](mailto:security4space@esa.int)  
Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality



# Importance of Space for Modern Life



## Massive Use of Space Systems



## Critical Space Infrastructure



Security now Integral Part of the Development process of our Space Systems



# Boost of commercial and new space initiative



## New Space



## New Approach



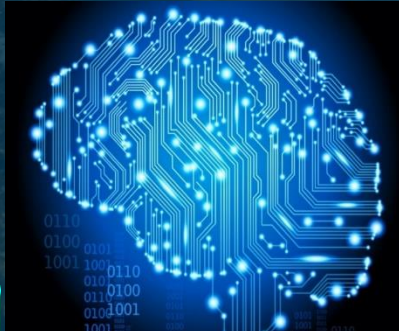
## New Responsibilities



## COTS

Commercial Off-The-Shelf

## New Techno

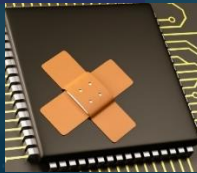


## Space Specific

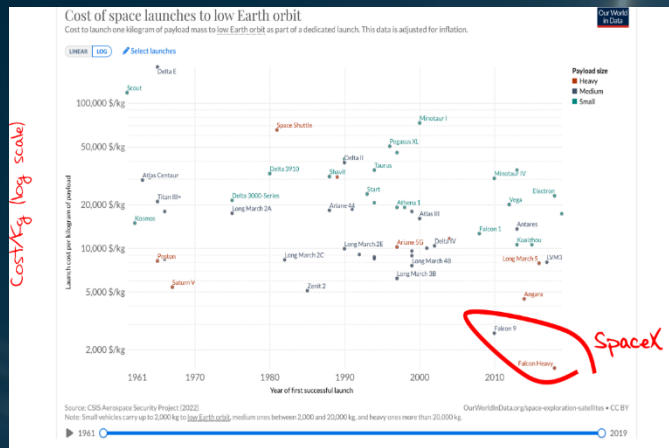
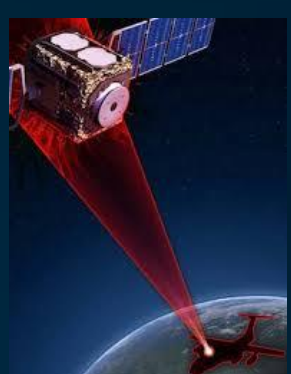
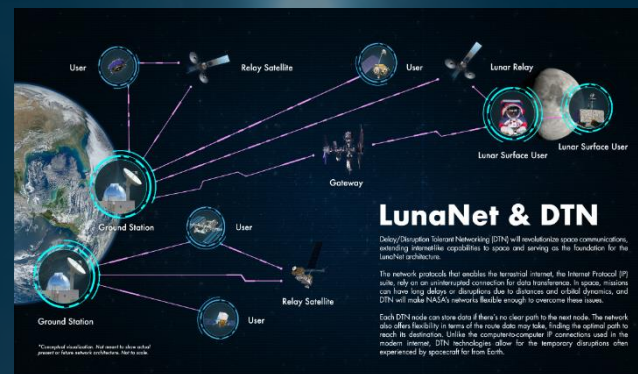
- Constrained and harsh environment (power, EM radiation damaging electronics, weight/space, safety/critical oriented, vacuum/thermal constraints limiting choice of materials, etc.)
- Distributed architecture ground / space / user /Lack of physical access (for space segment)
  - ➔ High degree of Autonomy and complex FDIR
  - ➔ Recovery is possible only remotely
  - ➔ Patching is more challenging (esp. at space segment)
- Physical / Cyber hybrid systems /Large attack surface
- Massive service coverage area / Millions of users in footprint
- Long development cycles / Long lifetime of the missions / Obsolescence issues
- Large distance / Long Comms delay / Intermittent communications
- Etc.

## General and/or new to Space

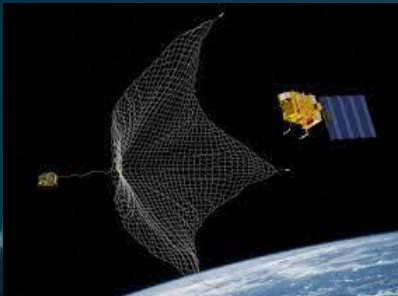
- Scale up to new system architecture (e.g. large const.)
- Integration with terrestrial (e.g. 5G etc.)
- Emerging Quantum Threats for crypto
- AI and Security
- Optical and Quantum Comms security
- Cope with COTS solutions also onboard satellite
- Enhanced situational awareness
- Supply chain security
- Securing Mission and Securing infrastructure
- Etc.



# Space Scenario 2040 - Key Elements



SpaceX Starlink Gen 1	4,408
SpaceX Starlink Gen 2	29,988
OneWeb, Phase 1	718
OneWeb, Phase 2	6,372
Amazon Project Kuiper	7,774
China Guowang	12,992
Astra	13,620
Boeing	5,842
Globalstar	3,080
Lynk	2,000
Telesat Lightspeed	1,969
Spin Launch	1,190
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,953</b>
E-Space	337,323



# Space Vision 2024 - 2040 – Preliminary Techno Themes



## Technology Themes (Push)

### Quantum

#### Hypervelocity Travel

Low Latency Information

#### Resilient Space System

#### Demisable Systems for Sustainable LEO/Cis-Lunar/Planetary

Embodiment of AI

Digitalisation  
Advanced Modelling

Advanced Robotics and  
Autonomous Systems

Advanced Manufacturing

#### Wireless Power Transmission

### Artificial Intelligence

#### AI Driven Materials Development

Next Generation Batteries

Very Large Telescopes

Deep Space Power  
Generation

Innovative Propulsion and  
Guidance (Nuclear/Take-off  
and Landing/Planetary)

#### Data Storage In Space

### Cyber-Security

#### Human Augmentation (Cognitive/Physical Enhancement)

Humans/Avatars for Mars

Human Protection for Solar System Travel  
and Settlement

Genetically Engineered Life Forms to survive in  
Extreme Environments

#### Orbital/Planetary/Asteroid Manufacturing, Assembly, ISRU

Next Generation Rovers

Technologies for Cost Reduction

## Technology Themes (Mission Pull)

Navigation and Telecommunications  
Systems in the Solar System

VLEO

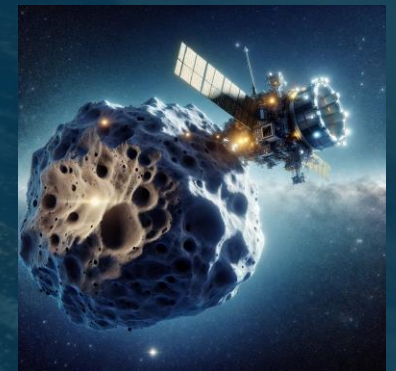
Interplanetary/Interstellar Travels

Sample Return from  
Outlying Planets

Life on the Moon

Asteroid Mining

Orbital/Planetary  
Sustainable Habitats



- Recognising the importance of Security for Space Systems (but also on Quantum and AI), following ESA Executive Board mandate a Taskforce has been formed, led by the Director of Technology, Engineering and Quality, to establish a disruptive ecosystem and prepare the European ecosystem on Artificial Intelligence, Security and Quantum technologies.
- Objectives:
  - Propose an **ESA and European Strategy on security technologies for space missions** to prepare and establish the relevant European ecosystem in this domain.
  - **Identify the capabilities, including laboratories and competencies**, needed to support space security technology developments, and associated programmatic activities on the ESA side.

# Our Vision for Security for Space Systems

- **Categorise missions** to derive commonalities and similarities in security approach
- **Develop/Associate** knowledge of the **threat landscape** and possible **countermeasures**
- **Secure-by-design** approach, using a **modular security reference architecture** and a **building blocks** approach.
- Each mission, following a threat assessment / risk analysis approach can **tailor** the security architecture to its needs, and **select** the building blocks required to implement it (considering risk appetite, cost, etc.).
- No need to re-invent the wheel by new missions
  - Improved schedule/Optimised cost
  - Increased security posture
  - Increased commercialisation opportunities
  - Boost on research
- Make available **security products**, that can be used in a modular approach, suitable to fulfil identified security needs → **Standardisation** is key.
- Identify key security technology themes for development in a long run or through an accelerated approach



## GENERIC CATEGORISATION

- **Space critical infrastructure, potentially classified**, with strong security protection needs.
- **Unclassified institutional missions**, which will always require a good, commensurate protection of their assets and their services.
- Other **unclassified institutional missions, of a potentially lower criticality** in terms of security protection (e.g. Scientific missions), but still important from an investment and reputation perspective.
- **Multitenant/Multipurpose missions hosting equipment** (e.g. payloads) from different actors with different objectives, requirements, and level of trust whose challenge is the segregation.
- **Commercial missions**, which are business driven and security comes as a business need to protect the services to the customers.
- **“New space” missions**, driven by low cost and schedule demands, constituting a potential threat for the entire space ecosystem due to potentially relaxed security requirements.

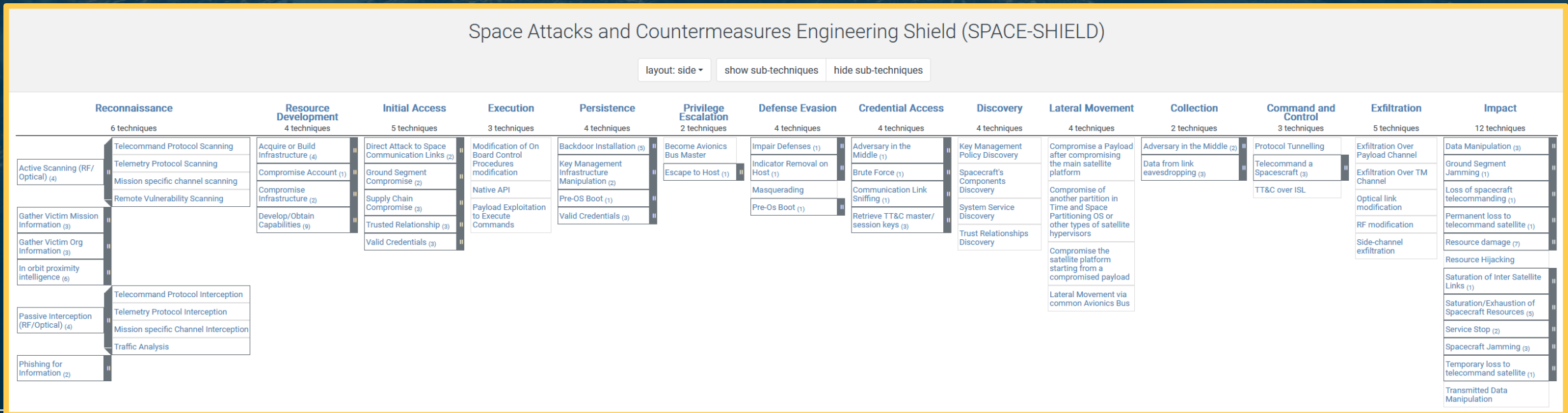
## CATEGORISATION BASED ON COMMUNICATION LINKS SPECIFICITIES

- Missions employing **large (-mega) constellations**, requiring highly scalable cryptographic solutions, not always compatible with the traditional symmetric key exchange.
- **Federated (e.g. inter-agency) missions**, with crypto solutions facilitating synergies with other missions and actors.
- Space missions, capable to operate **over very long distances and propagation delays, potentially over third-party untrusted nodes**.
- Classified or even unclassified missions requiring **accredited or certified** cryptographic solutions.
- Any **other space mission** (e.g. Scientific missions) with no specific cryptographic requirements that need to rely on mature solutions, but for which adopting new technologies could ensure future-proofed security and interoperability.

# Threat-Based Driven Approach

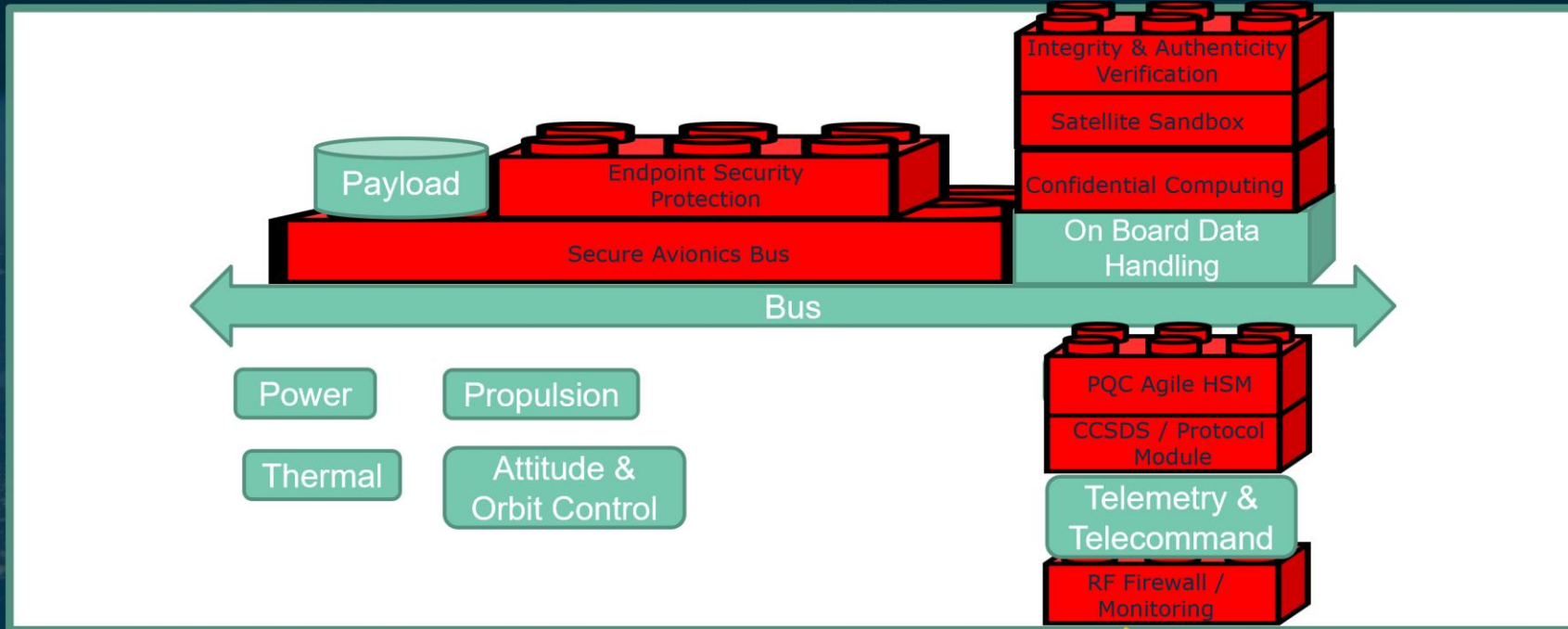


- We need to know our “enemy” (i.e. the potential security threats against space systems) – here we focus on the technological ones.
- Cyber space is well advanced on this (e.g. MITRE ATT&CK® knowledge base).
- Aerospace Corporation compiled [SPARTA](#). ESA prepared [SPACE-SHIELD](#).
  - Approach based on analysis rather than on real-world TTPs → Facilitates the identification of needed technology developments + TTPs mapped to countermeasures / mitigations.
- Call to community for collaboration; outcome to be backed up by standardisation.

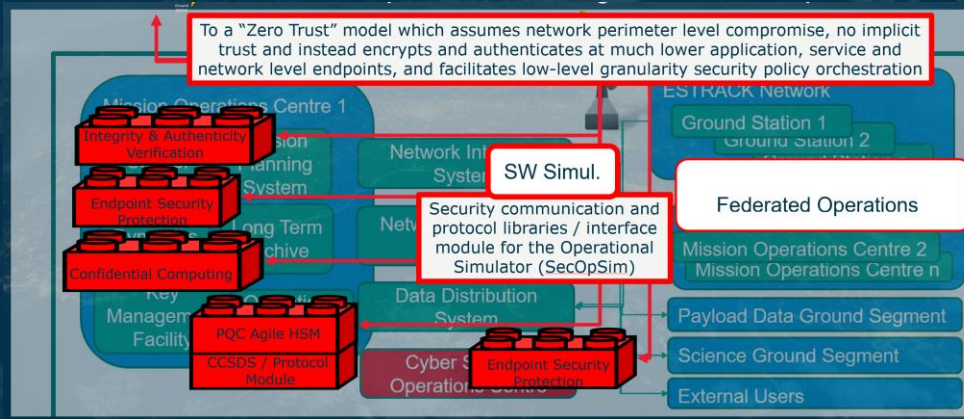


# Satellite Security Reference Architecture

Satellite / Spacecraft



Ground Segment



# Space Security Technologies (Preliminary List)



## Space Security Technologies (Push)

Quantum Resistant Cryptography

RF Security Protection / Antijamming

Optical Security

Crypto Agility

Quantum Technologies for Security

Supply Chain protection

Physical / Hardware Security

High Speed TRNG

Trusted Platform Modules / Trusted Execution Environments

Zero-trust, cloud native & next gen access control

Segregated payload & ground segment ops

AI for Security / Security for AI

Satellite Active Défense

Homomorphic Encryption

Space Threat Intelligence / Situational Awareness

Secure Space Protocol Implementation

Space Digital Forensics and Spacecraft Recovery

## Space Security Technologies (Mission Pull)

High Speed Crypto (HydRON, IRIS2)

Avionics (hardware, software) segregation (HydRON, IRIS2)

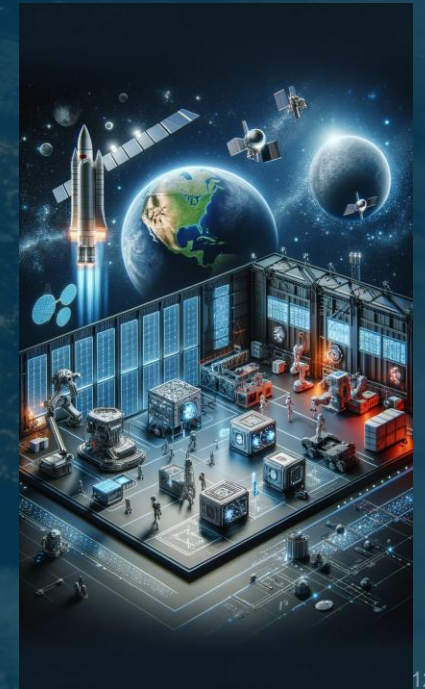
(Asymmetric) PQC (IRIS2)

5G/6G Security (IRIS2, LEO PNT)

Quantum Resistant Space PKI (Lunanet)

BPsec, IPsec (Deep Space / Interplanetary Missions, Lunanet)

Quantum Security (EuroQCI)



# A Bit of a History, and short-term plans

The need to secure our space missions is not something new; ESA has initiated the development of technologies for security its space missions for years.

- In the context of specific projects (e.g. NAV) & R&D programmes (e.g. ARTES-4S)
- As part of GSTP Cyber Security Compendia (2019, 2022) → have been proven very successful, since 70-80% of the activities are being implemented.
- As part of Basic Activities to complement ESA Cyber Resilience
  - A **modular security reference architecture** will be kicked-off in the next few days (follow up at higher TRL is foreseen)

Coordination at ESA wide level under ESA Cyber Coordination Board

## GSTP Cyber Security Compendium 2022

### GEN - Generic Technologies - Cybersecurity

#### CD3 - Avionic Systems

Programme Reference	Activity Title	Budget (k€)
GT1Y-601ES	Intrusion detection prevention module for secure avionics bus	2,500
GT1Y-602ES	Confidential computing: implementing spacecraft operations using trusted execution environments	2,000
GT1Y-603ES	Security segregation and isolation in a satellite	2,000
GT1Y-604ES	Agile post-quantum space data link security protocol hardware module	3,300
GT1Y-605ES	End-to-end supply chain protection	3,000
GT1Y-606ES	CCSDS delay-tolerant networking BPsec module	2,000
GT1Y-607ES	IP over CCSDS including internet protocol security module	1,200
<b>Total CD3</b>		<b>16,000</b>

#### CD5 - Radiofrequency & Optical Systems and Products

Programme Reference	Activity Title	Budget (k€)
GT1Y-608ES	Low-cost resilient software defined radio platform for satellite applications	450
GT1Y-609ES	Radiofrequency firewall for satellites	4,000
<b>Total CD5</b>		<b>4,450</b>

#### CD8 - Ground Systems and Mission Operations

Programme Reference	Activity Title	Budget (k€)
GT1Y-610GD	Secure communication and operations for the operational simulator	2,000
GT1Y-611GD	Security architecture for federated operations	3,000
GT1Y-612GD	Zero trust architecture for mission ground segments	2,000
<b>Total CD8</b>		<b>7,000</b>

#### CD9 - Digital Engineering

Programme Reference	Activity Title	Budget (k€)
GT1Y-613GD	Consolidation of a secure systems engineering toolset for space missions	5,000
GT1Y-614GD	Quantum qualification and certification technology platform	8,000
<b>Total CD9</b>		<b>13,000</b>

# Timeline for ESA Vision 2040

- Kick off performed on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 ✓
- Internal Consolidation completed on 14<sup>th</sup> May. ✓
- Planned to be consolidated by end of June.
- To be issued mid July.
- Inputs from Industry, Academia, and (European) Space Agencies would be very much appreciated to prepare a ESA Vision on Security Technologies for Space for 2040.



# Technology Development & Lab Capabilities



**1** WORLD-CLASS TEST CENTRE

**50** DIFFERENT FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

**22** EXTERNAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH LABORATORIES IN ESA MEMBER STATES

**2** TRANSVERSAL AREAS ACROSS THE COMPETENCE DOMAINS

**10** COMPETENCE DOMAINS

**35** LABORATORIES

**TEC**

<https://technology.esa.int/labs>

Navigation Laboratory



Satcom / TTC Laboratory



Avionics Laboratory



Cyber Laboratory



A place where all technologies (avionics, crypto, NAV, RF, etc.) are gathered for end-to-end testing



- Industry, Academia and Space Agencies **need to work closely together**, to:
  - Identify the **needs** of future space missions (institutional and commercial) in terms of required security technologies.
  - Follow **state-of-the-art research** on security aspects, with a focus on space missions.
  - **Work together** in driving future **research and development** on technological evolutions.
- Topics for discussion (also later for the panel):
  - What are the new technology-based threats?
  - What are the new security measures/benefits that technology can offer?
  - What are the gaps?
  - How security for space can benefit from non-space cyber security technologies?
  - How can the collaboration between Industry, Academia and space agencies become closer?
  - How can (security) technology development for space be accelerated?
- **For feedback, suggestions**, and any further communication on the topic, please contact with:
  - [security4space@esa.int](mailto:security4space@esa.int)





# 2024 SECURITY FOR SPACE SYSTEMS (3S)

27-28 May 2024,  
ESTEC, the Netherlands

organised by

