

"Call of Interest for In-Orbit Demonstration"

In the frame of an ESA contract and in cooperation with Arianespace – one of the world wide leaders in commercial space transportation – Kayser-Threde is investigating the accommodation of auxiliary payloads on the European Launcher Family. This concept, called KAP (Kayser-Threde Arianespace Platform) uses available remaining payload capacity on launchers to provide a flexible and low-cost solution for In-Orbit Demonstration. KAP is a fully autonomous kit providing the complete necessary infrastructure (power, data acquisition and telemetry) to minimize constraints and interaction with the launch vehicle, increasing significantly the possibility of recurrent flight opportunities.

A first flight opportunity onboard VEGA is planned end of 2009 into LEO. It will demonstrate the KAP concept as a future recurrent platform for In-Orbit Demonstration on European launchers.

Following a separate German-Russian inter-agency initiative, additional flight opportunities onboard SOYUZ from Baikonur, Russia, are envisaged beginning 2010.

This Call of Interest is open to:

- 1- Technology and scientific experiments;
- 2- CubeSats (ejection capability provided by a dedicated separation system);
- 3- Passive devices (sensors, MEMS, environment monitoring units, etc.).

The auxiliary payloads remain attached to the launcher upper stage. These can be activated from lift-off up to a few hours or days depending on the payloads' characteristics and the mission profile. Experimenters will be required to fully fund their experiments and to the shared launch cost, which is in the order of 50-500 k€ depending on payloads interfaces and requirements. Please take note of the attached documentation. The Experiment's Questionnaire has to be sent back to the hereunder mentioned point of contact.

This Call of Interest was published on the 3rd of September 2007. A first assessment will take place on the 31st of October 2007 in order to identify and select the first launching customers. However this Call of Interest will remain open to support future KAP flight opportunities.

A 2nd KAP Customer Day is scheduled on the 19th and 20th of November 2007 at Kayser-Threde in Munich, Germany. Experimenters are kindly asked to express their interest directly to Kayser-Threde and to also participate in this event.

For any additional information please do not hesitate to contact:

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Links:

- >> KAP Flyer
- >> KAP Programme Overview
- >> Experiment's Questionnaire
- >> 2nd KAP Customer Day on the 19th and 20th of November 2007 (link to KT/KAP webpage)