

Measures to ensure business continuity in the European Space industry and in the implementation of ESA Programmes during the COVID-19 crisis, published on EMITS News on 23 March 2020, extended to EU funded and co-funded programmes

ESA and the European Commission are pleased to confirm that the measures to ensure business continuity in the European Space industry and in the implementation of ESA programmes during the COVID-19 crisis also cover EU funded and co-funded programmes.

In principle, the same measures apply.

For Navigation programmes, industry is invited to note in addition that:

1. The tendering process will remain in line with applicable security rules and regulations.
2. Electronic signatures in industrial agreements (i.e. CCNs, contracts, close-outs) under the EC-ESA Galileo Delegation Agreement will be regularised after the COVID-19 crisis in the way indicated in the relevant documents.
3. In relation to the proposed measure of partial payment, if the company requests accrual and payment in between existing payment milestones (i.e. change of MPP), a new payment milestone has to be added in the industrial contract via a CCN with the associated justification for the request. Such CCN shall be assessed and if substantiated shall be approved at the earliest convenience by both ESA and EC/GSA, as needed.
4. Special provisions on flow down to lower tier subcontractors are to be included in the way indicated in the relevant documents by the Agency.
5. In case Liquidated Damages, Penalties or Incentives are at stake, delays are to be addressed at the earliest convenience by Industry to the Agency, with substantiation and evidence of link between COVID-19 and schedule impact. They will be handled at the earliest convenience, on a case by case basis, subject to ESA and EC/GSA approval.