Space innovation – Green transformation

Newsletter January 2026

IN THIS EDITION (Vol. 3)

1. Upcoming & Save the Date

1.1 GSC internal

Monday, 09.02.2026 10.00- 11.30 am – GSC invites to a Webinar

Invitation: Funding Information Event – ZIM Programs

We cordially invite you to an information event on the Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM), the German Federal Government's key funding programme for innovation.
The event will cover individual, cooperative and network projects, including collaborations with international partners, with funding of up to €550,000 per company.
Learn how ZIM can effectively support your research and development projects and strengthen your innovation activities.
Registration information will follow soon.

Join Us at Space Tech Expo Europe
Last year we had speaking slots at the Expo and this year, we're going all in with

OUR OWN 40 M² BOOTH!

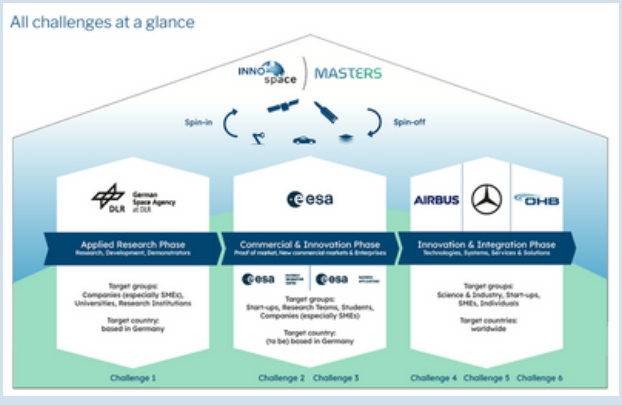
Members from our New Space pillar are invited to join us, network, and explore collaborations on site. Don't miss this chance — get in touch to be part of it!

1.2 From BW to Space and back

Apply Now: Baden-Württemberg Innovation Award
The Innovation Award of the State of Baden-Württemberg (Dr.-Rudolf-Eberle-Prize) is open for applications! The prize recognises outstanding innovative products, processes, or services from small and medium-sized companies and start-ups based in Baden-Württemberg and is worth €50,000, plus a €7,500 young-company special prize.
Apply by 31 May 2026 with your innovation — and showcase your success on a regional and national stage. Ready to compete? More information here.

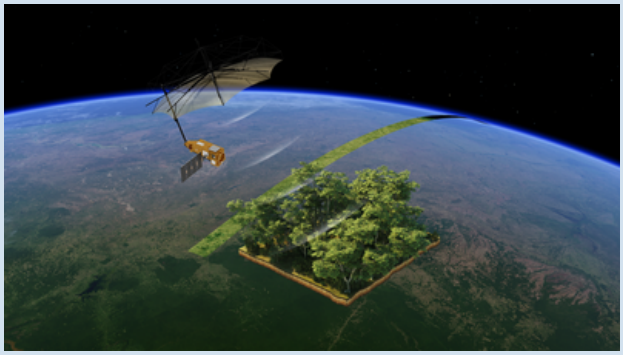
Innovation Voucher "Mittelstand Meets Start-ups" – Applications Now Open
SMEs in Baden-Württemberg can now apply for the Innovation Voucher "Mittelstand trifft Start-ups" and kick-start innovation through collaboration with start-ups. The program supports the purchase of innovative products or services from start-ups with up to €20,000 in funding (50 % grant). Eligible are SMEs with up to 250 employees working with a start-up younger than ten years. More information here.

INNOspace Masters 2026 – Applications Now Open
Applications for the INNOspace Masters 2026 are now open. Innovators, startups, researchers, and companies can apply to one of six challenges, covering different technology readiness levels – from early-stage concepts to market-ready solutions. Participants benefit from funding opportunities, expert coaching, and access to leading industry and space partners such as DLR, ESA, Airbus, Mercedes-Benz, and OHB. **Apply by 25 March 2026 (13:00 CET)** and accelerate your innovation. More information here.



1.2 From BW to Space and back

ESA Biomass Mission – Open Data Available Now
The ESA Biomass satellite is a pioneering Earth Explorer mission launched in April 2025, has completed commissioning and is now fully operational. Its powerful P-band radar can penetrate dense forest canopies to measure woody biomass, providing unprecedented insight into how forests are changing and how much carbon they store. This data is vital for understanding the global carbon cycle and improving climate and forest monitoring. All Biomass mission data are now freely accessible to researchers, developers, and organisations worldwide. Take a closer look at the the project and explore the data.



LR BW Webinar:
12.02.2026 08.30- 9.30 am
“Horizon Europe 2026–2027 – New opportunities for space and digital technologies”
Sign up here.

Munich Space Summit:
23.- 25.03.2026 Part I: New Space
25.- 27.03.2026 Part II: Satellite Navigation
Register here.

BW_i:
26.03.2026, Stuttgart
“Nippon x Baden-Württemberg – Edition Luft- und Raumfahrt”
Sign up here.

Now, it’s your turn: Let’s Do It Together!

We’d love to know where you’ll be in 2026 — at events, trade shows, congresses, or delegation trips. **Share your plans with us**, and we can explore attending together as a network, strengthening connections, and creating more opportunities for collaboration.

Let’s make the most of our network — get in touch and let us know your schedule!

2 . News from our Network

2.1 New Members and Partners in our Community

Our network is continiously growing, please welcome these two partners and this one member with us:

PARTNER

FastCast Ceramics GmbH

FastCast Ceramics specializes in adjusting the rheological properties of fluids and manufacturing open-pored, highly porous components made of ceramic and metal. Their water-based materials dry crack-free in thick layers thanks to a microparticle network and produce >50% open porosity with pore sizes between 0.5-50 µm.

PARTNER

TRUEBNER GmbH

TRUEBNER is a company specialising in the development, manufacture and distribution of electronic sensors and measurement systems. Its focus is on high-precision soil moisture sensors for agriculture, environmental technology and hydrological research.

MEMBER

Preflet GmbH

Preflet is a climate tech start-up developing AI-based solutions for intelligent energy management in buildings. With its AI agent "Leo", the platform analyses energy and operating data based on real-time data, IoT sensors and intelligent algorithms, identifies energy losses and provides concrete measures for reducing costs and CO_2 emissions.

Want to see who else is in our network?

2.2 News from horizon microtechnologies

HORIZON DEMONSTRATES COATING PERFORMANCE UNDER EXTREME HUMIDITY AND HEAT – PASSIVATION PROCESS PROVES EFFECTIVE

PRESS RELEASE, Karlsruhe, 12th November 2025

Horizon Microtechnologies has successfully demonstrated that its passivated, metallised 3D-printed parts can withstand one of the most demanding environmental challenges in electronics reliability testing, 500 hours of constant 85°C and 85% relative humidity.

The so-called “85/85 Test” is a widely recognised benchmark across electronics, sensors, and advanced systems, designed to accelerate failure mechanisms that may occur in real-world conditions involving moisture, heat, and prolonged exposure. Historically, coated polymer parts have struggled under these conditions, showing delamination, corrosion, or loss of function.

Horizon’s test results tell a different story. “Our proprietary passivation process preserved coated parts with no change in appearance or integrity after 500 hours. This result demonstrate the survival of protectively coated metallised 3D printed parts in the 85/85 test, and shows that coated polymer parts can meet reliability demands once thought beyond their reach.” says CEO Andreas Frölich.

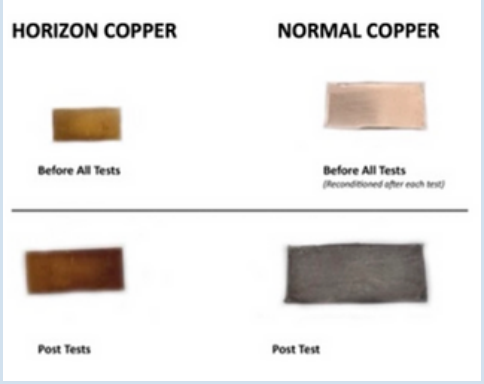
“Transparency is key,” Frölich adds. “We’re not just announcing wins, we’re building confidence. This test proves we have a solution that works, and we’re working hard to make it production-ready at scale.”

The significance of passing the 85/85 test extends beyond just environmental survivability. It opens doors for the use of coated polymer AM parts in automotive sensors, aerospace electronics, and industrial controls and embedded devices.

These applications often require long-term reliability in enclosures or housings where fluctuating temperature and humidity are a given. Horizon’s success shifts the narrative. Coated polymer parts are no longer a “maybe”, they are a real option.

This milestone adds to a growing list of successful tests, including temperature shock, radiation resistance, and outgassing validation. The campaign, structured in phases, is part of Horizon’s broader commitment to proving that its metallised micro AM components are ready for the world’s most demanding environments.

Horizon continues to lead the charge in restoring industry confidence in coated 3D-printed parts through real data, rigorous testing, and a drive to engineer what others said was impossible.



3. Retrospective

3.1 IHK Reutlingen Water Network: "Water meets Space"

Space tech isn't just for space — it's reshaping water management on Earth.
Together with two of our member companies, we showed the Water Network of IHK Reutlingen what's already possible today.

So how far can satellite data take us in water management today? Two examples:

🔹 HydroGeoTwin
Fernando Mazo D'Affonseca illustrated how satellite data can reveal groundwater fluctuations, but also highlighted that satellite data alone is not enough for reliable forecasting. By combining it with detailed knowledge of soil structure and topography, HydroGeoTwin creates digital twins which can model and predict suitable water management strategies.

🔹 Yugen Space
Anand Waghmare introduced the development of a platform which makes different satellite data accessible to everyone. Information that previously required specialists, extensive processing, and significant time can now be inquired easily by non-experts, including through simple natural-language inputs. This lowers the barrier to using high-precision environmental data for better decisions in agriculture, forestry, and nature conservation.

A warm thank you to our speakers and for the invitation as well as for the thoughtful preparation of the evening. It was agreat setting to introduce the potential of space data to a network which typically has no direct link to space.
We look forward to continuing the dialogue on how satellite-based insights can support sustainable practices across the region.

3.2 GSC “Dinner & Dialogue”

Sometimes the best way to strengthen a network is simply to meet in person and take time for real conversations.

On January, 15th 2026 members and partners of the Green Space Center Baden-Württemberg came together in Tübingen with a clear goal: finally meeting in person, exchanging ideas and seeing where future collaborations might grow.

We kicked off the afternoon at Cyber Valley, one of Europe’s leading innovation hubs for artificial intelligence and intelligent systems . Established through a collaboration between leading academic institutions, industry partners, and government, Cyber Valley drives breakthroughs in machine learning, robotics and computer vision.

During a guided tour through the campus, we gained insights into Cyber Valley’s work, saw parts of the campus up close, and discussed current developments in AI. The conversation continued on the rooftop terrace of one of the buildings, just in time to enjoy a beautiful sunset over Tübingen.

A big thank you to our two hosts of the tour, the introductions and the open discussion — highly appreciated!

Afterwards, we headed to the nearby Sternwarte Tübingen for dinner and drinks. What followed was exactly what the evening was meant to be: relaxed conversations, new connections, familiar faces finally meeting offline, and plenty of ideas for future cooperation.

Greeting from Reutlingen,

Tobias, Marcin, Evelyn & Vanessa 💚