



The Malta Council for
Science & Technology



PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT
FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES,
DIGITAL ECONOMY AND INNOVATION

Space Research Fund 2018

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Malta Council for Science and Technology



Note: The material in this presentation provides an abridged version of the *Rules for Participation 2018*.

Please refer to call documentation on
mcst.gov.mt/space-directorate/space-research-fund/



What kind of projects?

The **Space Research Fund** shall provide financial support for research, development and innovation in the downstream Satellite EO sector, specifically projects that deal with the processing and exploitation of data collected through EO satellites.



Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 10:30

Oil spill at Malta Freeport Terminals

Overnight clean-up operation as berthed ship believed to have leaked oil



Malta Freeport Terminals. This is a file photo.

Sunday, August 7, 2016, 07:35 by Caroline Muscat

Owner says fish farms are a source of slime



The massive spread of sludge believed to be from fish farms is seen clearly in this aerial shot above the south of Malta. Photo: Daniel Cilia.

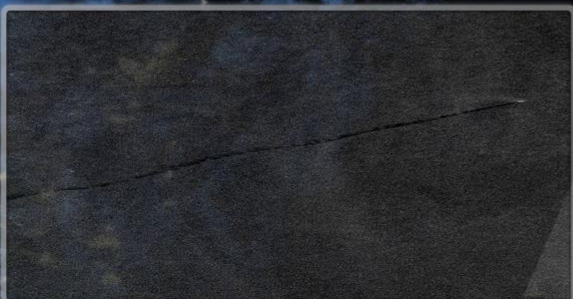




Major oil spill accident from platform near the Scottish coast



Oil spill from platforms in Central North Sea



Moving ship with oil spill

Saturday, May 5, 2018, 12:07

Jellyfish apocalypse takes over Birżebbuġa

Bloom expected to last a few weeks

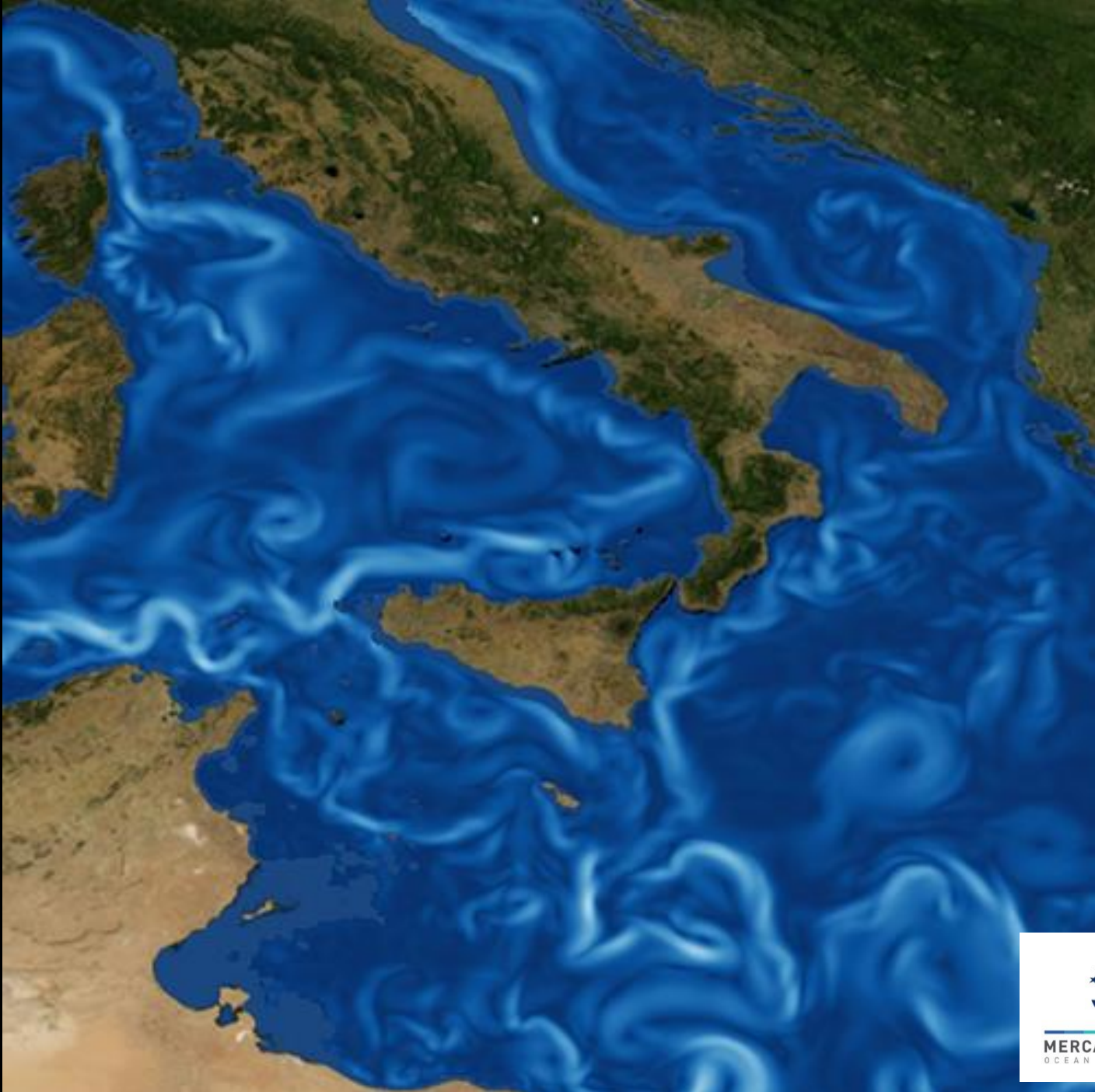


Photo: Alan Deidun, coordinator Spot the Jellyfish campaign



**NATIONAL
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MERCATOR OCEAN
OCEAN FORECASTERS

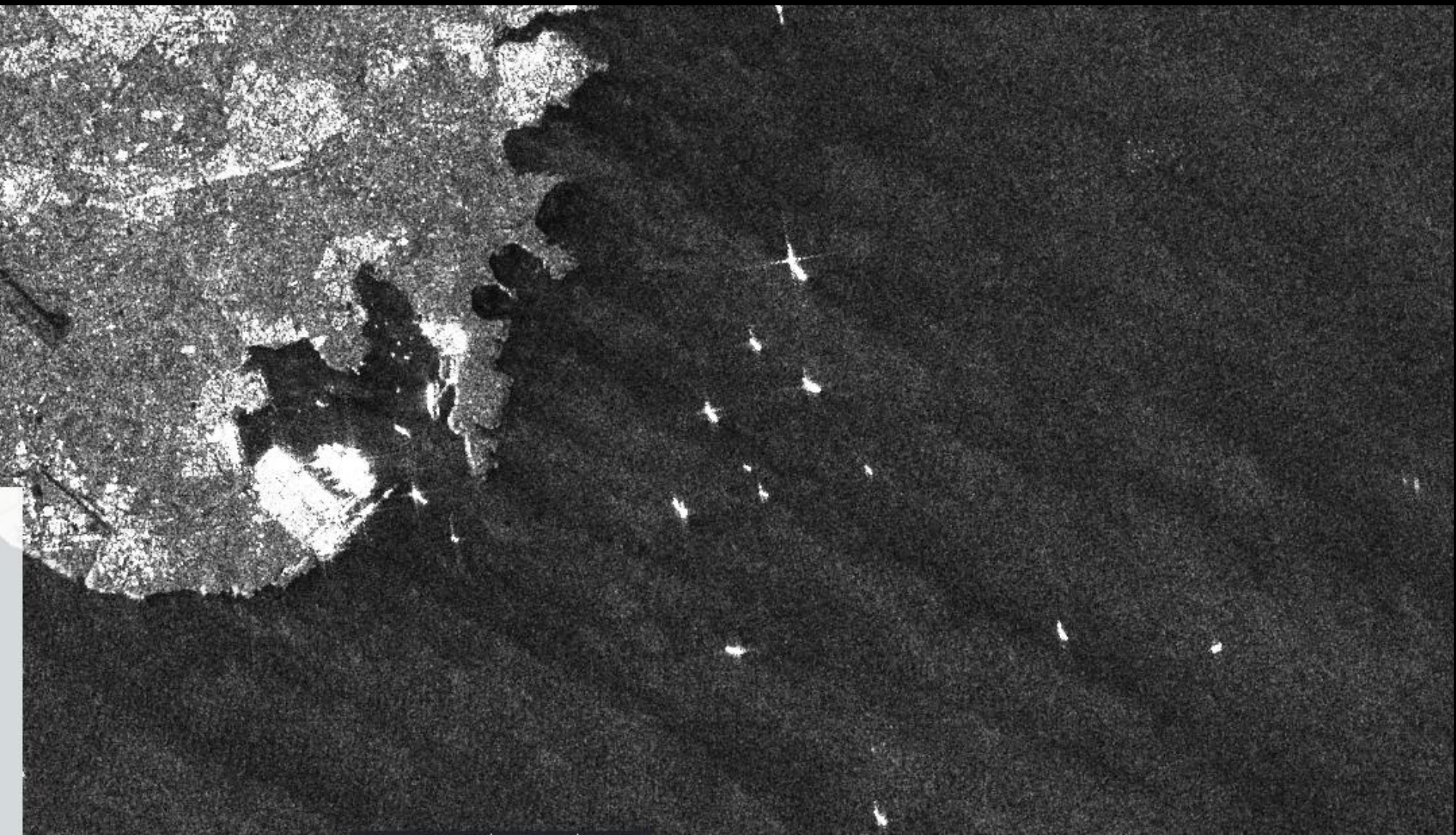
Thursday, May 3, 2018, 18:00

Multi-million fuel smuggling operation coordinated from Malta

Documents reveal how Libyan fuel was moved right under authorities' noses





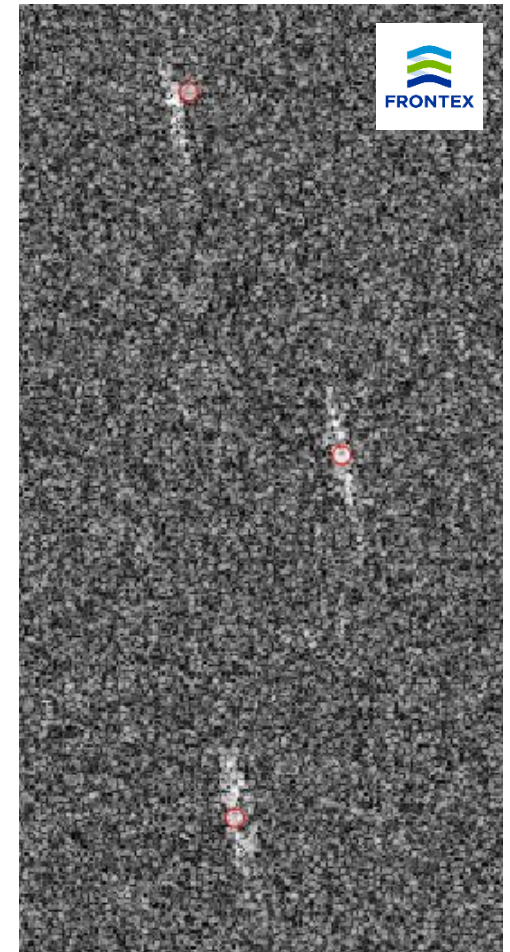


Sunday, May 6, 2018, 21:11 by Press Association

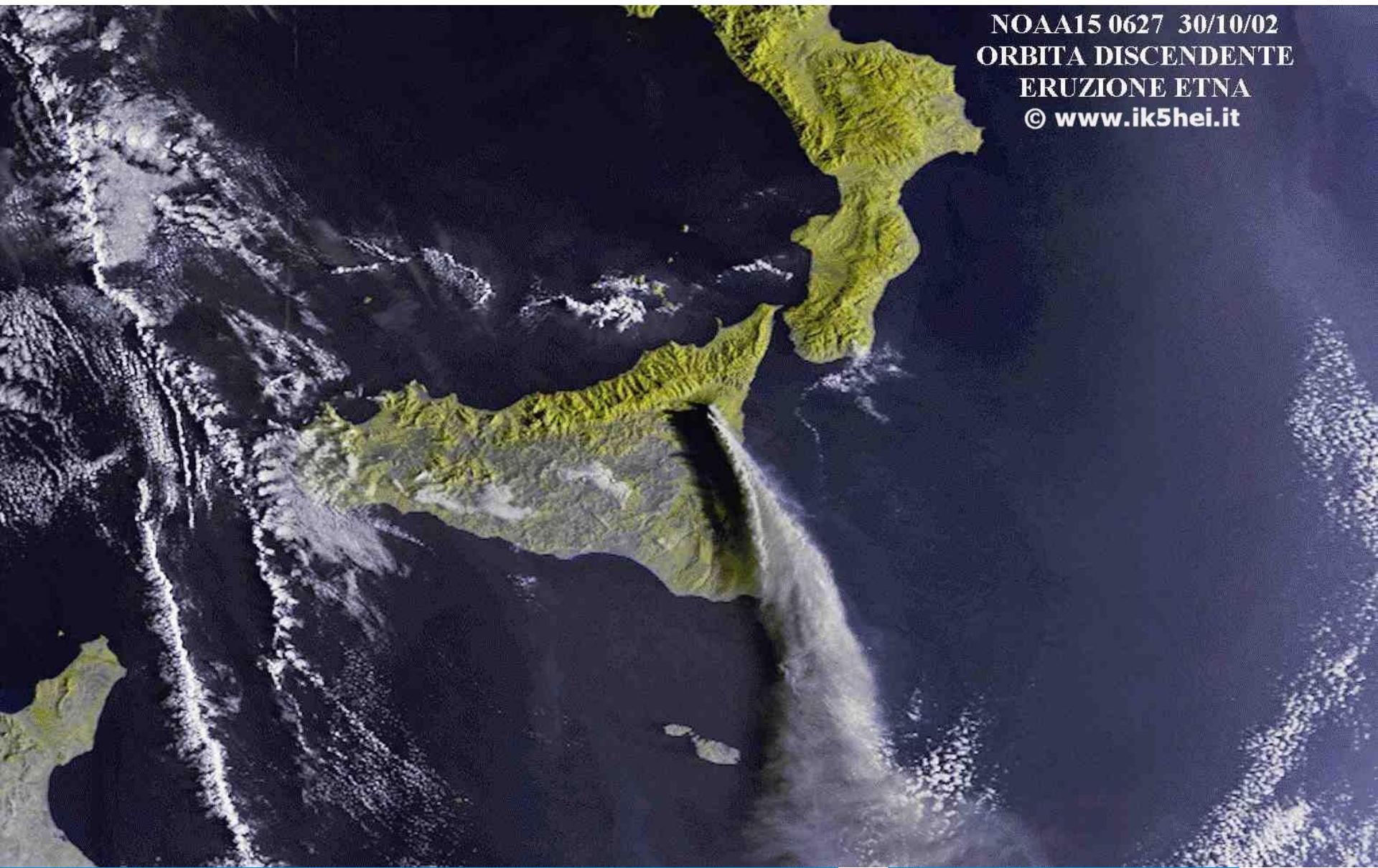
Spanish rescue service saves nearly 500 migrants from Mediterranean



Photo: Proactiva Open Arms/Facebook



Bird's eye view



NOAA15 0627 30/10/02
ORBITA DISCENDENTE
ERUZIONE ETNA
© www.ik5hei.it

Monday, May 22, 2017, 13:55

Watch: Health warning issued as fierce fire rages at Sant' Antnin waste recycling plant

Authorities appeal to public to remain indoors



Thematic areas

- **Smart Specialisation Areas**, such as: Resource Efficient Buildings, Aquaculture, Maritime Services, Tourism Product Development, ICT as an innovation, Health and Aviation & Aerospace
- **Maritime surveillance** beyond current EU programmes and services
- The **Blue Economy** and the related conservation and sustainable use of the seas
- Tackling **migration challenges** beyond current EU programmes and services
- **Urban Area Management** and related sustainable development
- Supporting **Smart Cities development** and tackling related challenges
- **Improve spatial resolution challenges** of current Earth Observation Satellite systems
- **Atmosphere**-related research

Scope of the Funded Projects

- Utilization and **exploitation of existing European Union EO infrastructures**
- Ensuring international relevance of research to **reduce competitiveness and capability barriers for Maltese entities** to acquire European-projects and clients
- Malta as an **EO test bed**
- Exhibiting potential to **leverage further funding** through other streams to complement the programme size

Scope of Funded Projects

- Development of technologies that are **close to market or market-deployable**
- Demonstration of the **potential economic benefits** of the proposals, converging academic research with industrial application of the technologies.

Programme Parameters

Overview

- Open to **any Maltese legal entity**: Public, Private, research or academic
- A **consortium** is encouraged but not required
- The grant shall cover **100%** of the total eligible costs of the project, capped to a maximum of **€150,000**
- **20 month** duration split into 2 stages:
 - Stage 1: 12 months
 - Stage 2: 8 months

In case of a consortium...

- One of the partners should be the **Lead Partner** (MT legal entity)
- Lead Partner is to appoint the **project coordinator**
- **Foreign entities** may participate as partners but are not eligible for funding

Two Research Streams

| | Technology Concept Research Stream 1 (TRL 1 to 4) | Applied Technology Development Stream 2 (TRL 5+) |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Beneficiary | At least 1 research or knowledge dissemination organisation . | Include an end user of the technology under development. Include at least 1 industrial entity . |
| Research Prospects and Impacts | Prospects of the proposal have a medium importance . It is recommended that the proposal makes reference to an eventual case study or end-user of the research being proposed . | Prospects of the proposal have a high importance under this stream. A credible route to commercialisation which promises a saleable product rooted in the needs of the end user is important. |

Eligibility for participation

- Applicants shall have a good financial standing having **passed the Due Diligence administrative check** by MCST evaluators.
- **No double funding**
- Applicants are to ensure eligibility under the **State aid regime**

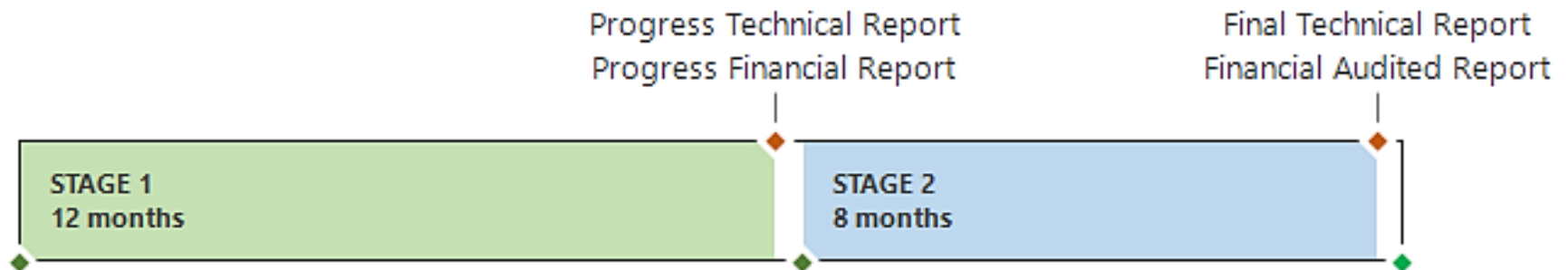
State Aid - *De Minimis* Regulation

- A single undertaking **cannot receive more than €200,000 in aid over any 3 fiscal-year period.**
- All applications will be accompanied by **a State Aid de Minimis declaration form**
- **Public entities should submit a State Aid Declaration Form** indicating non-applicability (N/A)

Deliverables

Mandatory Deliverables

- Hold a minimum of **two interim meetings / stage** to verbally update the Council on progress;
- Reporting on templates provided by the Council:



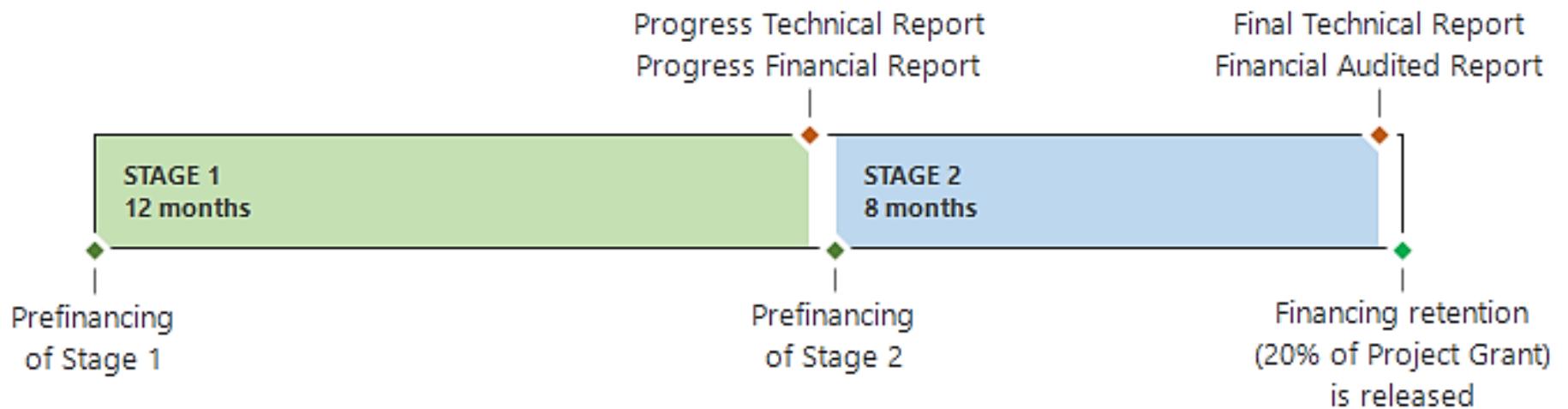
Mandatory Deliverables

- During the duration of the project, **publish at least 2 articles** in local newspapers or magazines – the objective here is to raise awareness on the subject
- As directed by the Council, **contribute to space-related outreach events held in MT**, including a yearly event supported by ESA.

Finances

Project Grant shall cover **100% of the total eligible cost** of the project, capped to a maximum of **€150,000**

Disbursement of Funding



Eligible Direct Costs

Personnel Costs

| Role in Project | Hourly rates | Limits per project |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Top Management or equivalent | € 29.11 to € 35.84 | Max 2 per project |
| Middle Management, or equivalent | € 20.70 to € 29.10 | Max 2 per project |
| Senior Researcher or equivalent | € 20.70 to € 29.10 | Max 2 per project |
| Researcher or equivalent | €11.49 to € 20.69 | No Limits |
| Operational, technician, research support assistant or Equivalent | up to €11.48 | No Limits |

Existing Personnel

- The **total cost of funded hours** per project for existing employees **shall not exceed 20% of the project grant**.
- **This includes existing personnel** that are provided with **separate part-time contracts** to extend their working hours with the entity, for the purpose of the project.
- Personnel Costs related to **Project Management are limited to 10%** of the project grant and form part of the 20% limit set on existing personnel costs.

Existing Personnel

- Any **project management which is not carried out by any of the partners** shall be deemed to be **subcontracting** and be subject to the 10% maximum of project grant.
- The permissible number of hours funded by this Programme is not to exceed an average of **10 hours per week per existing employee, as part of their normal working hours**. Overtime permitted when part of their employment contract.

New Personnel

- The salary of personnel that are **employed specifically for the project** would **not form part of the personnel costs limit of 20%** of the project value.
- Students can be engaged on the project and paid an annual stipend of **€6,000 when reading for a Master's degree** or an annual stipend of **€8,000 when reading for a Doctoral degree**.
- Note that **for every engaged student, a full-time researcher must be employed** by the consortium (1:1 ratio).
- Timesheets shall be retained for all personnel, including for students.

Other Eligible Direct Costs

- **Specialised equipment:** Purchase of specialised equipment including software and datasets;
- **Travel Costs** are eligible if strictly related to the execution of the project;
- Access to **scientific information** sources including databases and publications.

Other Eligible Direct Costs

- **Subcontracting** capped at **25 %** of project grant
- **Subcontracting to foreign companies** should only be considered if suitable expertise is not available locally and must be duly justified.

Eligible Indirect Costs

- Overheads will be covered at **10%** of direct eligible costs, excluding the costs of
 - subcontracting,
 - items of equipment above €5000
 - consumables above €5000;
- For equipment, the capping of €500 is **per piece** while for consumables, the capping of €500 is for the **total amount** of consumables per partner;

Ineligible Costs

Non-exhaustive list

- Expenses which are recoverable through other funding mechanisms;
- Re-purchase of equipment originally procured through other funding mechanisms;
- Purchase of equipment from partners or their subsidiaries within the consortium;
- Standard office equipment/ stationery;
- Organising a conference
- Personnel hours for travelling.
-

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation stages

Applications shall be evaluated using a **three-step** process:

- **Administrative compliance**
- **Content Evaluation**
 - Excellence
 - Impact
 - Implementation
- **Due Diligence**

Administrative checks

- Completeness
- Compliance with the eligibility criteria;
- Any **incomplete** or administratively non-compliant proposals or proposals from ineligible organisations, shall **not be evaluated** further.

Content Evaluation Criteria

Excellence, Impact, Implementation

To be eligible for funding, a proposal shall obtain:

- **Pass mark (50%)** within each criterion
- **>65% overall** (*Excellence + Impact + Implementation*)
- Eligible proposals shall be **shortlisted for support in the order of priority**;

Excellence

Stream 1: /40

Stream 2: /25

- Clarity of the definition of sector problem areas and **pain points**.
- **Scientific validity** of the proposed solution and clarity of technical objectives.
- Quality of **engineering approach**.
- **Innovation potential** and adequacy of **TRL maturity** by the end of the project.

Impact

Stream 1: /30

Stream 2: /45

- Potential of publications and patents resulting from the project and likeliness of any generated **Intellectual Property being retained in Malta**.
- Extent to which the proposed idea exhibits a **competitive advantage over existing technologies** including foreign markets.
- Credibility of the route to eventual **commercialisation**.
- Extent to which the proposed solution helps increase **competitiveness of end users**.
- Extent to which the proposal leverages **new personnel** and exhibits evidence of growth of critical mass of knowledge.
- Extent to which the proposal is leveraging **local favourable conditions** that promote Malta as a test-bed for EO-related research.

Implementation

Stream 1: /30

Stream 2: /30

- Adequacy of the **background and experience** of the entity/entities related to the particular field concerned.
- **Complementarity of the different consortium partners** in delivering the project objectives.
- **Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan**, including proposed work packages, deliverables and allocation of resources.
- **Appropriateness of the management structures** and procedures, including risk and innovation management.

Submitting an Application

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Submitting an Application

Call open: 7th May 2018 till 2nd July 2018 (COB)

- The selection and funding of proposals under this Programme shall be on a **competitive basis**;
- Submission of project applications will be in the form of a **one-stage process**;
- No amendments or negotiations are allowed after submission and any unapproved deviations will result in the failure of the application.

All Submissions shall include:

- The application form in MS Word (.docx) format and a signed scanned copy to be sent by email.
- CVs of key researchers including relevant track records;
- IP agreement signed by all project partners
- State Aid *De Minimis* Form
- **Audited financial statements for last 3 fiscal years** of all partners.
If start-up: financial projections for three (3) years signed by an auditor, including: an income statement, a cash flow statement, and a statement of financial position;

Applications are to be submitted to...

- Application forms can be sent electronically to space.mcst@gov.mt or it can be handed to the programme coordinator at MCST

A satellite map of the island of Malta is positioned in the center-left of the slide. The map shows the island's green terrain, coastal features, and surrounding blue waters. The island is elongated, with a smaller islet to the northwest.

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