

Munich Space Summit 2026 Discussions and Outcome



The Munich Space Summit 2026, held from March 23–27, brought together key stakeholders from the European space sector, highlighting the theme of moving from "industry ready" to "policy lagging," while emphasizing the need for fewer regulations, increased government contracts, and faster deployment of satellite technologies. The event, which merged the Munich Satellite Navigation Summit and the Munich New Space Summit, established a unified voice on European space sovereignty.

Showcase of emerging space technologies and startups

- Munich-based and European New Space companies used the Summit to unveil and discuss cutting-edge technologies — for example, *Dcubed presented deployable satellite structures with large fold-out solar arrays and in-space manufacturing approaches aimed at enabling larger, lighter spacecraft designs.* ([Munich Startup](#)).
Bavaria opened with a statement of intent. State Minister [Florian Herrmann](#) pitched Munich as Europe's space capital: 200 companies, 38,000 employees, €12 billion turnover, backed by a €7 billion High-Tech Agenda.
- Startups and SMEs gained visibility and engaged with investors and larger aerospace firms during panels and networking sessions focused on scalable satellite production, launch service advances, and commercialization pathways. ([munich-aerospace.de](#))

High-level discussions on space policy, strategy and cooperation

- The Summit brought together senior representatives from European institutions, space agencies and industry bodies (e.g., ESA, EUSPA, BDLI, German Aerospace Agency) to discuss *how space policy can support innovation, address global challenges and align New Space growth with strategic priorities.* ([munich-aerospace.de](#))
- [Wolfgang Ischinger](#)'s warning: don't repeat in space what we did in defence - 27 national champions, zero global competitiveness.
- Panels covered key themes including *Europe's access to space, regulation & legal aspects, commercialization and dual-use/military-civil synergies* — emphasizing strategic autonomy and the integration of civil and defense space capabilities. ([munich-space-summit.org](#))
- [Ernst K. Pfeiffer](#) from [HPS High Performance Space Structure Systems GmbH](#) "Less regulations. More trust. Just start." If the state wants resilience, the state pays.

Navigation, positioning and timing (PNT) innovation spotlighted

- [Deutsches Zentrum für Luft-und Raumfahrt e.V.](#) Chair woman [Anke Kaysser-Pyzalla](#) reinforced the technical foundation - Galileo as the world's best GNSS, pioneering optical inter-satellite links, and 40 years of dual-use heritage now meeting the moment.
- A major segment of the Summit focused on future satellite navigation systems and multi-layer PNT technologies, with experts discussing *precision positioning, LEO navigation systems, and GNSS resilience for both space and ground applications.* ([munich-aerospace.de](#))

Focus on Speed and Action

The consensus across panels emphasized "less regulation. More contracts. More launchers," suggesting that European industry is ready, but policy and procurement are moving too slowly.

Government as Architect

Experts urged European governments to act as architects of the space ecosystem by using procurement to foster, rather than stifle, startup competition. It was noted that every euro of government funding for startups leverages ten in private capital.

Max Gulde from **Constellr**: Germany's committed €35 billion is ecosystem-shaping money, but the government must be the architect - the primes have no incentive to create their own competition.

European Sovereign Capability

Wolfgang Ischinger set the frame on Day 1: Think European!

Discussions highlighted the urgent need for Europe to reduce its dependence on foreign providers, particularly in critical infrastructure, as highlighted by the reliance on non-European commercial providers like Starlink.

ESA's **Philip Thomas**: "Only fund programs that are scalable at a European level."

Summary

After three days one consistent message from every startup, SME, prime, and agency: Europe has the technology, the talent, and now the political intent. What it lacks is procurement speed, demand predictability, and the institutional courage to bet on its own ecosystem.

The key policy panel agreed on everything - all said speed, interoperability, system of systems, and the next 12 months will be decisive.

References

No official protocol was released, the above summary of the Munich Summit 2026 was compiled by the editor using primarily pertinent LinkedIn information, in particular that of Torsten Kriening [1], Table Briefings (<https://table.media/>) and YouTube. In addition Google AI and Chat GPT was consulted.

[1] https://www.linkedin.com/posts/torsten-kriening_munichspacesummit-europeanspace-newspace-activity-7442642718872354817-0IB9/