



At BEX - Beyond Exploration Expo three days of programming spanning the space industry and terrestrial supply chains

- Opening Wednesday, September 23, at 12:00 PM, followed by the BEX Vision Summit with the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Italian Air Force, Axiom Space, Leonardo, Thales Alenia Space, ALTEC and Gruppo Barilla
- Thursday, September 24: the Space Finance Arena, produced with Plug and Play and opening with an interview with Leonardo chairman Francesco Macri, the Technical Scientific Committee's block on advanced manufacturing with an ESA keynote, and a live link with Concordia Station in Antarctica
- Friday, September 25: the third edition of the Stati Generali della Space Economy, with a session dedicated to startups, microenterprises and incubators, a day focused on skills and youth guidance, and a look at the future of the satellite market curated by the Emilia-Romagna Region

Rimini, September 22, 2026 - BEX, Beyond Exploration Expo, the expo-conference organized by Italian Exhibition Group and dedicated to the convergence between the space economy and terrestrial industries, opens tomorrow at Rimini Expo Centre. The conference program, curated by the Technical Scientific Committee chaired by Politecnico di Milano, runs across three days and several venues: the Main Stage for policy-setting sessions, the Exploration Arena for in-depth vertical sessions, the Pitch Arena for startup and company presentations, the Think Lounge for short conversations at the Astronaut's House, and the Future EO Arena curated by Planetek Italia and D-Orbit. Additional sessions take place in the Diotallevi and Ravezzi rooms and at institutional booths.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

MAIN EVENTS

At 12:00 PM, the ribbon-cutting on the Main Stage officially opens the event, with national, European and regional institutions in attendance. Ahead of it, in the morning, comes a progress report on **Space It Up!**, the program funded by ASI and Italy's Ministry of University

and Research that brings together universities, research centers and companies to overcome the fragmentation of Italian space research. Two years in, the discussion shifts from results to the impact generated across the sector, with Leonardo, SITAEL, CIRA, INGV, Università Federico II di Napoli and the University of Monastir.

At 2:30 PM, the **BEX Vision Summit** puts the low Earth orbit economy at the center as the leading competitive arena in the shift toward the post-ISS era. The discussion starts from a realistic premise: while the lunar challenge remains a long-term, heavily geopolitical undertaking, business models accessible to SMEs and non-space supply chains are already taking shape in low Earth orbit. The session opens with remarks from the CEO of Italian Exhibition Group, followed by speakers from the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space, the Italian Air Force, Leonardo and Thales Alenia Space, Axiom Space, ALTEC and Gruppo Barilla.

In the afternoon, the Department of Aerospace Science and Technology at Politecnico di Milano addresses **large satellite constellations**, with a discussion on space traffic management and the technical mitigation requirements introduced by Italy's new space law. Speakers include Eutelsat, Thales Alenia Space, Telespazio, INAF and the Italian Air Force's Aerospace Operations Command.

At the same time, CNR's Institute of Science, Technology and Sustainability for Ceramic Materials Development, in partnership with TECNA, How to Make It, the Global Expo for Ceramics and More, brings **advanced ceramics for extreme environments** to the Decortech Conference Arena (Hall B5-D5), covering everything from high-temperature ceramic matrix composites to hypersonic applications, with Petroceramics, Politecnico di Milano and CIRA.

Also at 4:00 PM, in the Diotallevi room, ENAC and Politecnico di Milano's Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Observatory address the distinction between automatic and autonomous systems and its implications for crew training, together with ASSORPAS.

At 4:30 PM, ESA's Business in Space Growth Network agrifood accelerator opens the topic of **microgravity access for non-space companies** on the Main Stage, with ESA, ASI, ALTEC, Kayser Italia, Confagricoltura and STAM.

The day wraps up at 5:30 PM on the Main Stage with the **Lorenzo Cagnoni Beyond Innovation Award** ceremony, recognizing the Open Innovation District's most innovative projects, one for each exhibition sector. The awards are paired with remarks inspired by the essay *La Fabbrica dei Futuri* (Delos Digital, 2026), on the role of imagination and scientific storytelling as a lever for innovation and competitive advantage.

EXHIBITOR EVENTS

The Future EO Arena, curated by Planetek Italia and D-Orbit, opens its schedule with a guide to working with satellite imagery, then moves on to Earth observation applied to civil infrastructure design and monitoring and to public decision-making in cities. In the afternoon, the program turns to career paths and job opportunities in the sector, along with in-orbit satellite servicing.

At the Emilia-Romagna Region booth, the REG4AI project brings together Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, ASSORPAS and the regional Civil Protection Agency to discuss data interoperability across satellites, drones and ground sensors, while later in the afternoon ANSER covers the EN 9100 certification process for companies in the aerospace supply chain.

At the Republic of San Marino booth, starting at 4:30 PM, the discussion turns to the role of national space agencies and international cooperation in the new space economy.

PITCH ARENA

The day opens with SpaceGlass, a spin-off of the University of Parma, presenting a patented architecture for habitable capsule windows using chemically tempered glass laminated with space-grade silicones, tested to hold its seal even after a deliberately triggered fracture; the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, together with Convention Bureau Italia, on the Italian Knowledge Leaders project; and Fondazione E. Amaldi on the non-repayable funding tools available through ESA's Business Applications program.

In the afternoon, Argotec covers the value of satellite data applied to maritime, precision agriculture, land monitoring, insurance, finance and logistics. Next comes ExoHumanArt, on a research project that integrates art and the humanities into habitat design; Women in Aerospace Europe, on career entry into the space sector for people from non-space backgrounds; and BTT Impianti, presenting the concept of an autonomous orbital metallurgical refinery for recovering metals from space debris.

UNMANNED TECHNOLOGIES EXPERIENCE & DEMO AREA

Throughout the day, Abzero and Protodynamics run flight sessions in the area dedicated to unmanned systems, where drones and autonomous vehicles are tested live. The area stays active on Thursday, September 24, as well.

THINK LOUNGE – ASTRONAUT'S HOME

In the early afternoon, Dallara and EY discuss what the technological challenges of space have in common with those of high-performance engineering. At 4:00 PM, Colonel Walter Villadei talks about daily life in orbit, from physical adaptation to training routines. ALTEC then retraces the journey of food into orbit, from selection to packaging to eating in weightlessness.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

MAIN EVENTS

The day opens at 9:45 AM on the Main Stage with a session BEX runs together with ASI on **technology transfer between space and the underwater environment**, two domains that share extreme conditions, remote operations, system autonomy and life support systems. The discussion covers the convergence between the space and maritime domains, dual-use applications and opportunities for industrial collaboration, with ASI, the Italian Navy and CIRA.

At 10:00 AM, ENEA brings to the Exploration Arena the state of the art in **growing crops in controlled, isolated environments**, with a focus on Antarctica's Concordia Station,

recognized by ESA as one of the closest Earth-based analogs to long-duration human space missions. The session includes a live link to the station. Speakers include the Italian Air Force, ENEA, CNR, the University of Insubria, Kayser Space and ToSeed & Partners.

At the same time, in the Diotallevi room, the ESA Technology Broker presents technology transfer projects backed by the Spark Funding Open Calls, with case studies spanning sports and wellness, food and agriculture, transportation and technical textiles. Speakers include STAM, ESA, ASI, Confindustria Moda, Relicta and Artigo, part of Gruppo Mondo.

At 11:00 AM, the **Space Finance Arena**, produced by BEX with Plug and Play, connects entrepreneurs, investors, banks and public financial institutions. The event opens with an interview with Leonardo chairman Francesco Macri, then moves through four segments: a mapping of available capital with EY, ASI, ESA, Fondazione E. Amaldi and SDA Bocconi; a discussion on funding criteria and timelines with SACE, Intesa Sanpaolo, Aerospace Plug and Play and Join Capital; direct case studies from Argotec and D-Orbit on their own growth journeys; and a reverse pitch in which investors present themselves to companies, with Primo Space, TLI Space and SpaceFounders. ESA Phi Lab closes the session with the opportunities available through the INCUBED program. A networking lunch for speakers, startups and guests follows.

At 11:15 AM, in the Diotallevi room, the Technical Scientific Committee dedicates a session to the use of **satellite data and unmanned systems for public safety**, with the Civil Protection Department, the Guardia di Finanza, the Italian Air Force's 66th Wing, Argotec, Spaceflux and Planetek.

At 11:45 AM, Confindustria Moda presents its **White Paper on technical textiles for space** in the Exploration Arena, developed as part of the National Aerospace Technology Cluster. The roundtable includes Thales Alenia Space, Spacewear, Sabelt, Tex Tech, Centrocot, Ballesio, Leonardo representing CTNA, and STAM.

At 2:00 PM, CNR ISOF opens the first of two sessions on the **biospace economy** in the Diotallevi room, looking at where space research, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals intersect. Dallara presents the in-orbit validation of flexible radiation shielding during the Axiom-3 mission, followed by DTM Technologies, NPC Spacemind, EcoAida and CNR's Institute for Microelectronics and Microsystems. At the same time, Confagricoltura addresses the use of **remote sensing in agriculture** in the Exploration Arena, with AGEA, ESA, ENAC, the University of Florence and a testimonial from a farm that has adopted these technologies.

At 2:30 PM, the Technical Scientific Committee opens the block on **advanced manufacturing for space** on the Main Stage, covering the shift from ground-based component qualification to manufacturing in orbit. It starts with a keynote from ESA's Mechanical Department, followed by a session from the Lombardia Aerospace Cluster on interconnected supply chains, with Gavazzi Tessuti Tecnici on technical textiles, Dallara and Sabelt on automotive, Cavok and the University of Pavia on medical technology, and Ita Defence on defense, introduced by Grammelot and moderated by Confindustria Varese. It closes with an analysis of the requirements for entering the space sector, from certification to insurance models, including the presentation of the Unioncamere-Dintec-BEX report on Italy's European aerospace patent portfolio. Also at 2:30 PM, in the Diotallevi room, comes the presentation of the book "Volare

Alto: senza capitale non c'è orbita," with Federmanager, the Piedmont Aerospace District and SDA Bocconi.

At 4:00 PM, Confindustria's Technical Group for Internationalization runs a workshop on **communicating innovation**, covering how to tell the story of complex technologies, the relationship between reputation and positioning, and effective presentation, with Reputation Manager and Delivera. At the same time, in the Diotallevi room, Politecnico di Milano addresses integrated solutions for advanced air mobility with ENAC, Telespazio and FlyingBasket.

EXHIBITOR EVENTS

At noon, the Emilia-Romagna Region retraces the path from the **Axiom-3** mission to the upcoming **Axiom-5**, with Axiom Space, the Italian Air Force and the companies that took part in the region's microgravity experimentation program: Dallara, GVM Care & Research and CNR-ISOF. In the afternoon, the regional booth hosts CIRI Aerospace, part of the University of Bologna and based at the Tecnopolo di Forlì-Cesena, covering navigation, propulsion system sustainability and technology transfer, along with a session on using high-performance computing to process large volumes of Earth observation data.

At the Republic of San Marino booth, CIRA leads a discussion on **space law** and the limits of national regulation when applied to a domain that, by its nature, falls outside the jurisdiction of any single state, with AIAD, the University of Turin, the European University of Rome, Italy's Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

The Future EO Arena, curated by Planetek Italia and D-Orbit, continues with satellite applications for utility networks and public services, artificial intelligence pushed to the edge of observation systems, and the IRIDE services made available to Italian public administrations.

PITCH ARENA

At 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM, the first two rounds of **startup pitch sessions** take place, presented by ESA BIC Torino, the incubation program run by I3P, Politecnico di Torino's innovative business incubator, with scientific and technological support from Politecnico di Torino and Fondazione LINKS. The 25 startups selected for the Open Innovation District are split across three rounds between Thursday and Friday.

Among the company pitches, Storm Reply and Nova Reply show how connectivity, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, IoT and robotics can come together in a single operational ecosystem. EcoAida, a Sardinian deep tech company born out of the Porto Conte Ricerche science park, presents its metal-free carbon dots, which reduce microbial load on treated surfaces under visible light. Gruppo Hera showcases satellite applications supporting the resilience of its infrastructure, from flood risk analysis developed with Rimini-based startup Saferplaces and with Htech on the City of Ravenna case, to digital models of power grids built with Australian scale-up Neara together with InRete Distribuzione and Gecosistema. The day closes with a session IEG dedicates, with content support from ClimateCharted, to the role of Earth observation in managing catastrophic risk, with Politecnico di Milano, Gruppo Unipol and Latitudo 40.

UNMANNED TECHNOLOGIES EXPERIENCE & DEMO AREA

The area dedicated to unmanned systems stays active throughout the day, with flight sessions from Abzero, Protodynamics and Dronezone.

THINK LOUNGE - ASTRONAUT'S HOME

The morning opens with an accessible look at the history of food in space, from the laws that shaped the formation of matter in the universe to the latest studies on taste perception and meal preparation for astronauts, with students from Istituto Lazzaro Spallanzani taking part alongside the Space L(a)unch project, selected for Expo 2025 Osaka. Next, Motor Valley and the Piedmont Aerospace District compare two industrial cultures within Italian automotive and their respective paths toward space.

In the afternoon, Electrolux Professional envisions the kitchens of future habitats, drawing on its own experience building kitchens for extreme environments. That's followed by a look at mental preparation and data interpretation under extreme conditions with NTT DATA Italia and Formula Medicine, physical conditioning for microgravity with Technogym, and food as micro-architecture with Barilla's Artisia line.

The day closes at 6:00 PM with the **Space Cocktail**, a networking moment in the Exploration Arena that carries the Astronaut's House concept forward, featuring a tasting of the 3D-printed spaghetti format in collaboration with Artisia by Barilla.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

MAIN EVENTS

At 10:00 AM, Alma Mater di Bologna and Tecnopolo di Forlì-Cesena open the topic of **skills** on the Main Stage, framing aerospace as production infrastructure for complexity. Speakers include Politecnico di Milano, Università Federico II di Napoli, the Air Force Academy, the Confindustria Study Center, the European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability and SITAEI.

In the Exploration Arena, ENEA addresses **advanced energy systems** for space and defense missions, from radioisotope generators to compact reactors for long-duration missions, along with high-efficiency batteries and power electronics.

In the Diotallevi room, the Emilia-Romagna Region devotes the morning to the **transformation of the satellite market** and where SMEs fit along the value chain, with EUSPA, ASI, the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia, SITAEI, OHB Italia, NPC Spacemind, Celeste Technologies and 2NDSpace.

Starting at 11:00 AM, in the Ravezzi room, the third edition of the **Stati Generali della Space Economy** takes place, promoted by the parliamentary Space Intergroup, with a session dedicated to startups, microenterprises and incubators. The discussion covers targeted financial instruments, access to infrastructure, and pathways for collaboration among universities, research centers and large companies.

At 11:30 AM, **Space Voices** brings science communicators, creators and exhibiting companies to the Exploration Arena to discuss the role of science communication as a gateway to career paths and business opportunities.

At noon, CINECA and Fondazione Bruno Kessler examine the relationship between **artificial intelligence and space operations** on the Main Stage, from mission design to downstream applications, with a closer look at the integrity and resilience of AI-based systems. Speakers include MEEO, Sideius and EY. In the Diotallevi room, CNR ISOF runs the second session on the **biospace economy**, with the University of Bologna and Tecnopolo di Rimini on the Aphrodite project for protecting human health in space, GVM Assistance on the impact of microgravity on the cardiovascular system, CGM on telemedicine and remote monitoring, along with ASI, IIT, the University of Ferrara and Policlinico Sant'Orsola.

In the afternoon, the Exploration Arena hosts a discussion on **careers in the space economy** and the mismatch between the skills companies need and those available. At 3:00 PM, on the Main Stage, the closing session puts students in direct conversation with companies from the BEX ecosystem about the profiles the sector is looking for, with SITael, OHB, ALTEC and Spacewear. The session is produced by BEX in collaboration with the ASI Space Hackathon.

EXHIBITOR EVENTS

At the Emilia-Romagna Region booth, Aerohub brings together companies making the **shift into the space sector**, with Dino Paoli, Sideius, JSP Corporation and T3Lab. The regional program continues with an overview of advanced aerospace technologies developed locally, ongoing training for the aerospace and defense supply chain promoted by the regional clusters, and a session on industrial demand for microgravity experimentation, featuring Egicon, CNR-ISOF, STAM and the University of Bologna.

The Future EO Arena, curated by Planetek Italia and D-Orbit, wraps up its schedule with Earth observation applied to local government decision-making.

PITCH ARENA

At 9:45 AM, the third and final round of **startup pitch sessions** for the Open Innovation District takes place, presented by ESA BIC Torino. Mid-morning, CMS presents its solutions for processing composites used in aerospace, from milling to large-format 3D printing.

THINK LOUNGE - ASTRONAUT'S HOME

The Astronaut's House wraps up at 10:00 AM with Spacewear, which walks through the procedures for putting on and removing a flight suit and the physical sensations that come with wearing one.

BEX – Beyond Exploration Expo is the first Italian trade show entirely dedicated to the space economy. Held in Rimini from September 23 to 25, 2026, BEX aims to serve as an international reference hub connecting the traditional (upstream) space industry, downstream applications, and non-space sectors interested in the opportunities offered by space technologies. The event features exhibition areas, conferences, technical workshops, matchmaking sessions, and an area dedicated to startups, universities and research centers.

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**FOCUS ON**

Italian Exhibition Group S.p.A., società con azioni quotate su Euronext Milan, mercato regolamentato organizzato e gestito da Borsa Italiana S.p.A., ha maturato negli anni, con le strutture di Rimini e Vicenza, una leadership domestica nell'organizzazione di eventi fieristici e congressuali e ha sviluppato attività estere - anche attraverso joint-ventures con organizzatori globali o locali, come ad esempio negli Stati Uniti, Emirati Arabi Uniti, Arabia Saudita, Cina, Messico, Germania, Singapore, Brasile - che l'hanno posizionata tra i principali operatori europei del settore.

This press release contains forward-looking statements and estimates that reflect management's current views, particularly regarding future operating performance, the execution of investments, cash flow trends and the evolution of the company's financial structure. By their nature, forward-looking statements carry an element of risk and uncertainty, since they depend on future events. Actual results may differ, even significantly, from those announced, due to a range of factors including, but not limited to: trends in Italy's out-of-home dining and tourism markets, trends in the jewelry and goldsmith market, trends in the green economy market, movements in raw material prices, general macroeconomic conditions, geopolitical factors, and regulatory developments. The information contained in this release is not intended to be exhaustive and has not been verified by independent third parties. The projections, estimates and targets presented here are based on information available to the company as of the date of this release.