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AGENCIA ESPACIAL ESPAÑOLA

*Juan Carlos Cortés*

*DIRECTOR*

Dr. Alex Held
CEOS Chair 2026
Commonwealth Scientific and
Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Australia

Seville, September 1st, 2026

Dear Dr. Held, dear CEOS Chair,

On behalf of the Agencia Espacial Española (AEE), I am pleased to formally submit our application to become a Member of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). This application reflects Spain's growing commitment to international cooperation and the strategic importance we place on Earth observation (EO) for societal benefit.

The AEE is the national agency responsible for coordinating Spanish space activities and representing the country in international space forums, as established by its supporting legislation. Our mission is to foster technological development, scientific research, and the delivery of space-based services to address global challenges.

Under the CEOS Terms of Reference, Member status is open to governmental organizations responsible for civil space-based Earth observation programs currently operating or at least in Phase B (detailed design). To demonstrate our eligibility, we outline below our flagship programme, the ESCA mission:

The Spanish component of the Atlantic Constellation (ESCA) consists of 8 advanced 100 kg microsatellites that have recently successfully passed their Critical Design Review (CDR) in mid-2026 and are currently in the **Phase C/D manufacturing** stage for a 2027 delivery. The Prime Contractor is the Open Cosmos Europe company in consortium with Satlantis, Alén Space, FOSSA Systems, ICE-CSIC, and IEEC. Payload includes the following instruments:

a. High-Resolution Multispectral Optical Camera (VNIR) (Satlantis)
b. GNSS-Reflectometry (GNSS-R) Sensor (ICE-CSIC/IEEC)
c. AIS Receiver (Alén Space)
d. IoT Receiver / Software (FOSSA Systems).

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The ESCA mission is defined to support environmental monitoring, emergency response, and land mapping, contributing to Spanish space resilience.To demonstrate Spain's active engagement, we have identified specific working groups and nominated our Head of Earth Observation, Ricardo Díaz-Delgado, to participate in and contribute to the following CEOS working-level mechanisms:

- Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV): To ensure the highest technical quality, sensor inter-calibration, and consistency of data generated by the ESCA mission.
- Working Group on Disasters (WGDisasters): To share Spain's experience in wildfire monitoring, flood preparedness, and seismic/landslide risk assessment.
- Land Surface Imaging Virtual Constellation (LSI-VC): To implement CEOS ARD guidelines and develop ingestion and production workflows for AEE sensors (multispectral optical/VNIR and GNSS-Reflectometry), ensuring seamless compatibility with international missions such as Sentinel-2 and Landsat.

In accordance with CEOS requirements, the AEE provides CEOS with the following designations:

- Principal Representative: Juan Carlos Cortés, Director of the Agencia Espacial Española (AEE).
- Point of Contact: Ricardo Díaz-Delgado, Head of the Earth Observation Dept., Directorate of Users, Services & Applications (AEE).

We are confident that AEE's participation as a CEOS Member will strengthen global cooperation in Earth observation, and we look forward to contributing actively to the implementation of the CEOS Work Plan. Thank you for your kind consideration of our application.

Respectfully,

Juan Carlos Cortés

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