

HylImpulse Receives €11.8 Million in ESA Funding to Accelerate Development of Small Launcher 1, Driving Access to Space

Bremen, Germany, 19 November 2024 - HylImpulse Technologies GmbH ("HylImpulse"), a leading European Launch system manufacturer and launch service provider for small satellite transport, announced today €11.8 million in new funding as a co-funded contract extension under ESA's Boost! Program. This investment will accelerate the development of HylImpulse's Small Launcher 1 (SL1) orbital vehicle, advancing the company's mission to deliver reliable, cost-effective orbital access for payloads up to 600 kg across Europe and globally.

The new contract represents a major milestone in accelerating HylImpulse SL1's path to commercialization. This strategic investment from ESA underscores its commitment for innovative and sustainable European launch solutions, focused on rapid deployment, cost efficiency, and greater accessibility for orbital missions. Over the next 18 months, this funding will drive the next development phase for SL1, supporting technological advancements, testing protocols, and key milestones in operational readiness.

"This contract extension is an investment in Europe's future as a competitive force in space. Together with ESA, we are creating a high-performance, sustainable launch solution to secure Europe's independent access to space and meet the surging global demand for small satellite launches. But to fully realize Europe's potential as a space leader, sustained and increased investment is imperative—not optional. With continued support from ESA and European stakeholders, we have the potential to unlock a new era of European leadership in space, driving forward critical scientific, commercial, and strategic missions," **said Christian Schmierer, CEO and founder at HylImpulse.**

"Europe's emerging commercial launch service providers are pushing towards their first launches," **said ESA's Director of Space Transportation, Toni Tolker-Nielsen**, "we are very interested to see their rockets deliver, diversifying the European launch services on offer."

The extended contract marks another milestone in HylImpulse and ESA's joint mission to strengthen Europe's space capabilities. Over the next 18 months, beginning in November 2024, the project will focus on critical advancements in propulsion systems, avionics and structural engineering, and the enhancement of testing and production facilities. Together, these developments will support the creation of a high-performance launch vehicle for small satellites, advancing their shared commitment to sustainable and resilient access to space.

The SL1 multi-stage orbital launch vehicle, scheduled for its inaugural lift-off in 2026, stands at a height of 32 meters and weighs 50 tons. Depending on the weight of the payload, it can ascend to an altitude exceeding 500 km, i.e. reaching low Earth orbits. Designed for cost-effective transportation of small satellites into space, it can carry payloads of up to 600 kilograms to low Earth orbits.

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About HyImpulse

HyImpulse Technologies GmbH is a leading German and UK based manufacturer and system provider of commercial launch vehicles for suborbital and orbital launch services. Our small satellite launch vehicles, with unique hybrid propulsion made of oxygen and paraffin, set new standards in the commercial space sector. With over 65 employees at sites in Neuenstadt, Ottobrunn, and Glasgow, we develop rockets to transport commercial payloads efficiently, sustainably, and reliably into low Earth orbits and beyond. You can find more information in the attached briefing as well as on our [website](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

