



Φ-lab

Φnnovation Summit

23–25 June 2026

ESA-ESRIN | Frascati, Italy

DETAILED PROGRAMME



Φnnovation Summit

DAY 1 - Tuesday 23 June

 Registration & Welcome Coffee 

 08:30 - 09:30  OUTSIDE BIG HALL

 Opening session

 09:30 - 11:00  BIG HALL



Ru A. Kermani
Master of Ceremonies
Journalist, BBC



Simonetta Cheli
ESA

*Unlocking Innovation Through
Earth Observation*



Florian Pappenberger
ECMWF

*The future of weather
and environmental forecasting*



Brigadier Hillary Kipkosgey
KSA

*Catalyzing innovation
in the Space Sector in Kenya*



Grazyna Piesiewicz
European Commission (EC), DG CNECT

*Building a climate intelligent Europe:
Insights from Destination Earth*



Michael Seablom
NASA

*An Overview of Technology
Investments in NASA's Earth
Science Technology Office*

 Coffee Break & Poster session 

 11:00 - 11:30  OUTSIDE BIG HALL

Φnnovation Summit

DAY 1 - Tuesday 23 June



Main Plenary



11:30 - 12:30



BIG HALL



Rune Floberghagen

ESA

Disruptive innovation and Earth Action



Marco Brancati

LEONARDO

Leonardo Space Division: Digital interoperability in EO / Geospatial Domain



Juan Bernabé-Moreno

IBM

Science needs a new computing paradigm and a new algorithmic engine



Andrew Zolli

Planet

The Age of Planetary Intelligence



Roundtable on Operational Intelligence in the AI Era: EO, Climate Visualization, and Open Innovation



12:30 - 13:00



BIG HALL



Chiara Maria Cocchiara

Senior Innovation Officer

ESA



William El Sayed

Government & Public Sector

MISTRAL AI



Sergio Albani

Head of Research, Technology
Development and Innovation Unit

SatCen



Minoo Rathnasabapathy

Research Engineer & Program Lead

MIT



Lunch & Drone Show



13:00 - 14:30



ULIVETO TERRACE

Φnnovation Summit

DAY 1 - Tuesday 23 June

[Click here to see the description of each SIDE EVENT](#)



Fishbowl on Foundation Model

🕒 14:30 - 15:30 📍 BIG HALL



SIDE EVENT BY **Climate Change AI** *AI for Earth Observation and Climate – What Actually Matters?*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 MAGELLAN



SIDE EVENT BY **Cs Group** *EO Virtual Constellation and Cognitive Cloud Computing in Space*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 JAMES COOK



SIDE EVENT BY **Csiro (Space And Astronomy)** *Open Data Cube Hackathon: Building Analysis-Ready EO Applications with EAST*

🕒 14:30 - 18:00 📍 SCIENCE HUB



SIDE EVENT BY **Latitudo 40** *Seeing the Invisible: Low-Resolution EO for Urban Environmental Hazard Detection*

🕒 14:30 - 15:30 📍 ROOM A



SIDE EVENT BY **Pangeai Inc.** *PangeAI: Agentic Geospatial Intelligence for Wildfire Resilience and Dynamic Response*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 ROOM C



SIDE EVENT BY **Frank Reply** *Talk to the Machines – the Future is Now!*

🕒 15:30 - 16:30 📍 ROOM A



Fishbowl on On-board AI

🕒 15:30 - 16:30 📍 BIG HALL



Coffee Break & Poster session 

🕒 16:30 - 17:00 📍 OUTSIDE BIG HALL

Φnnovation Summit

DAY 1 - Tuesday 23 June

[Click here to see the description of each SIDE EVENT](#)



Students Pitch Hour (Sponsored by ESA Academy)

🕒 17:00 - 18:00 📍 BIG HALL



SIDE EVENT BY Pi School *The Cross-domain gap*

🕒 17:00 - 18:00 📍 MAGELLAN



EO MakerSpace 2026: winning teams pitches

🕒 17:00 - 18:00 📍 JAMES COOK



Act-in-space Hackathon 2026: winning team pitch

🕒 17:00 - 18:00 📍 ROOM A



Shuttles to Dinner

🕒 18:00 - 18:15 📍 OUTSIDE BIG HALL



Aperitiff sponsored by Capgemini & Buffet Dinner hosted by ESA 

🕒 18:30 - 22:30 📍 LA COLLINETTA



Shuttles to Frascati City Center

🕒 22:30 📍 LA COLLINETTA

Φnnovation Summit

DAY 2 - Wednesday 24 June



Welcome Coffee

08:30 - 09:00

OUTSIDE BIG HALL



Main Plenary

09:00 - 09:45

BIG HALL



Ru A. Kermani

Master of Ceremonies
Journalist, BBC



Giuseppe Borghi

ESA

Introduction to Φ-lab



Paolo Ruti

EUMETSAT

Innovation at EUMETSAT
and the Challenges in an
Operational Organisation



Nicola Rossi

Enel

Space tech innovation
for the energy sector



Roundtable on National Space Agencies at the Forefront of Technological Innovation

09:45 - 10:30

BIG HALL



Claudio Iacopino

Head of Φ-lab Explore Office
ESA



Francesco Longo

Head of Earth Observation Unit
ASI



Andrés Camero Unzueta

Co-Head of Department EO Data Science
DLR



Vincent Martin



Deputy Head of the Data Campus
CNES

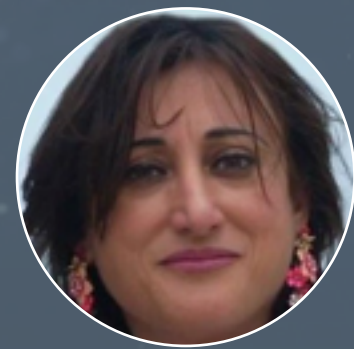
 Coffee Break & Poster session 

 10:30 - 11:00  OUTSIDE BIG HALL

 Round Tables by ESA Φ-lab Visiting Professors

 Beyond Bigger: The Next Wave of AI for Earth Observation

 11:00 - 11:40  BIG HALL



Silvia Ullo

*Associate professor
University of Sannio*



Sašo Džeroski

*Head of the Department
of Knowledge Technologies
Jožef Stefan Institute*



Begum Demir

*Head of Remote Sensing
Image Analysis Group
BIFOLD*



Jan van Rijn

*Associate Professor
Leiden University*



Xiaoxiang Zhu

*Chair Professor for Data Science
in Earth Observation
Technical University of Munich*



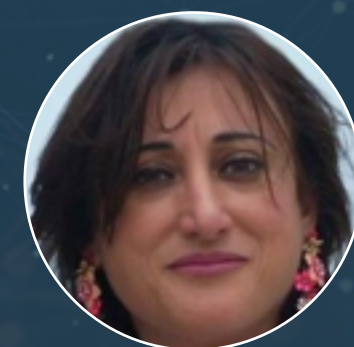
AI4EO Computing Continuum: From Operations to Emerging Paradigms?

🕒 11:40 - 12:20 📍 BIG HALL



Rossella Arcucci

Associate Professor in Data Learning and AI for Good
Imperial College London



Silvia Ullo

Associate professor
University of Sannio



Gabriele Cavallaro

Head of Simulation and Data Lab
Forschungszentrum Jülich



Mihai Datcu

Professor
University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest



Jakub Nalepa

Head of AI
KP Labs



Fabio Del Frate

Professor on Remote Sensing and Applied Electromagnetism
University of Rome "Tor Vergata"



Who owns AI model? Sovereignty, governance and democratization

🕒 12:20 - 13:00 📍 BIG HALL



Begum Demir
*Head of Remote Sensing
Image Analysis Group
BIFOLD*



Sébastien Lefèvre
*Professor in AI4EO
UBS*



Evan Shelhamer
*Assistant Professor at UBC
and CIFAR AI Chair
Vector Institute*



Plamen Angelov
*Professor, director LIRA
Lancaster University*



Rossella Arcucci
*Associate Professor in Data
Learning and AI for Good
Imperial College London*



Lunch

🕒 13:00 - 14:30 📍 ULIVETO TERRACE

Φnnovation Summit

DAY 2 - Wednesday 24 June

[Click here to see the description of each SIDE EVENT](#)



Fishbowl on Quantum Computing

🕒 14:30 - 15:30 📍 BIG HALL



SIDE EVENT BY **Pi School** *Building Agentic Earth Intelligence: A Hands-On Tour of the EVE Platform and Tool Ecosystem*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 MAGELLAN



SIDE EVENT BY **University of Rome "Tor Vergata"** *Mini-Festival of Animated Shorts from Earth Observation & Original Music*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 ROOM C



SIDE EVENT BY **ESA Digital Platforms Section** *EO in Consumer-Facing Products: A Co-Design Session*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 JAMES COOK



SIDE EVENT BY **Thales France** *From Fragmentation to Intelligence: Building Agentic AI Assistants for Earth Observation*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 ROOM A



SIDE EVENT BY **CNES** *Creative thinking in Space*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 SCIENCE HUB



PechaKucha on AI for Weather and Climate

🕒 15:30 - 16:30 📍 BIG HALL



Coffee Break & Poster session 

🕒 16:30 - 17:00 📍 OUTSIDE BIG HALL



Students Pitch Hour (Sponsored by ESA Academy)

🕒 17:00 - 18:00 📍 BIG HALL



SIDE EVENT BY **Pi School** *Collaborative Innovation Network (CIN)*

🕒 17:00 - 18:00 📍 MAGELLAN



Shuttles to Frascati City Center

🕒 18:00 - 18:15 📍 OUTSIDE BIG HALL



Gala Dinner

🕒 19:00 - 22:30 📍 CACCIANI RESTAURANT



Φnnovation Summit

DAY 3 - Thursday 25 June

 Welcome Coffee

 08:30 - 09:00  OUTSIDE BIG HALL

 Main Plenary

 09:00 - 11:00  BIG HALL



Ru A. Kermani
Master of Ceremonies
Journalist, BBC



Roberto Furfaro
University of Arizona

*Conversational Space Observatories:
LLM-Orchestrated Telescope Operations
for Space Situational Awareness and the
Future of Cognitive Earth Observation*



Alberto di Meglio
CERN

*From Particles to the Space Frontier:
Innovating in AI and Quantum
to Power Big Science*



Felix Seidel
ETH Zurich, ETH Swiss GeoLab

*ETH Swiss GeoLab: Building Earth
Intelligence for Switzerland.
From Data to Decisions*



Paul Lasserre
Loft Orbital

*From pixels to events:
AI in orbit and an open constellation
for European AI*



Steve Chien
NASA JPL

Onboard AI for Earth Observation



Marek Miltner
Forbes U30, CTO and founder PangeAI.

*Making AI understand the world's data
to unleash a renaissance of anyone
understanding the Earth through
geospatial data at their fingertips*



Gabriele Cavallaro
Forschungszentrum Jülich

*Next-Generation Supercomputing:
Europe's Ecosystem for AI
in the Exascale Era*



Evan Shelhamer
Vector Institute

More Models = More Problems? Not at all

 Coffee Break & Poster session



 11:00 - 11:30  OUTSIDE BIG HALL

Φnnovation Summit

DAY 3 - Thursday 25 June



Main Plenary

🕒 11:30 - 12:45 📍 BIG HALL



Louis-Paul Henry
Pasqal

*Practical Quantum Computing:
development through use*



Alexander Lvovsky
Oxford University

*Quantum computational machine vision
and its potential for earth observation*



Mark Stephen Meadows
Former NASA

*Innovating with SciFi, Art and AI:
Novel Concepts and Traditional Languages*



Raul Ramachandran
NASA MSFC

AI Agents for Science



Event Wrap-Up

🕒 12:45 - 13:00 📍 BIG HALL



Claudio Iacopino
ESA

Wrap Up Φnnovation Summit



Lunch

🕒 13:00 - 14:30 📍 ULIVETO TERRACE

Φnnovation Summit

DAY 3 - Thursday 25 June

[Click here to see the description of each SIDE EVENT](#)



Innovation Speed Dating

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 BIG HALL



SIDE EVENT BY **Ohb Digital Services** *From Spin-In to Sprint: Turning Disruptive Technologies into Earth Observation Innovation*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 MAGELLAN



SIDE EVENT BY **Cloudferry** *Building the Trust Layer for EO - From Decentralized Storage to Verified AI*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 JAMES COOK



SIDE EVENT BY **Involve Space** *Stratospheric Balloon*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 SCIENCE HUB



SIDE EVENT BY **Orbit Quest** *The EO Talent Map: Architecting the Post-AI Engineering Team*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 ROOM A



SIDE EVENT BY **National Center for Scientific Research Demokritos** *Smart Materials and Sensor Architectures for the Next Generation of Space Systems*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 ROOM C



SIDE EVENT BY **Università Degli Studi Di Milano** *Quantum Potential to revolutionize the processing and analysis of EO data*

🕒 14:30 - 16:30 📍 ROOM E



Coffee Break & Poster session



🕒 16:30 - 17:00 📍 OUTSIDE BIG HALL



Shuttles to Frascati City Center

🕒 17:00 - 17:15 📍 OUTSIDE BIG HALL



Thematic Dinner in Frascati

🕒 19:00 - 22:30 📍 TRATTORIA 19