Startup Challenge Venice 2026

Innovation is the entrepreneur’s quest, and it's a dangerous engagement...

Like in mountain climbing, it's best to go with someone you trust, have a safety rope, and a plan B

Entrepreneurship is risky, but also a great opportunity... if you have the right idea, the talent, and the full commitment.

The current times are favorable for entrepreneurs in the space economy, an ecosystem promoted by the spread of digital technologies and by the challenges of sustainability and energy.

Opportunities may come unespected….

Scientist or Engineer for Spacelab Flight

The European Space Agency (ESA) requires a qualified Scientist or Engineer to become Europe's first man or woman in space, as a member of the first Spacelab mission in 1980.

Spacelab is a laboratory which will provide the means of performing scientific experiments under 'weightless' conditions during a seven-day mission in orbital flight. It will be carried into orbit round the earth aboard the "Shuttle" Orbiter – part of NASA's Space Transportation System.

The European crew-member will be expected to fly with an American colleague, taking turns to supervise experiments involving the following disciplines: materials science; atmospheric physics; life sciences; earth observations; astronomy; solar physics and technology.

Candidates must have a degree in science or engineering, and at least five years' active experience in one or more of the disciplines involved with this flight.

They must also be able to work in the remaining disciplines, as they may be in charge of experiments in those fields during the mission.

Candidates must be physically fit, currently under 47 years of age, and between 153cm and 190cm in height. They will be subject to stringent medical and psychological tests.

The successful candidate will be selected for the first mission from a maximum of four Europeans who will be given ESA employment contracts. The contracts will run from about the end of this year until the completion of the flight, to cover an extensive training period.

British nationals should submit their applications stating in the first instance:
(i) name and address (ii) age (iii) height
(iv) scientific or engineering qualifications with date and place of award
(v) brief curriculum vitae, highlighting relevant scientific experience.

Applications must be received by June 29th 1977. (Candidates already aware of this opportunity should note the extended closing date).

Please forward to: Department of Industry, SAR Division 2, Monsanto House, 10/18 Victoria Street, London SWIH ONQ (marking envelope "Payload Specialist").

June 1977:
my magic opportunity

the announcement of the first ESA Astronauts selection,

December 1977: ESA DG presents four finalists to the Press and media.

Claude Nicollier Ulf Merbold Wubbo Ockels Franco Malerba

Missed the first chance, worked hard at ESA …. Long waiting list.

Persisters are more likely to succeed

July 31st 1992 :
AtaIntis lifts off
from Cape Canaveral

STS-46 mission

TODAY….

The Exciting Journey of Artemis 2: Human Eyes Beyond the Moon

While the media report on the extraordinary Artemis feat, NASA is announcing a change in strategy.

The challenge isn't getting to the Moon.
The challenge is staying there.

This means the energy to survive the lunar night, the logistics to operate sophisticated instruments, and the political and industrial continuity to transform exploration into infrastructure.

TOMORROW

The Moon Village

The Question of Sustainability.

Habitability, Energy, communications, transportation, .. Water and **food...**

An innovative startup, a spin-off of the University of Genoa,
hosted in the business incubator of the Polytechnic University of Turin.

www.spacev.bio