







Ljubljana, 23 September 2022

Dear Ambassador,

After a successful Business-to-Diplomacy (B2D) NET 0 event at the beginning of September in Maribor, I am pleased to invite you to the next **B2D** "Slovenia in Space" event on key achievements of the Slovenian space industry, organised together with the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, the Ministry of Defence and the Center Noordung.

Slovenian government puts a special emphasis on internationalisation of Slovenian space sector and innovative solutions. Slovenian companies rank among the global market leaders of space technologies, with a focus on niche products and services coming from companies and institutions like Sinergise, SkyLabs and University of Maribor, Center of Excellence in Space, Science and Technology Vesolje-SI, Dewesoft, Balmar Cosylab, IJS, GeoCodis, and others.

Slovenian innovations and knowledge include applications connected to earth observation and processing of big data obtained from space, new materials that can be used in harsh space environment, AI, equipment for ground stations (antennas, domes, measuring instruments), micro coolers, new solutions in the field of miniaturisation, microgravity facilities and on-board monitoring of health conditions of astronauts, and micro- and nanosatellites.

It is important to stress importance of close cooperation of the Slovenian Government with the European Space Agency (ESA) for development of space sector. Slovenia participates at four optional ESA programmes: Earth Observation, Human and Robotic Exploration, GSTP (general technologies) and PRODEX (science). In 2021, an upgraded short arm human centrifuge (SAHC) was transferred to Nordic Centre Planica.

Dedicated to its mission to research, collect and communicate the knowledge of space and space technologies to the public in a way that sensibly connects and intertwines science, the economy, tourism and art, the Center (of Space Technologies Herman Potočnik) Noordung in Vitanje is the right place for this endeavour. Its basic activity is the promotion of space technologies and the manifestation of human achievements in space. It also promotes international connections to improve the visibility of Slovenian and international institutions in the field of space activities.

The event will take place on Tuesday, 4 October 2022, from 10.00 am to 2.30 pm at the Center Noordung in Vitanje, Na vasi 18, 3205 Vitanje.

To: Heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Republic of Slovenia

The opening addresses of keynote speakers will be followed by a presentation of key achievements of the Slovenian space industry and companies. Further programme includes a guided tour of the Noordung Center and lunch, which will provide an excellent opportunity for an informal gathering on the premises of the Center and for visiting Slovenian companies at their stands.

Please be informed that Slovenian defence attachés will be present at the event, and Slovenian economic counsellors will follow the event on-line.

The working language of the event will be English. VIP parking will be provided in front of the Center's main entrance.

Please kindly confirm your attendance before 28 September 2022 by email at $\underline{jana.grilc9@gov.si}$ or by phone at +38614782177.

Yours sincerely,

Tanja Fajon MINISTER