

Bari (Italy), 29/07/2025

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on Cooperation for Innovation in Sustainable and Smart Mobility with Unmanned Air Vehicles and Space Assets under the SOFTMOVE Project

Between

Distretto Tecnologico Aerospaziale scarl (DTA) - Aerospace Technological Cluster, with its headquarters located in Brindisi (Italy), SS 7 Appia km 706+030, represented by Giuseppe Acierno, President and General Director,

and

State Authority for Geospatial Information (ASIG), headquartered in Tirana (Albania), Rr. Papa Gjon Pali i II, Nd. 2, H. 3, 1010, Tiranë, represented by Vilma Tomço, Director General.

and

Digital Den NGO, with its headquarters located in Podgorica (Montenegro), Bulevar Sv Petra Cetinskog 56, represented by Darko Ivanovic, CEO and Co-Founder.

DTA, ASIG and Digital Den are jointly referred to as “the parties” and individually as a “party”.

Considering that

- DTA is a non-profit consortium with a majority of public shareholding, whose members include leading aerospace companies, universities, and public and private research centers in Apulia. It is recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research as a technological district;
- DTA’s core mission revolves around research, innovation, and technology transfer in the aerospace sector. It also aims to strengthen the technical and scientific skills of its members and reinforce the Apulian research system at both national and international levels;

- Grottaglie Airport Test Bed is a UAS research and flight-testing infrastructure proposed, launched, deployed, and operated by DTA. Located at the “Marcello Arlotta” airport (ICAO: LIBG) in Taranto-Grottaglie, it supports R&D, experimentation, professional training, and the certification of innovative products, services, and solutions in the Unmanned Aerial Systems and Innovative Aerial Services domains;
- DTA develops pilot initiatives in collaboration with public and private partners focused on drone applications and services, such as environmental data collection and logistics. Among the end users are the City of Bari, the Taranto Port Authority, the Local Health Authority of Lecce, and various private agricultural operators;
- DTA provides a broad range of support services for startups and SMEs through initiatives such as ESA BIC Brindisi – the first and only business incubator in Southern Italy within the European Space Agency's network, which DTA manages and coordinates – and Ap-EDIH – an European Digital Innovation Hub which supports businesses’ digital transformation by offering targeted services to boost competitiveness, efficiency, and innovation capacity.
- The State Authority for Geospatial Information (ASIG) is the central public institution in the Republic of Albania, responsible for the establishment, maintenance and development of the National Geospatial Information Infrastructure.
- ASIG's mission is to implement national policy in the field of geospatial information, to standardize and regulate the creation and use of geospatial information, and to coordinate the activities of the public and private sectors in this field.
- ASIG creates, administers and maintains the National Geoportal, which serves as a single point of public access on the internet to search, view and download the country's official geospatial data and services.
- ASIG is responsible for the design, construction and updating of the Geodetic Reference Framework of Albania and ensures the interoperability of geospatial data, in accordance with European standards and the INSPIRE Directive.
- Digital Den is a startup venture studio based in Montenegro, focused on supporting digital transformation and the development of the startup ecosystem through programs, partnerships, and community engagement.
- Digital Den provides mentoring, training, and infrastructure support to early-stage entrepreneurs and SMEs, working in areas such as digital technologies, smart mobility, creative industries, and sustainable innovation.
- Digital Den is actively involved in cross-border and EU-funded projects, contributing to regional development through initiatives aimed at innovation, knowledge transfer, and capacity building.
- Digital Den promotes a culture of innovation and actively contributes to the integration of digital solutions in both urban and rural environments through collaboration with public institutions, international organizations, and private sector partners.
- DTA, ASIG and Digital Den are jointly realizing the project SOFTMOVE – Innovation opportunities for sustainable and smart mobility operations with Unmanned Air Vehicles

and Space Assets, under the Interreg IPA South Adriatic 2021 2027 cross-border cooperation Programme, co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III).

- This agreement is one of the planned results of the project SOFTMOVE.

Given all the above, the signatories agree as follows

Art. 1

(Premises)

The premises form an integral part of this cooperation agreement.

Art. 2

(Purpose and specific objectives)

With this agreement, the Parties intend to regulate the relationships of collaboration and cooperation in the fields of technological and industrial R&D and innovation, in the areas of activity and mutual interest, with the aim of benefiting from the synergies, know-how and reciprocal experience. The specific objectives of the agreement are:

- Collaborate on the preparation and implementation of joint projects eligible for European and international funding, including those within the INTERREG IPA South Adriatic Programme;
- Promote knowledge sharing and capacity building through joint training programs, workshops, seminars, hackathons, and other cross-border events;
- Foster research, innovation, and pilot activities involving the integration of drone technologies with advanced digital solutions such as geospatial systems, AI, IoT, robotics, and intelligent platforms for cross-sector applications (e.g. smart mobility, environmental monitoring, infrastructure management, tourism, public safety).

In addition, DTA and ASIG commit to:

- Define and implement strategic policies and plans related to geospatial infrastructure and innovative aerial services to support national and regional development goals;
- Strengthen institutional and academic-industry collaboration between Albania and Puglia, especially in drone technology, spatial data analysis, and digital cartography;
- Encourage the development of drone-based services that contribute to digital and environmental transformation in public and private sectors.

In addition, DTA and Digital Den commit to:

- Support the creation and development of innovation ecosystems including incubators, accelerators, and testbeds for startups operating in AI, IoT, robotics, and aerospace;

- Develop living labs and cross-border R&D collaborations focused on smart systems integration in sectors such as logistics, urban innovation, and smart infrastructure.

Art. 3

(Governance)

In order to allow the coordinated management of the implementation of this MoU, a Joint DTA-ASIG – Digital Den Committee is constituted, without added costs for the parties, composed of 1 member per party, with proven experience in the technology field in the focus of the agreement.

The Committee is responsible for identifying specific initiatives and developing related proposals to be submitted to the respective organizations for approval. These proposals, if deemed necessary by one or more of the parties depending on the complexity and the commitment of resources, will give rise to specific Implementation Agreements. The Committee will adopt specific Terms of Reference to be approved by the respective organizations.

The Committee shall meet periodically. The Committee shall be responsible for:

- verify the status of the implementation agreements and the activities deriving from this Cooperation Agreement;
- identify activities of common interest referred to this MoU;
- prepare joint proposals for research and innovation projects to be submitted to national and international calls for proposals;
- collaborate in training activities (courses, seminars, workshops) on topics and technologies related to the fields defined in Art. 2.

Art. 4

(Resources)

This agreement does not involve financial burdens for the parties. Each Signatory will provide financial support for the activities of its competence.

In order to carry out the activities foreseen by this agreement, within the limits of the relative availability, and in accordance with the institutional activities planned and in progress, the parties make available their own knowledge, skills, laboratories, and facilities at their disposal.

Art. 5

(Intellectual property)

All intellectual property rights in all documents, software, and other materials ("Materials"), whether in hard or electronic copy, made available by a party to the other to implement this agreement remain with the owner.

The parties shall take all steps promptly to protect their respective intellectual property rights, including without limitation registering all their respective trademarks and copyrights and, wherever prudent, applying for patents on their respective technology.

Art. 6

(Privacy and data)

The parties undertake to comply with the provisions of Article 13, of EU Regulation 679/2016 and subsequent amendments and additions (GDPR) and the Italian, European and international laws that integrate it (Applicable Privacy Law) regarding the protection of personal data that may be acquired and/or used within the framework of the collaboration relationship.

Art. 7

(Duration and revision)

This agreement is valid from the date of signature and has a duration of five years. After such five-year period, it shall be deemed automatically renewed for the additional period of one year if neither party expresses a different opinion communicated in writing at least three months prior to expiration.

The parties mutually acknowledge that, during the period of validity of the agreement, both will have the right to withdraw from this agreement at any time, by written notice to be sent to the other party, with notice of at least three months, without prejudice to the complete fulfillment, until conclusion, of any contract or project in progress.

Art. 8

(Points of Contact)

Each party designates a Point of Contact for implementing this Memorandum of Understanding as follows:

For DTA:
Mario Erario
Project Manager
mario.erario@dtascarl.it

For ASIG:
Vilma Tomço

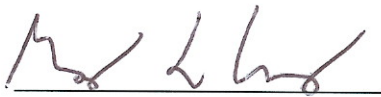
General Director
Vilma.Tomco@asig.gov.al

For Digital Den:
Darko Ivanovic
Executive Director
darko.ivanovic@digitalden.me

Done in four originals in the English language,

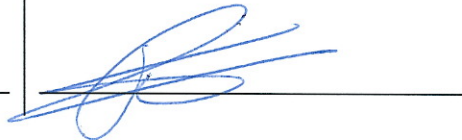
For DTA
Mario Erario
Project Manager

Bari, 29/07/2025



For ASIG
Dritan Prifti
Director at Directorate of
Processing Remote Sensing
Data

Bari, 29/07/2025



For Digital Den
Neda Mijovic
Startup Manager

Bari, 29/07/2025

