

#Africa4Future: Airbus to foster new aerospace business models with African startups

Airbus BizLab launches a new call for African startups to rethink how their technology could interact with aerospace

Toulouse, 30 October 2018 – Airbus today announced the launch of its second edition of #Africa4Future, a joint accelerator program between Airbus' global aerospace accelerator BizLab and Make-IT in Africa, a programme by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit German (GIZ), the German agency for International Cooperation.

First launched in 2017, the #Africa4Future initiative was created by Airbus BizLab with the objective to encourage and support entrepreneurship in Africa. The continent's young and increasingly techno-savvy population is likely to be the driving force behind Africa's socio-economic development. Setting up an entrepreneurship eco-system requires investment and collaboration. Through #Africa4future, Airbus seeks to build bridges between the aerospace industry and the different players in Africa.

For this second edition, Airbus calls for African tech start-ups that are actively working on solutions related to unmanned logistics and remote sensing technology, including automation and drones, electrification, blockchain, artificial intelligence, data analytics and material composites and manufacturing.

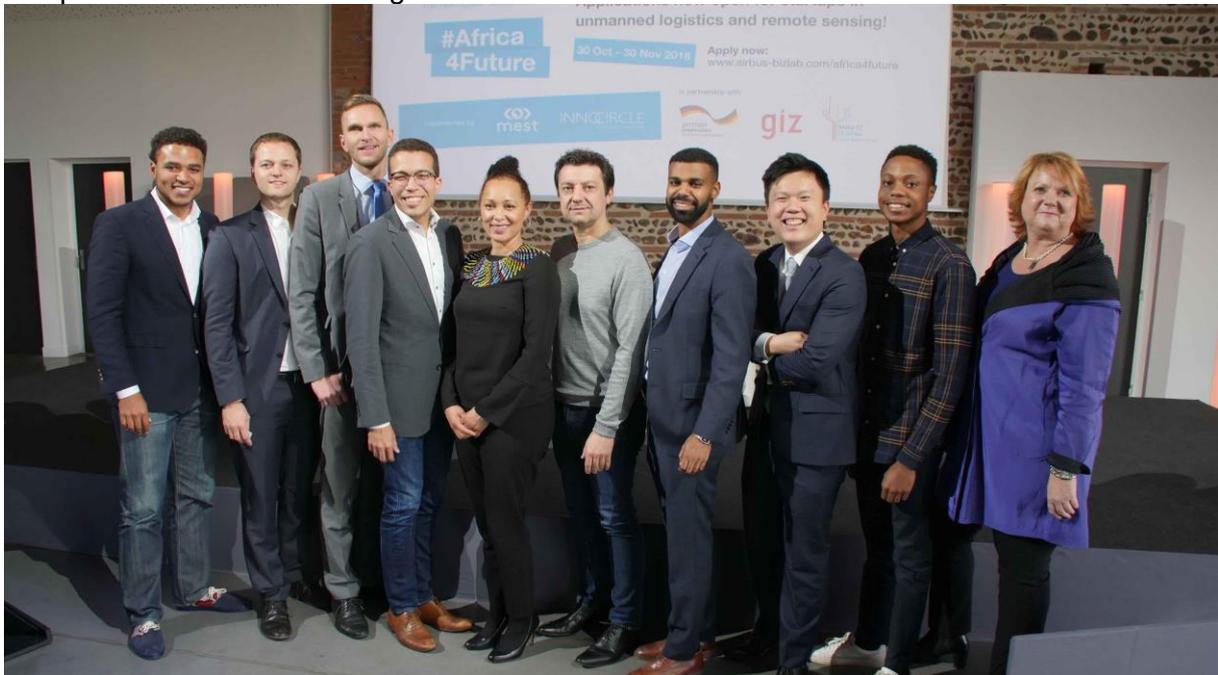


Photo caption: Launch of the 2nd Edition of Airbus Bizlab Africa4Future initiative, in Toulouse, France

The joint program will be implemented by the MEST and Innocircle consortium—two organizations with a significant presence and deep knowledge of entrepreneurial ecosystems in Africa.

Photo Release

Startups can submit applications for the program, from today until 30th November, 2018 via <https://www.airbus-bizlab.com/africa4future>. Following review, ten applicants will be chosen for to receive the opportunity to join #Africa4Future, a six-month acceleration program, starting on 7th January, 2019.

The call for startups took place during the release of *The Great Enabler: Aerospace in Africa* – a White Paper on the role of aerospace technologies and their impact on socio-economic development in Africa. The extensive report looks at how different segments of the industry can address a core set of challenges on the continent by increasing access to healthcare; by making African agriculture more competitive and sustainable; promoting education, training and innovation; empowering businesses with innovative products and solutions; and breaking down barriers to the movement of people and goods across Africa.

The White Paper: 'The Great Enabler: Aerospace in Africa' can be downloaded at:

<http://www.airbus.com/company/worldwide-presence/africa-middle-east.html>

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About Airbus BizLab

Airbus BizLab is a global aerospace accelerator, where startups and Airbus intrapreneurs speed up the transformation of innovative ideas into valuable businesses. For more information about #Africa4Future, please find us at www.airbus-bizlab.com/africa4future

About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2017 it generated revenues of € 59 billion restated for IFRS 15 and employed a workforce of around 129,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners from 100 to more than 600 seats. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

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