

Space Activities in Norway



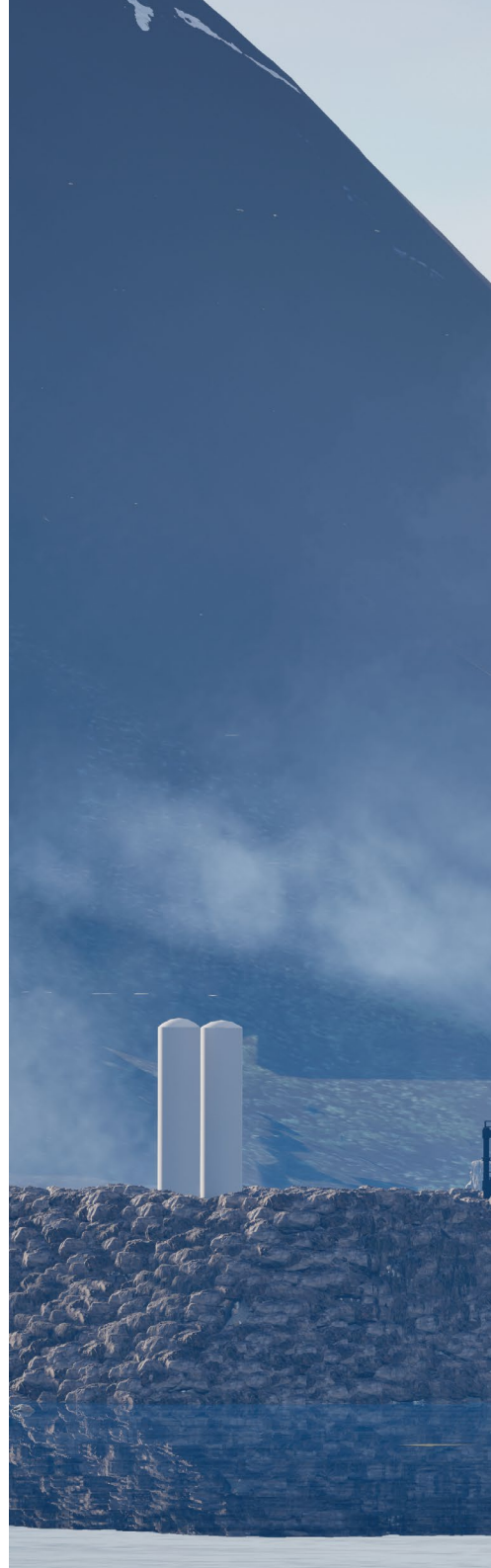
NOSA

Space is important and valuable for our country. The Norwegian Space Agency (NOSA) works to ensure that space benefits the entire Norwegian society.

The use of space should increase value creation, innovation, knowledge development, societal security, and help take care of the Earth. NOSA has, over many years, built a center of expertise in space that is unique in Norway.

NOSA is contributing to the establishment and further development of Norwegian space companies, and ensures that companies, institutes, and public entities can take advantage of the opportunities arising from Norway's participation in international space programs.

NOSA supports the Government, ministries, and the rest of society with our experience and insights in national and international space activities.





A satellite view of Earth from space, showing a large body of water and surrounding landmasses. In the foreground, a portion of a satellite is visible, including a solar panel array and structural beams.

Industry Development

Norwegian space companies have specialized in selected technology areas and compete in an international market. The industry includes companies that build components, instruments, electronics and produce new materials.

In addition to the traditional space industry, an increasing number of companies are creating value based on data from satellites. Institutes and public agencies are streamlining critical societal services using data downloaded from space.



Illustration: NOSA

Space projects are expensive and often come about through multi-national cooperation, which is why Norway is a member of the European Space Agency (ESA). We also participate in the EU's space programs. This ensures that Norwegian industry can compete for contracts on equal terms.

The Norwegian space sector has a yearly turnover of 11 billion kroner (roughly EUR 900 million). For every krone the state invests in ESA projects and national support programs, Norwegian industry creates nearly four kroner in additional revenue.



Photo: Pixabay

Climate & Sustainability

Space is an asset to be used to combat climate change and threats to sustainability.

Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) is our largest international effort to slow down climate change. The focus is on protecting the world's rain forests by providing free satellite images that can be used to monitor illegal logging.

Norway has also launched the Blue Justice initiative to help developing countries to combat illegal fishing and other forms of fisheries crime.

Many of the most important indicators of climate change are reinforced in the Arctic. Sea ice, snow cover, permafrost and glaciers are

important to monitor, and Norwegian institutes have developed effective services that keep track of these at sea, on Svalbard and on the mainland.

More than half of all variables measured in climate research depend on space-based systems. The EU's Copernicus program has the world's largest fleet of climate and earth observation satellites. Norway participates in this, and NOSA is Norway's representative in the collaboration.

The High North

Norway is a polar nation with political and economic interests in both the Arctic and Antarctica.

Participating in the EU's space programs Copernicus and Galileo is of great strategic importance for Norway's northern area policy. Similarly, downloading data from the Copernicus satellites to the ground station on Svalbard is important for the EU.

However, the EU programs cannot cover all of Norway's needs. Therefore, Norway has its own satellites. They monitor ship traffic in all Norwegian waters, including far to

the north. By utilizing signals from the Automatic Identification System (AIS), we can determine where ships are and where they are headed. The satellites ensure that ships avoid collisions and also help Norwegian authorities uncover environmental crime and illegal fishing.

Our country's northerly location offers satellite owners access to important ground infrastructure. This includes downloading satellite data at Svalbard, using the Svalbard cable for data transfer, and soon having launch capabilities for satellites at Andøya Spaceport.



Photo: Steffen Graupner

Security & Safety

Space activities should contribute to national security and a safe society. It is NOSA's responsibility to contribute to secure and efficient solutions that strengthen national security and emergency preparedness efforts.

Norway's geography presents challenges due to a harsh climate and vast sea areas that need to be monitored. Search and rescue operations in the Arctic are difficult, and we rely on efficient satellite systems for both navigation and communication.

In line with that, Norway quickly recognized the potential of the EGNOS system, which improves the accuracy and reliability of other satellite navigation systems. Norway is one of the European countries that

uses EGNOS the most, especially in aviation.

Most commercial communication satellites orbit in paths that do not provide broadband services far to the north. Meanwhile, ship traffic in the Arctic is increasing, leading to a greater need for communication solutions. In 2024, two Norwegian communication satellites were launched. The satellites will provide broadband services in the Arctic and enhance maritime safety.



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