

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European Space Science Contest Prepares for Launch

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Budding scientists from around Europe are invited to compete in a high-stakes competition exploring the mysteries and challenges of space. Funded by the European Union, the Odysseus contest offers young people a chance to demonstrate their ingenuity and deepen their understanding of everything from satellites and space probes to astrobiology and interplanetary travel.

The contest, which officially gets underway in September, will be open to teams of students aged 7 to 22 from all EU member states and associate countries. High-value prizes will be awarded including internships, computerized telescopes and iPads. Finalists at international level will travel to Brussels or Toulouse. The top winners will be flown to the Guiana Space Centre in South America.

Three academic levels are targeted, with separate competitions for:

- **Skywalkers** (primary school pupils)
- **Pioneers** (secondary school students)
- **Explorers** (university undergraduates)

Organized in two cycles covering the academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, the contest aims to attract the interest of tens of thousands of students. Teachers are encouraged to participate by forming and coaching teams and will be offered access to professional mentoring upon request. Entries can be submitted in any of the EU's 24 official languages.

Odysseus aims to inspire young Europeans to get involved in space science. The



competition promotes educational activities that combine scientific learning with hands-on experience. Complete information – including detailed instructions on how to submit an entry – is available at www.odysseus-contest.eu.

Background

The Odysseus contest is being organized by the consortium partners of Odysseus II, a three-year project funded through the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement 640218). Odysseus II is an expanded version of a pilot project that ran from 2011 to 2013. The current consortium consists of 14 partners and 4 supporting organizations from 11 European countries.

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