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## ATLANTIC SPACEPORT CONSORTIUM LDA.

(For immediate release)

Vila do Porto, Santa Maria, Azores [18/07/2024]

### **The Atlantic Spaceport Consortium (ASC) and SpaceForest signed a contract to launch the Perun suborbital vehicle from Santa Maria, Azores, in Spring 2026.**

The **Atlantic Spaceport Consortium (ASC)**, a company developing a spaceport at the island of Santa Maria, Azores, have signed a contract with **SpaceForest**, a technology company developing a suborbital flight service using its Perun rocket system. The contract now signed is supported by the **Portuguese Space Agency** and the **European Space Agency (ESA)**, under their Space Transportation *Boost!* initiative, and is expected to culminate the launch of a Perun rocket in Spring 2026.

Based in Poland, SpaceForest is developing a new commercial single-stage European sounding rocket that offers nearly four minutes of microgravity experimentation time. The 11.5-m tall rocket will be able to launch payloads of up to 50 kg to an altitude of 150 km while also stabilising the payload for high-quality microgravity periods of flight. Perun uses a hybrid propulsion system consisting of nitrous oxide as the oxidizer and modified paraffin, commonly used as candle wax, as the fuel – resulting in a non-toxic propellant.

The service concept that SpaceForest is developing, which enables the Perun rocket to be launched from a mobile launch pad, is a perfect fit for Santa Maria and its current maturity stage as a spaceport. Under this contract, ASC will support SpaceForest in obtaining the required regulatory approvals and launch licenses and provide operational support on the island, including recovery of the launcher and its payload from the ocean.

“What the Atlantic Spaceport Consortium is aiming to develop is an open spaceport, where vehicle operators can find all their operational requirements satisfied. Bringing Perun to Santa Maria allows us to validate that concept further and to keep improving our offering.”, stated Bruno Carvalho, Director at the Atlantic Spaceport Consortium. “From Santa Maria, SpaceForest can expand its service, reach higher altitudes with Perun and set the stage for their own future developments. I’m sure SpaceForest will feel welcome at Santa Maria.”

“Signing this contract with the Atlantic Spaceport Consortium marks a significant milestone for SpaceForest. It provides us with the opportunity to demonstrate the unique capabilities of our Perun suborbital rocket at Santa Maria, and to collaborate in building a truly open and accessible spaceport. This partnership will accelerate the commercialization of suborbital flight services and broaden access to affordable, eco-friendly space research and technology testing for our clients across Europe.”, says Marcin Sarnowski, Sales and Marketing Director at SpaceForest, continuing: “We expect this collaboration to pave the way for higher-altitude missions and to validate Perun’s performance in new environments. Looking forward, we aim to enhance the



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Perun system further, scale up our operations, and contribute to the growth of the European space sector by making space more accessible than ever before.”

The contract is expected to be completed by May 2026 and see the Perun rocket reach space for the first time, on a flight that is expected to reach 100km of altitude. It complements the existing contract SpaceForest signed with ESA, under its *Boost!* initiative, in October 2024, adding another Perun flight to their development plan.

“The Portuguese Space Agency welcomes this agreement between ASC and SpaceForest as a significant milestone, resulting from the support provided by the Portuguese Space Agency and ESA to ASC, which is now taking concrete steps towards establishing a commercial spaceport in Santa Maria. It demonstrates that coordinated national efforts can foster growth, cooperation, and innovation in the Portuguese space sector, while helping to build a more resilient and diverse European access to space,” states Ricardo Conde, President of the Portuguese Space Agency.

“We are glad to see SpaceForest partnering with ASC for the demonstration of the Perun suborbital launch service from the Santa Maria Spaceport on the Azores. This is paving the way for a Perun becoming a trusted commercial service operating from various sites around Europe, serving customers in the best possible way.”, Thilo Kranz, Commercial Space Transportation Programme Manager at ESA.

For the Atlantic Spaceport Consortium, this contract paves the way for exploiting the exceptional geographical conditions at Santa Maria and further developing a commercial spaceport. For SpaceForest it will allow it to keep pushing the boundaries of its technology development and secure a spaceport location that is open for business.

Media support:

Malbusca site:

<https://spaceport.pt/press/SpaceForestCCN-media/Launch-site-Malbusca-2.JPG>

(image credit: ASC)

Perun rocket:

[https://spaceforest.pl/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/20230214\\_SpaceForest\\_test\\_Ustka\\_7-1024x683.jpg](https://spaceforest.pl/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/20230214_SpaceForest_test_Ustka_7-1024x683.jpg)

(image credit: SpaceForest)



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### About the Atlantic Spaceport Consortium – ASC

Formed in 2020, to establish a financially balanced, environmentally sustainable, and completely safe vision for the Santa Maria Spaceport, the Atlantic Spaceport Consortium is a 100% Portuguese consortium formed by the companies Ilex Space Lda and Optimal Structural Solutions Lda.

For more information about the project and the Atlantic Spaceport Consortium, get in touch [info@spaceport.pt](mailto:info@spaceport.pt) or visit <https://spaceport.pt/>.

### About SpaceForest

SpaceForest sp z o.o., established in Poland in 2004, develops and commercializes innovative solutions specializing in microwave techniques, artificial intelligence, advanced electronics, and rocket technologies.

For more information about SpaceForest and Perun rocket system, visit: <https://spaceforest.pl/perun/> or reach out by email: [spaceforest@spaceforest.pl](mailto:spaceforest@spaceforest.pl).