

Policy Plan

Stichting Space Professionals Foundation (SSPF)

2017 - 2019

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Introduction

The Stichting Space Professionals Foundation (SSPF) was set up on 11 October 2017. Its mission is to 'support space-related education within and outside of the Netherlands, and in the broadest sense to pursue all that is directly or indirectly related or beneficial to this goal. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation.'

Space is becoming increasingly important. Its services are infiltrating more and more aspects of daily life, and in the process becoming unmissable. You can find it everywhere: in your weather forecast, the calls you make on your mobile phone, location services, navigation and the monitoring of air pollution are just a few examples. Space can provide solutions for massive societal challenges in the scientific and technological realms, as well as for specific applications such as water management, agriculture and food, mobility, energy and our climate and environment. It develops know-how, creates jobs and makes our world safer, which is why governments, companies and academia are investing in it. The SSPF provides financial support for advanced education in space-related subjects. Priority is given to its first target group – the Dutch space sector's (young) professionals – although advanced (PhD, MSc) students of space-related faculties at Dutch institutions are also eligible as a secondary target group. In principle, all applicants wishing to obtain funding for their space-related advanced academic program will be considered by the SSPF, as long as they meet the program's criteria.

The SSPF has two specific objectives relating to this principle:

- Manage all local finances of the International Space University's (ISU) 2018 Space Studies Program (SSP), for which the Netherlands has been appointed host country, and provide (supplementary) funding towards the SSP participation fees for the SSPF's two target groups.
- From 2019 onwards, provide (supplementary) program fee funding for applicants from both target groups to attend an SSP, or other space-related, educational program in or outside of the Netherlands.

Throughout the period covered by this policy plan (2017-2019), the SSPF will concentrate on creating, implementing and expanding all necessary support systems to enable the above two funding prospects. Those are:

- Fundraising,
- Attracting and selecting potential applicants,
- Administration and accounting, and
- Accountability.

1. Mission/Vision

The SSPF was created for two reasons. Firstly, to serve the immediate need for an organisation to manage all local financial aspects of the International Space University's (ISU) 2018 Space Studies Program (SSP) in the Netherlands. It also has the additional, longer-term objective to provide financial support for applicants from the Netherlands to attend space-related programs like the SSP.

The now-defunct Nederlandse Instituut voor Vliegtuigontwikkeling en Ruimtevaart (NIVR) had a foundation to support SSP students' fees, but this went under when the NIVR was dissolved. The void that this left made it difficult for Dutch residents to obtain sufficient financial support to participate in the program. The SSPF intends to fill this gap by once again providing those interested in pursuing higher education in space with options for funding.

Joining the SSP doesn't just contribute to the participants' professional and personal development in this important field. It is also a ticket to the ISU's alumni network. This network is made up of more than 4000 space professionals, many of whom hold key positions at institutional and commercial space organisations in more than a hundred countries, and are the catalyst for international business development, cooperation, programmes and career opportunities in the space sector.

The SSP contributes to the promotion and growth of the Dutch space sector in similar ways, which is why it is backed by the Netherlands Space Office (NSO), who arranged for SSP18 to take place in the Netherlands, with a newly-created SSPF to support it.

The NSO is the Dutch government's office dedicated to space, and made up of a cooperation between the ministries of Economische Zaken en Klimaat (Economic Affairs and Climate); Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschappen (Education, Culture and Science); Infrastructuur en Waterstaat (Infrastructure and Water); Buitenlandse Zaken (Foreign Affairs); and the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO; Organisation for Scientific Research). Through the NSO, several ministries (OCW and EZ) contribute to the SSPF's budget for SSP18 and its future activities.

1.2 Objectives

Objective 1: Financing the SSP18 in 2018

The SSP18 will be organised by a Local Organizing Committee (LOC), which consists of members from the Netherlands Space Office (NSO), Delft University of Technology, Leiden University, ESA-ESTEC and several space organisations based in the Netherlands. Acting as host, the LOC will cooperate with the commissioning party, the International Space University (ISU), which is based in Strasbourg.

The SSPF will work closely with the LOC in 2017 and 2018 to fund and actualize the SSP18. This includes (partially) funding ten participants from the Dutch target groups. The OCW ministry has committed an initial contribution of €250K. Additional contributions will be sought with lower governmental departments, national and international space companies and other corporate sources. Once the first objective's activities have been performed, the remaining funds will be put towards those of the second objective.

Objective 2: From 2019 onwards, (partially) fund the participation fees of the SSP or other academic programs.

The SSPF will appoint a selection committee, which from 2019 onwards will evaluate which applicants for the SSP or other academic program to award funding to. This evaluation will be made based on the available budget, which will be set by the Board annually, and the type of program requested by the applicant. Successful applicants will be encouraged to seek additional funding elsewhere, as the SSPF will not cover the entirety of their fees.

The SSPF will strive to support at least five candidates from the Netherlands every year, starting in 2019. This is dependent on the results of the fundraising efforts. It is intended for the government's ministries to at least match the contributions from the corporate space sector.

1.3 Strategy

The SSPF envisions to become the primary national means for both target groups to obtain financial support for advanced education in space-related programs, like the SSP. Over time the Foundation's fundraising activities should produce sufficiently reliable results to enable the SSPF to support the intended quota of professionals or students attending the SSP or similar programs.

The SSPF's stated objectives (see introduction) can be achieved through activities grouped under the following themes:

- Fundraising,
- Attracting and selecting potential applicants,
- Administration and accounting, and
- Accountability.

The activities under these themes will develop and change focus over the period covered by this policy plan (2017-2019) (see chapter 2).

2. Current Status and Annual Activities

The SSPF was launched in October of 2017. The remainder of that year was focused on building a sound, efficient organisation with sufficient financial means. 2018 is dedicated to the preparation for and financial support of SSP18 and its applicants from the Dutch space sector. From 2019 onwards, the plan is for the SSPF to be able to apply its budget to (partially) financially supporting applicants from both target groups to attend an SSP or other space-related program.

The planned activities and milestones can be found below, categorized by year.

2.1 2017 Milestones

The following activities will be implemented to help achieve the SSPF's objectives and overall mission:

Fundraising:

- First contribution from the ministry of OCW.
- Gathering sponsors with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) through the sponsor brochure and discussions with potential sponsor candidates in local government, national and international space companies and others from the corporate sector.

Attracting and selecting potential applicants:

- Promoting the SSPF funding opportunities to both target groups through in-person presentations and various outreach channels (website, social media).
- Encourage participation to SSP18 and SSP19.
- No selection in 2017.

Administration and accounting:

- Registering the Foundation.
- Opening a bank account.
- Setting up accounting systems.
- Developing the SSPF website.
- Obtaining board liability insurance.

Accountability:

- Writing and consolidating policy plan.
- Requesting ANBI status.
- Preparing independent annual accounts assessments.

2.2 2018 Milestones

The following activities will be implemented to help achieve the SSPF's objectives and overall mission:

Fundraising:

- Second contribution from the ministry of OCW.
- Gathering sponsors with the LOC through the sponsor brochure and discussions with potential sponsor candidates in local government, national and international space companies and others from the corporate sector.

Attracting and selecting potential applicants:

- Promoting the SSPF funding opportunities to both target groups through in-person presentations and various outreach channels (website, social media).
- Encourage participation to SSP18 and SSP19.
- Prepare and appoint selection committee.
- No selection of SSP18 participants expected due to imminent registration deadline (first round: 31 January; second round: 30 April 2018). Committee will be activated if applicants are received, however.
- Assessment of applications for other academic programs.

Administration and accounting:

- Maintenance of accounting systems.
- Execute the SSP18 administration.
- Close and deliver the SSP18 administration.

Accountability:

- Implement activities according to the policy plan.
- Compile annual accounts.
- Initiate independent annual accounts assessments.

2.3. 2019 Milestones

The following activities will be implemented to help achieve the SSPF's objectives and overall mission:

Fundraising:

- Actualise the government's (involved ministries') commitment to an annual doubling of the space companies' sponsor contributions.
- Accrue sponsor contributions for 2019 and onwards through the sponsor brochure and discussions with potential sponsor candidates in local government, national and international space companies and others from the corporate sector.

Attracting and selecting potential applicants:

- Promoting the SSPF funding opportunities to both target groups through in-person presentations and various outreach channels (website, social media).
- Encourage participation to SSP19 and SSP20.
- Assessment of applications for other academic programs.
- Activate and guide 2019 selection committee.

Administration and accounting:

- Maintenance of accounting systems.

- Execute the SSP19 administration.
- Close and deliver the SSP19 administration.

Accountability:

- Implement activities according to the policy plan.
- Compile annual accounts.
- Initiate independent annual accounts assessments.

3. Outlook

In 2019, at the end of the period covered by this policy plan, it will be determined to what extent the SSPF has developed a stable budget, reliable fundraising efforts, and achieved the ability to support the intended quota of professionals or students attending the SSP or similar programs. Following that evaluation, a new policy plan will be drawn up, either extending or amending the current guidelines. Until then, the Board is dedicated to carrying out the objectives and activities as described in this policy plan.

4. Organisation

The Foundation's details are as follows:

Stichting Space Professionals – Foundation

Created:	11 October 2017
KvK number:	69808813
RSIN:	858020531
Bank account:	NL27 ABNA 0253944910
ANBI status:	Accepted

4.1 Board

Chairman:	Mr Gerard Blaauw
Treasurer:	Mr Pieter van Beekhuizen
Secretary:	Ms Tanja Masson-Zwaan

The Board members will not receive financial rewards for work performed for the SSPF. Reasonable compensation for conducting Board-related tasks is permitted, but not currently utilized.

The Board members will be compensated by the SSPF for any expenses incurred on behalf of the Foundation. The Board, and each individual member, is independent, and appointed for three years, as per the conditions for this first term following the creation of the Foundation. Over the course of the 2017-2019 policy plan period, the Board will agree on a staggered resignation schedule.

4.2 Employees

The SSPF does not employ staff.

4.3. Selection Committee

As authorized by statute, the SSPF will appoint a selection committee to evaluate and approve applicants requesting financial support for space-related academic programs. The Board will compile guidelines for this committee in 2018.

5. Finances

A budgetary estimate for 2018 has been made to accommodate both of the SSPF's objectives.

After SSP18, the Foundation aims to financially support the future participation of Young Professionals to space-related educational and vocational projects.

The Foundation envisions to cover these annual costs through contributions from the government and commercial space companies.

The Foundation intends to review its finances on an annual basis and amend the budget accordingly if required by the income and expenditure fluctuations.