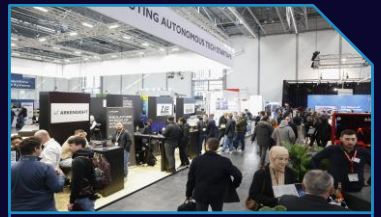
XPO+ LAUNCHER

Scouting Autonomous Tech Startups

Get Global Exposure for your Autonomous Tech Venture and Pitch your Start-up in front of International VCs

Messe Düsseldorf

XPONENTIAL Europe - Background



GROWING PLATFORM

XPONENTIAL Europe has been part of Messe Düsseldorf's event portfolio since 2023 and will take place for the third time in Düsseldorf from **March 16 to 18, 2027.**

AROUND THE WORLD

XPONENTIAL with its forums in the U.S. and Europe brings together all the key players and will drive future-oriented autonomous innovations forward.

ACROSS ALL DOMAINS

XPONENTIAL Europe is a global forum for leaders in uncrewed systems and robotics.
It drives innovation across air, ground, maritime and space.

FOCUS AREAS

The event showcases key technologies such as AI, cloud, cybersecurity, IoT, mobile, robotics and sensors.
It connects cutting-edge innovation with real-world applications.

XPO+ Launcher - Mission

GLOBAL PLATFORM

XPO+ Launcher is a global platform for scouting and screening early-stage start-ups in the autonomy continuum.

ECOSYSTEM MEMBER

It paves the way for innovators to become members of the XPO+ ecosystem.

BUSINESS MATCHING

Perfect platform for VCs and start-ups to meet and mingle.

SHOWCASE LOUNGE

A dedicated space in our lounge to present innovative autonomous technologies.

START-UP CONFERENCE AND AWARD PITCH

A conference for start-ups, accelerators, VCs and tech experts including our prestigious award pitch.

MARKET VISIBILITY

An ideal forum to be granted exposure to leaders, investors and enablers of the industry.

XPO+ Launcher - Scounting along Tech-Stack

Scouting autonomy early stage start-ups along the entire value chain for autonomy:

PLATFORMS

Platforms are the operational backbone of autonomous systems – from drones and rovers to maritime and space vehicles. They carry the mission, connect hardware and software and bring innovation into motion.

COMPONENTS AND SENSORS

The building blocks of autonomy including AI processors, navigation units, environmental sensors and robust energy systems – ensure precise control, perception and performance.

SERVICES

Services transform technology into impact. From design and prototyping to testing, licensing and data analytics: service providers empower every stage of autonomous technology development and deployment.

XPO+ Launcher - Scouting across all Domains

AIR

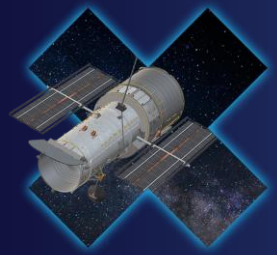
Autonomous aerial systems are tranforming logistics, surveilannce and mobility – with drones, UAS and airbone robotics taking on complex missions with precision and speed.

GROUND

From autonomous vehicles to robotics in the industrial and public spaces – ground-based systems are redefining how we move, operate and interact with our environment.

MARITIME

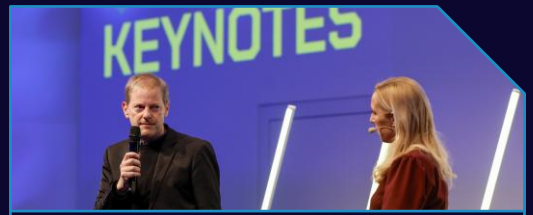
Uncrewed surface and underwater systems enable safe and remote operations in challenging marine environments – from exploration to infrastructure inspection.



SPACE

In orbit and beyond, autonomous technologies ensure reliability, adaptability and performance – powering missions where human access is limited or impossible.

XPO+ Launcher - Springboard for Start-ups



BENEFITS

- Networking and mingling with industry stakeholders on-site.
- Testing the pitch deck and presentation skills on stage.
- Getting feedback and mentoring from the jury on-site.
- Providing direct access to our global network of partners.
- Supporting to scale breakthrough technologies in uncrewed systems.
- Getting the chance to win the Award Pitch and a free Pod at XPONENTIAL Miami 2027.

QUALIFICATION

- Bootstrapped or in funding stage Pre-Seed, Seed or Series A.
- Founded 7 years back or younger.
- Annual Revenue not above 3m EUR (ARR).
- 50 employees or less.
- Participation is limited to two editions.

If you do qualify and want to profit from the exclusive lounge benefits, but you need more exhibiting space than a pod workstation or pedestal, we can work on an individual booth set-up placed inside our lounge. More mature startups can apply for a normal exhibition booth outside our lounge and are excluded from our lounge benefits.

CORE THEMES

- Innovation and Growth in Autonomy.
- Global Status of Autonomous Tech Startup Ecosystem.
- Investment Climate in Autonomous Tech.
- Pitch Competition for the best Solutions in Autonomy.

XPO+ Launcher at XPONENTIAL Europe 2026

17 Start-ups

16 Pitches

8 Jury Member

1 Award Winner

"Winning the XPO+ Launcher Award at XPONENTIAL Europe was more than recognition, it was a market entry accelerator. The award opened direct access to the German market, leading to discussions with a leading defense integrator and a critical infrastructure organization. For a company at our stage, that kind of market access is the real prize.“

Oded Napchi, Founder
Althimis

XPO+ Launcher - Join us as a start-up

Profit from exclusive benefits:

LOUNGE

Exhibit your product at an own pod or on a pedestal. Be part of the XPO+ Launcher family. Benefit from lounge facilities.

DEMO

Get 5 minutes airtime on the Start-up Stage to demonstrate and showcase your solution.

AWARD

Guaranteed start with 3 minutes pitch at XPO+ Launcher award taking place on Start-up Stage on second day of XPONENTIAL Europe.

NETWORK

Meet & mingle with industry stakeholders, VCs, angels, mentors, government bodies at our “Founders & Funders Mixer”.

XPO+ Launcher - Our Partner so far

XPO+ LAUNCHER

AWARD SPONSOR

Vodafone UPLIFT Canada

INVESTOR PARTNER

GENIUSNY Start2 Group

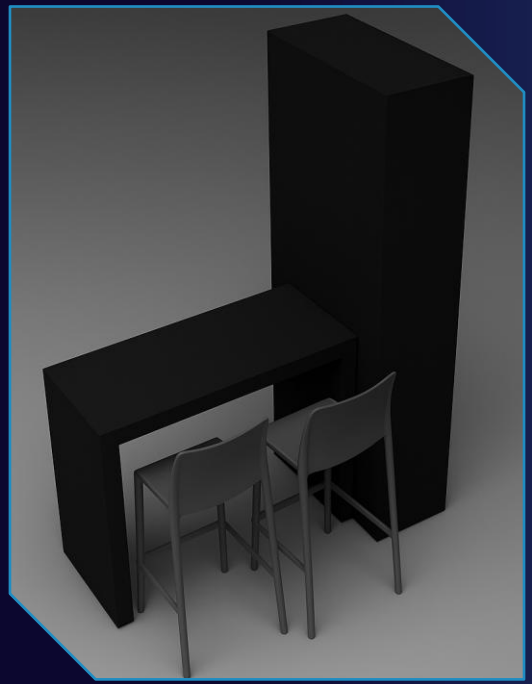
ECOSYSTEM PARTNER

AFRICAN DRONE FORUM · DefenseTech Inkubator.NRW · DEUTSCHER ROBOTIK VERBAND · DRONEMASTERS · HIGH-TECH .NRW · Women and DRONES

XPO+ Launcher - Start-up Package Pod Workstation

- 3 m² area incl. dedicated exhibition pod and 2 bar stools
- exclusive space for product/technology/service demo
- prominent logo placement (no extra roll-ups allowed!)
- power supply for your smart devices
- access to all lounge facilities to meet your clients
- free coffee and water at the lounge (on availability)
- display screen with HDMI port & Wi-Fi access at additional costs
- Additional roll-ups and other displays are not allowed

€ 3,100 (plus taxes as applicable)



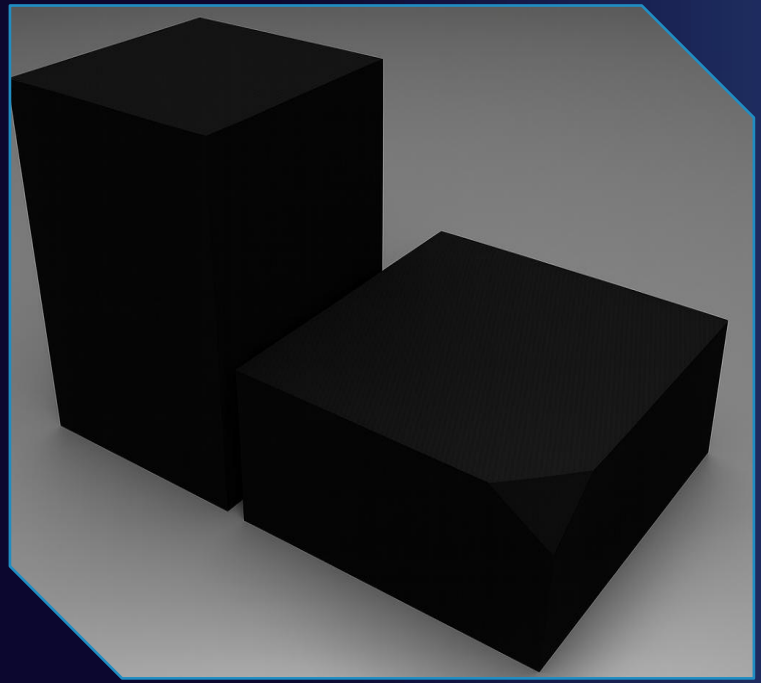
Final design on-site may vary

XPO+ Launcher - Start-up Package Pedestal

Alternative Start-up Package Pedestal to showcase Bulky Gear like Drones.

- 2 connected, square pedestals to place your devices, consisting of:
  - a high-board with 1200x1200 mm height and 800x800 mm table size
- prominent logo placement on the higher pedestal
- power supply for your showcased device
- access to all lounge facilities to meet your clients
- free coffee and water at the lounge (on availability)
- Wi-Fi access at additional costs
- Additional roll-ups and other displays are not allowed

€ 3,100 (plus taxes as applicable)



* based on availability and space, you may apply for a bigger storage surface

Final design on-site may vary

XPO+ Launcher – Start-up Award

Exhibiting start-ups qualify automatically for the pitch at a selected stage.

Non-exhibiting start-ups may have a chance to participate as well; apply latest by February 15, 2027.

On-site jury will have 2 minutes for Q&A per start-up.

Top 3 places will get a XPO+ Launcher Certificate.

1st place will get a free booth in XPO+ Launcher lounge at XPONENTIAL in Miami in May 2027.

XPO+ Launcher partners may grant special prices.

The autonomous tech solution shall meet the following criteria:

- Solution designed for uncrewed vehicles: air, ground, maritime and space.
- Product /Service in market less than 5 years.
- Proven use case (B2B / B2B2C).
- Great Functionality / Proven Level of Problem Solving.
- High Level of Innovation / Originality of solution.
- Given Attractiveness of Business Model.
- Excellent Quality of Documentation & Team.

XPO+ Launcher - Key Dates

Dates:

Exhibition:	**March 16, to March 18, 2027** Exhibitors: 8 am to 7 pm Visitors: 10 am to 6 pm
Set-up:	March 14, to March 15, 2027
Dismantling:	March 19, to March 20, 2027
Location:	Hall 1 and Hall 4 via Entrance South Congress Center South Stockumer Kirchstraße 61 40474 Düsseldorf

Connect with us!

Agnes Liza Stollwerk
Project Manager
stollwerka@messe-duesseldorf.de

Mark Wächter
Chief Evangelist XPO+ Launcher
scout@xpo.plus

www.xpo.plus

www.linkedin.com/company/xpo-plus-launcher

SEE YOU

MARCH 16 - 18, 2027

DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY

xpo.plus

Messe Düsseldorf