

JAXA Selects Mitsubishi Research Institute for Space Strategy Fund (SSF) Program

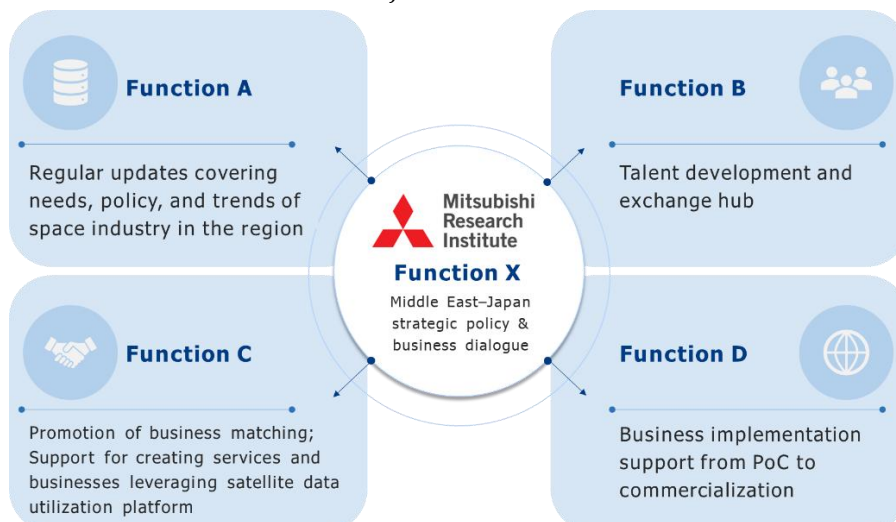
Building a strategic gateway for Japan’s space ecosystem in the Middle East

25 May 2026 – Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. was selected by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for the “Acceleration of Implementation of Satellite Data Utilization Systems” program of the Space Strategy Fund (SSF). Through this initiative, the firm will develop and operate a comprehensive platform to accelerate the deployment and commercialization of satellite data utilization systems in the Middle East.

Mitsubishi Research Institute will be undertaking the program’s “B. Overseas Development, Demonstration, and Social Implementation Infrastructure for Satellite Data Utilization Systems” project. The aim is to establish an integrated framework that connects policy, business, and technology, enabling sustainable collaboration between Japan and stakeholders across the region.

“The Middle East is rapidly emerging as one of the world’s most important regions for space and satellite data applications,” said Akihiro Hirose, General Manager of [Mitsubishi Research Institute’s Middle East Regional Office](#). “We believe that accelerating the engagement of Japanese companies in the region will not only contribute to the advancement of space development in both the Middle East and Japan, but also generate broader benefits for policymaking, innovation, and commercial collaboration. By combining our regional presence and policy networks with Japan’s technological capabilities, we aim to serve as a gateway connecting the Japanese space ecosystem with long-term opportunities across the region.”

Project overview



Source: Mitsubishi Research Institute



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The Middle East is experiencing rapid growth in government-led initiatives and increasing demand for satellite data applications in areas such as climate change mitigation, disaster resilience, infrastructure monitoring, and maritime security. While upstream capabilities such as satellite development are advancing, the downstream ecosystem for data utilization and commercialization remains in an early stage, creating significant opportunities for international collaboration.

“A distinctive feature of the project is its integrated approach that combines policy coordination, business development, and social implementation,” said Masanori Muto, Chief Research Manager and Frontier Strategy Group Leader at Mitsubishi Research Institute, who serves as the project leader. “Rather than supporting isolated pilot activities, we will build a multi-functional platform covering information and data infrastructure, human capacity development, and business matching to project implementation and policy coordination to create scalable and sustainable satellite data ecosystems.”

The project will initially focus on key markets while establishing a scalable model for broader deployment across the Gulf region. By adopting a phased and regionally adaptive approach, the firm aims to contribute to the development of sustainable satellite data ecosystems tailored to the policy and market environment of each country, including future collaboration opportunities beyond the Gulf region.

Key markets initially targeted by the project



Source: Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.

Over the five-year program*, Mitsubishi Research Institute will support pilot projects, enhance cross-border collaboration, and contribute to the establishment of a self-sustaining platform that enables continuous innovation and market expansion. The



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firm welcomes collaboration with organizations interested in satellite data applications, space-related business development, and international policy and innovation initiatives in the region.

* The initial term of the service agreement shall be from the execution of the service agreement until the last day of the fiscal year in which the date of completion for the first stage-gate evaluation falls

About Mitsubishi Research Institute

Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. is one of Japan's foremost think tanks. For over 50 years, it has provided the public and private sectors with research and consulting services in fields spanning space, satellite data, the environment, energy, healthcare, human resources, and digital transformation. This is accompanied by policy recommendations and the real-world application of solutions. Mitsubishi Research Institute will continue to envision the future, resolve societal issues, and lead change to build a sustainable and prosperous world. For more information, please visit: www.mri.co.jp/en/

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