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Prof. Holger Hoos
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Subject: Collaboration between ESA (European Space Agency) and the CLAIRE initiative

Dear Professor Hoos

It was a pleasure to meet you recently in ESRIN. It is of great interest to the ESA Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes to continue developing world-class Earth Observing Systems, to foster the uptake and impact of EO data, and to ensure that investment in space continues.

ESA embraces an open science approach, aimed at making the most of EO data in order to deliver valuable assets to European companies, organisations, institutions and entities but above all to the citizens of the world.

In this context we are deeply engaged in science and application areas relevant to humanitarian disaster management, sustainable development, global health, climate change, energy, conservation and environment, to mention a few.

There are also powerful synergies between Europe's data-rich Earth Observation and AI assets that will offer us new science and technology in both domains. We can only conclude that AI is a critical enabling technology for Europe's earth observation sector, whose growth will be accelerated by Europe strengthening our own AI capabilities. ESA Earth Observation will hence aim for extended collaboration with the wider AI community.

I therefore strongly support the vision for European AI excellence put forward by CLAIRE, and look forwards to future collaboration.

Yours sincerely

Josef Aschbacher
Director of Earth Observation Programmes