

# ESA Unveils Latest Milestones: Reusable Spacecraft, Gravitational Wave Tele

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 5 Questions

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**1. What is the primary purpose of ESA's Space Rider reusable spacecraft, which recently cleared key development hurdles?**

- A) To transport astronauts to the International Space Station
- B) To serve as an uncrewed laboratory in low Earth orbit for experiments and cargo return**
- C) To launch large communication satellites
- D) To conduct high-speed atmospheric re-entry tests only

**2. The European Space Agency (ESA) recently awarded a EUR26.1 million contract to Thales Alenia Space for the development of which critical components for its LISA mission?**

- A) Propulsion systems
- B) Laser communication arrays
- C) Telescopes**
- D) Solar panels

**3. On May 7, 2026, the European Space Agency (ESA) and JAXA signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to deepen collaboration in planetary defense. Which specific mission to a near-Earth asteroid was also part of this agreement?**

- A) DART
- B) Hera
- C) Ramses**
- D) Psyche

**4. Journalists were recently invited to see ESA's Plato satellite in the cleanroom ahead of its 2027 launch. What is the main objective of the Plato mission?**

- A) To study the Sun's magnetic field
- B) To map the distribution of dark matter
- C) To discover potentially habitable, Earth-like planets around other stars**
- D) To observe distant galaxies in the early universe

**5. Which European Space Agency (ESA) mission recently conducted tests involving firing miniature capsules from a gun to replicate the flight of its lander?**

- A) Juice
- B) ExoMars Rosalind Franklin rover**
- C) BepiColombo
- D) Euclid