4 main areas of activity:
• defense and security,
• low carbon energies (nuclear and renewable energies),
• technological research for industry,
• fundamental research in the physical sciences and life sciences.

CEA participates in collaborative projects with a large number of academic and industrial partners.

Commercialising scientific research
In accordance with its missions, CEA supports and contributes to business innovation by putting its expertise and technologies at their service.
• CEA’s research result form the basis of patent applications,
• For 8 years in a row, CEA among “Top 100 Global Innovators” list of ‘the 100 world’s most effective innovators’,
• Patent portfolio exploited for technology transfer activities in more than 600 industrial partnerships in 2018,
• Our patents also play a driving role in the creation of innovative businesses.
• Strategic marketing group provides bibliometric/patent research service and provides tried-and-tested expertise.

Business Creation
CEA also engages in seed funding of start-ups, via its subsidiaries:
• CEA investissement
• Supernova* created in 2017 (Investment VC Fund)

Key success factors
- Foster awareness for entrepreneurship
- Detection and maturation of innovative projects using internal review system
- Support for business creation:
  - Assistance in project development
  - Temporary financial assistance for salaries
  - Sharing of facilities
  - Granting personal loans
  - Granting of licenses on patents on favorable terms
- Maintaining close relationships between start-ups and labs
- Financing of start-ups: funds through CEA, venture capital external structures

Interactions with national policy instruments for start-ups
• French Tech and Bpifrance giants
• Public incubators
• Research Tax Credit (Crédit impôt Recherche - CIR)

Steps in creation and development of start-ups at CEA
Projects detected at the earliest stage by the Technology Transfer Offices of CEA and supported by a devoted structure with a proven process.

Impacts
• 2008-17: 103 new startups created
• over 90% still in business
• almost half have raised financing
• For some, it is already several rounds of financing, including IPOs
• The amounts raised range from 1 to several tens of millions of euros.

Policy recommendations
Developing attractiveness & entrepreneurship in EU
Helping research, and also engineering, careers to be more attractive for young people.
Fostering awareness actions as regards entrepreneurship.

Strengthening maturation funding
Funding tools for the maturation stage:
• compatible with the stage reached (often company not created yet)
• that do not weaken future financial balance of start-ups (cf. ROI expected)

Reinforce RTO’s facilitator role
RTO have a unique position to bring in financial institution for technological development from early stage on.
Support organizations that have structures for business creation initiatives

Define tailor-made funding tools for start-up
• Compatible with deep tech
• (Risk, duration,… strategic and long term investment)
• Encourage buy-outs of start-ups by European players (versus foreign players)