

**UKVL: SUTHERLAND**

# BACKGROUND



## In 2014, UK Government announced its' committed to enable access to space from the UK.

Their vision is to have small satellite or sub-orbital spaceflight operations from a UK spaceport in the early 2020s.

Independent options assessment of potential sites for a spaceport identified Sutherland as a strong candidate.

### The Moine, Tongue was identified as the location allows for:

- Access to low earth orbits
- Promixity to skilled labour
- Low density of population
- Future opportunities for supply chain

In July 2018, the UK Space Agency announced £2.5m grant funding to support the creation of the UK's first space port.

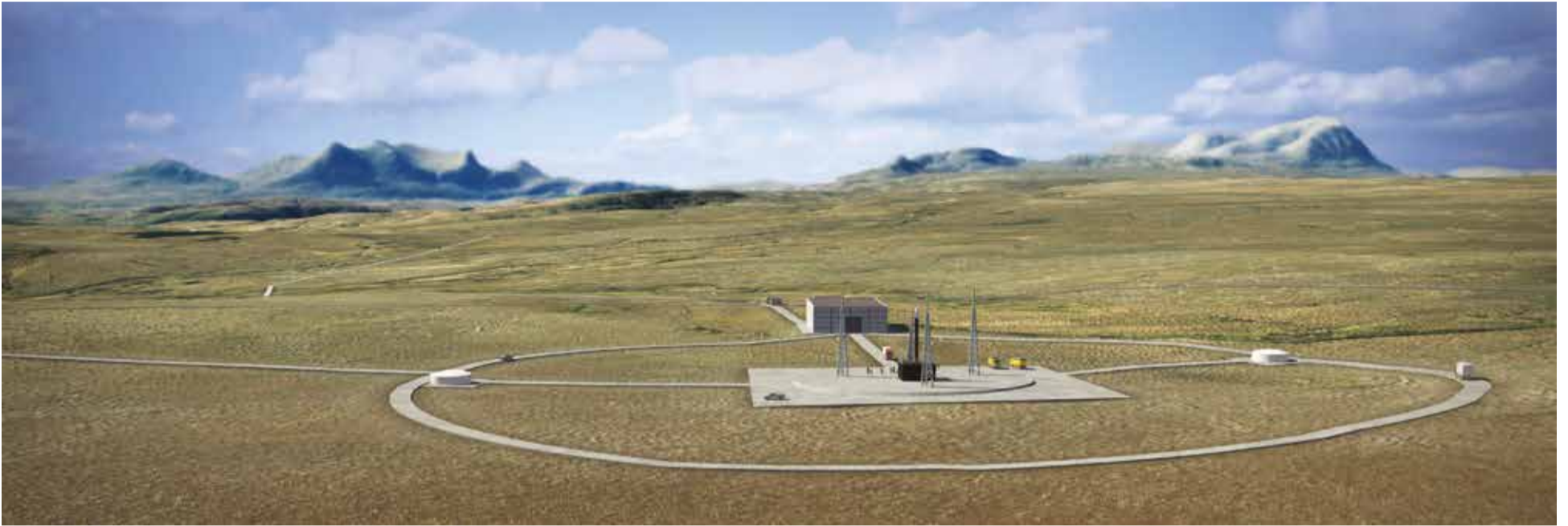
### Industry partners also received grant funding:

- Lockheed Martin: £23.5m
- Orbex: £5.5m



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# WHAT IS A SPACEPORT?



**The Sutherland site has been identified as one of the best options for vertical launch capability.**

**Plans do not include:**

- Horizontal launch capability
- Manned Space travel

**The launch site and associated infrastructure will include capability for:**

- Transport and preparation of launch vehicles
- Cargo – payload for the spacecraft
- Fuels and associated services
- Other generic infrastructure for use as a multi-use site.

The design will offer affordable range operations and services that are capable of supporting a variety of small launch vehicles.



# WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE?



- **Early discussions with Melness Crofters Estate on leasing land.**
- **A feasibility study was developed looking at site options.**
- **An initial economic impact assessment report has been completed.**
- **A programme has been developed covering all activities required to provide launch capability by 2020/21.**
- **A gateway 1 submission was made to Scottish Government.**
  - Response from initial gateway process provided a delivery confidence assessment of ‘amber’
  - Further work has been ongoing to mitigate the risks associated with this project.
- **Pre-planning advice has been sought.**



# PLANNING THE WORK



## **Dialogue ongoing with Melness Crofters Estate:**

- Support for project
- Agreement for leasing land
- Heads of Terms to be agreed

## **Work is ongoing to continue to refine:**

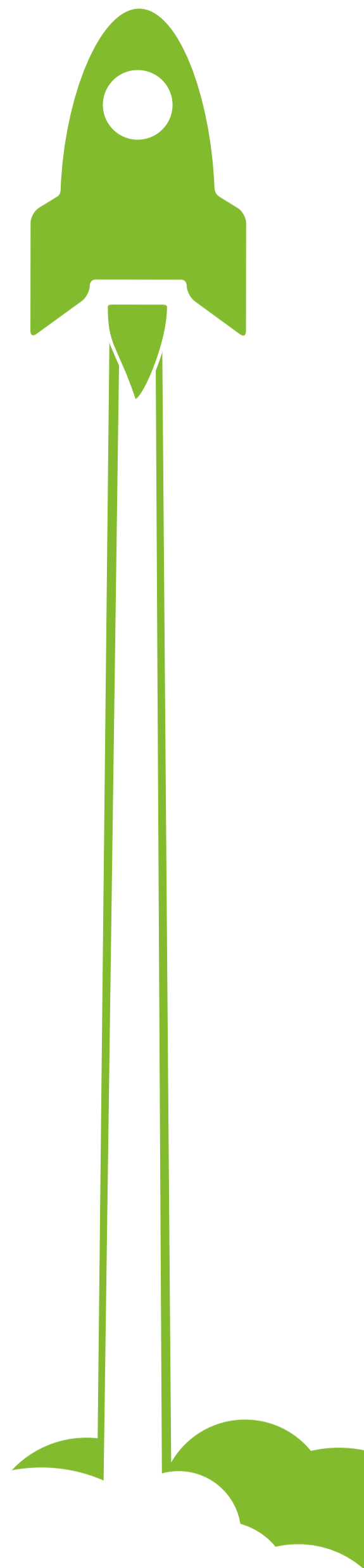
- Project concept
- The understanding of the market
- Facilities that would be required.

## **Better understanding continues to be developed on:**

- Planning requirements
- Launch operator facilities
- Regulation

## **Highland Council pre-planning advice: work ongoing to better understand:**

- **Natural heritage:**
  - Survey work required for landscape, flora and fauna
  - Accompanied by landscape and visual assessment.
- **Access and Siting/Construction**
  - New and upgraded roads
  - Launch pad requirements
  - Spaceport facility requirements



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# **BENEFITS OF SPACEPORT**

## **Employment benefits:**

- Short term: considerable construction employment
- Longer term: support up to 40 jobs in the local area and 400 jobs in the region
  - With wider benefits to the Scottish and UK economy.

## **Other benefits:**

- Supporting existing businesses to grow and develop
- Inward Investment potential
- Tourism activity
- STEM activity

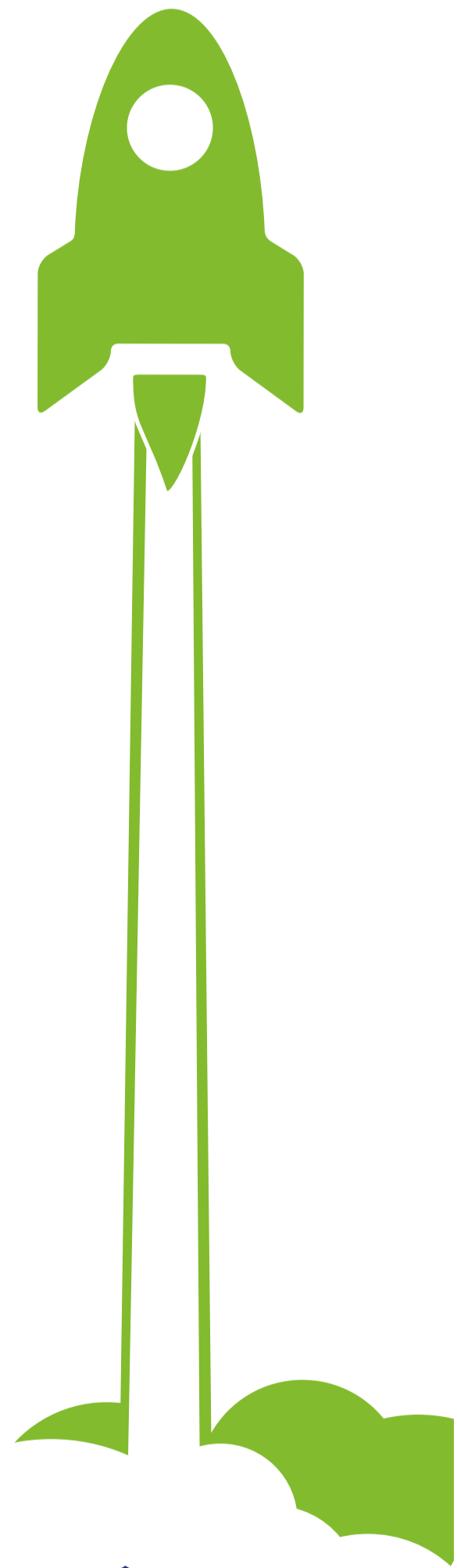


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# **NEXT STEPS**

- **Agreement with Melness Crofters Estate on leasing options.**
- **Environmental surveys**
- **Community consultation**
- **Launch Site Operator procurement**
- **Site Design Development**
- **Planning Application submission**
- **License approvals**



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