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Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

# SPACE HUB SUTHERLAND

## SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the twelfth newsletter from Space Hub Sutherland. Thank you for signing up to receive our updates. Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who may have an interest in the project. If you wish to receive paper copies to display or hand out, please email [spacehubsutherland@hient.co.uk](mailto:spacehubsutherland@hient.co.uk)

### COMMUNITY

#### Community Liaison Group

The SHS Community Liaison Group met on 19 July 2021. The main topic of discussion was an update on the ground investigations that had been carried out on-site the previous month. The next meeting will be on 30 September 2021 and will include a project update, as well as an update on the development of the Visitor Management Plan.

### Programme

#### Planning

- Following the judicial review held in June 2021, the Court of Session [ruled](#) in August that Highland Council had followed the correct procedures when granting Highlands and Islands Enterprise planning permission for Space Hub Sutherland. After the announcement, Wildland Ltd, which had petitioned for the judicial review, reported that they would not appeal Lord Doherty's decision.

- On Friday 10 September, the Scottish Land Court ruled in favour of a change of land use. The Land Court ruling, which we expect it will publish online shortly, represents another important step for Space Hub Sutherland and the Government's vision for the UK to be at the global forefront of small commercial satellite launch.

## Programme activities

- A strategy for the creation of a new 'Space Cluster', commissioned from international specialists Jacobs by the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership, is nearing completion, with particular focus on the North Highlands and Moray. The development of this strategy demonstrates the opportunity that exists to generate jobs and other opportunities, using the key assets of a spaceport; a launch vehicle manufacturer, and crucially the wealth of skills and resources that the North of Scotland is well placed to deliver for the UK's emerging space sector. An executive summary of the strategy is due to be published shortly.
- Peter Guthrie, Senior Project Manager, presented an update of the Space Hub Sutherland project to the Highland Local Resilience Partnership on 16 September 2021. The presentation provided a briefing on the latest status of the project and the next steps.
- David Oxley, HIE's director of Strategic Projects, gave a virtual presentation to the [Royal Aeronautical Society Highland Branch](#) on 9 September 2021. The [presentation](#), Space Hub Sutherland – the journey to create the world's greenest spaceport, provided an update as to why the location was selected, the economic opportunities and progress so far.
- Representatives of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA ) visited the site for Space Hub Sutherland on 14 September 2021.
- Representatives of the Space Hub Sutherland project are attending the UK Space Conference in late September. The conference is being held virtually.

# OTHER INFORMATION

## Media

- New plans to strengthen the UK as a world class space nation by firing up its multibillion-pound space industry have been set out in a [National Space Strategy](#) launched on Monday 27 September.
- Media interest during this quarter focused mainly on the Judicial Review and Land Court rulings.
- Space Hub Sutherland was featured in the Spanish blog [Fuera De Orbita](#) in mid-September.

## UK Space Agency

- On 8 July 2021 all statutory instruments required to enable commercial spaceflight from UK spaceports were signed by Ministers. The legislation came into force on 29 July 2021. Approval by Parliament marks a significant milestone for the spaceflight programme, paving the way for the first launches from 2022, and we hope you will join us in celebrating this important step.

The debates that were held on the secondary legislation can be found in the [House of Commons](#) and [House of Lords](#) Hansard entries.

- The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has now become the UK's spaceflight regulator. Organisations wishing to hold a UK licence to launch, operate a spaceport or range control can now apply to the CAA. The licensing process requires applicants to provide a detailed assessment of safety and security considerations, including a comprehensive safety case, an environmental assessment, financial resources, security and cyber risk mitigation. The CAA has updated its [website](#).
- LaunchUK Industry Group has now formally signed a [Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Iceland](#). Similar to an existing MoU with the Faroese Government, this arrangement secures the Icelandic Government's support for UK launch activities and allows for launches from the UK involving Icelandic airspace and waters. Importantly, it provides UK launch companies with greater flexibility over their spaceflight operations

whilst also offering certainty over the expectations when operating in or near Iceland's maritime Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). You can read more about the MoU and how it will help strengthen the UK's launch offer in a blog post by Ian Annett [here](#).

## Orbex

- Our launch partner Orbex is expanding its Moray operations with a move into a new building close to its headquarters. The additional space is required to accommodate its expanding workforce and to house new equipment.

## Got questions? Check out our website

Our website is the best place to find information about the project, including frequently asked questions. You can access the information at [www.spacehubsutherland.com](http://www.spacehubsutherland.com).

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit our website: [spacehubsutherland.com](http://spacehubsutherland.com) or please get in touch: [spacehubsutherland@hient.co.uk](mailto:spacehubsutherland@hient.co.uk)

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