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Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

SPACE HUB SUTHERLAND MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the tenth 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

COMMUNITY

Community Liaison Group

The Community Liaison Group met virtually on Monday 25 January 2021. The Terms of Reference were endorsed and an update on the progress of the project was provided by Roy Kirk, SHS Project Director, who also answered questions from the group members.

STEM activities planned for young people

Two flight simulators are to be housed in the Newton Room at North Highland College and will be used for STEM activities (science, technology, engineering and maths) once Covid restrictions are lifted. Funding for one has been provided jointly by Developing the Young Workforce and Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL) to provide a flight simulator. The Science Skills Academy is also provided funding for a second simulator.

Programme

Planning

After planning permission from the Highland Council was confirmed in August 2020, HIE submitted an application for development to the Scottish Land Court. The application received one objection, lodged jointly by three individuals and a hearing is currently scheduled to get under way during week commencing 17 May 2021.

The Court of Session granted Wildland's petition for judicial review of the council's decision in January. It is currently expected that the initial hearing will commence on 8 June 2021.

Forward programme

- Having postponed the ground investigation work that was scheduled for January 2021, HIE is currently working with contractors with a view to work getting under way in May.
- Dates are also currently being identified to carry out bird surveys and survey work for the peat restoration plan.
- HIE and Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL) has provided funding to support a Space Cluster Development project. The six-month project has secured funding of £58,000 to develop a space cluster strategy, maximising the local impact of Space Hub Sutherland. The work will be undertaken on behalf of Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership (CNSRP) by the Caithness Chamber of Commerce, who will work with a range of partner organisations.

OTHER INFORMATION

Media

- HIE has published the findings of an extensive [space market assessment](#), carried out by SpaceTec Partners, an international specialist in the sector. This concluded that the UK could move to the forefront of the worldwide launch market for small commercial satellites in the next few years, with launch sites in Scotland playing a vital role. [Read HIE's news release](#).
- Space Hub Sutherland was the subject of Eòrpa's report which was broadcast on Thursday 28 January at 8.30pm on BBC Alba. The Nine also reported on the Space Hub using an edited version of Eòrpa.
- The Herald is running a series of articles on space-related topics. [Read more](#)
- Locally, the Northern Times featured an article on a 90 year old north Sutherland grandmother who has written directly to the First Minister voicing support for Space Hub Sutherland. [Read more](#)

UK Space Agency

- Following a four-year term leading the UK Space Agency, CEO Graham Turnock announced his resignation in January 2021. Recruitment of a successor is underway.
- The UK Government has now analysed responses from the spaceflight consultation on draft regulations and guidance and consultation on liabilities, insurance and charging that was published last year. A response to both consultations will be published shortly. This will allow the start of the process of laying the secondary legislation before Parliament. It is anticipated that most of the secondary legislation will be in place in Summer 2021.

Orbex Space

- On 3 January 2021, Orbex announced its first employment opportunity for Space Hub Sutherland. The job vacancy was for a Spaceport Preparation and Support Manager to work in and around the Tongue/Melness area.
- Orbex has purchased the largest industrial 3D printer in Europe as it prepares to launch from Space Hub Sutherland. Orbex will use the giant machine to rapidly print complex launcher engines in-house. It has signed a multi-million pound deal with AMCM, following a series of successful trials printing various large scale components. [Read more](#)

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit our website: spacehubsutherland.com or please get in touch: spacehubsutherland@hient.co.uk

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