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Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

SPACE HUB SUTHERLAND

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the thirteenth 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.

The Space Hub Sutherland project team would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We're grateful to everyone who has supported the project over the past few years and look forward to an exciting 2022 when we hope to see real progress towards the first launch of small satellites from Sutherland.

COMMUNITY

Community Liaison Group

The SHS Community Liaison Group met on 30 September 2021 and received short updates on general progress with the project and the Visitor Management Plan. The next meeting will be held at the end of January 2022 and it is hoped that it can be 'in person' (Covid dependent) and will include more detailed discussion and planning on aspects of visitor management.

Planning

- We're continuing to make progress in addressing the planning conditions that need to be met for the project to move forward. A number of planning conditions require to be closed out prior to construction starting.

Programme activities

- The [Space Cluster strategy](#), commissioned by Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership was published at the end of September. Funded by HIE and Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL), the strategy focused on the North Highlands and Moray and concluded that up to 740 jobs could be created, boosting the regional economy by £56m a year by the end of this decade.
- Funding has been secured from UK Space Agency, DSRL and HIE to set up a local space leadership group to take forward the action plan from the strategy as well as a further industry group to advise on current industry progress.
- The Scottish Government recently launched its space strategy aiming to create 20,000 jobs and to secure a £4bn share of the global space market for the Scottish economy by 2030. The [Scottish Space Strategy](#) sets out plans to develop a network of satellite launch sites, pursue green technologies and build on existing strengths in data analysis and research.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

- The UK Space Agency has launched the [LaunchUK Nanosat Design competition](#), inviting aspiring space scientists to design a small satellite to help inform solutions to climate change. Entrants will compete for a share of a £600,000 challenge fund to develop and build their design, with the potential for UK launch in 2023. You can follow social media updates via @spacegovuk
- The second in UK Space Agency's series of LaunchUK competitions [LogoLiftOff!](#) was launched at the end of November. This competition invites children aged 4-11 to design a logo reflecting the role of small satellites in informing solutions to climate change. The winning entry will be displayed on launch vehicles from the UK.
- The [Science Skills Academy](#) is planning an exciting space workshop for schools at the March 2022 Caithness International Science Festival. This follows a successful virtual event that attracted 425 primary 6 and 7 pupils in March 2021.

OTHER INFORMATION

Media

- The space sector featured in several media articles during the recent COP26 climate summit held in Glasgow. Melness Crofters Estate Chair, Dorothy Pritchard took part in a panel to discuss peat restoration in relation to Space Hub Sutherland, and this was widely reported.
- UK launch opportunities, including Space Hub Sutherland, were featured in trade publication [The Engineer](#) in October.
- Jamie Stone MP [commented positively](#) on Space Hub Sutherland in the House of Commons on Wednesday 1 December.

UK Space Agency

- UK Space Agency has recently launched the [UK space sector survey](#) (Size and health 2021) which is the primary source of evidence used to track growth in the sector.
- A new project to map [existing work to tackle climate action](#) through the use of space technology and identify what more could be done has been launched by the UK Space Agency and the United Nations at COP 26.
- Eleven UK organisations have been awarded a share of just under £7m UK government funding to put into action the latest advances in space innovation. The majority of the [projects](#) focus on climate change or environmental management, with others designed to secure telecoms systems and protect digital infrastructure against cyber-attacks.

Orbex

- Orbex recently announced its intention to launch the world's most [environmentally friendly space rocket](#).
- In November, Orbex announced an [expansion to their Forres operations](#) by taking on a lease from HIE for a building next to their current premises.
- On 9 December, Orbex announced that work had started on the [first UK orbital space launch pad for 50 years](#) at a test facility near Kinloss in Moray as part of the development of Space Hub Sutherland.

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

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