



# MIDLANDS SPACE CLUSTER

News and Events #3, March 2024

## 1. News

- a. **The 2024 Space Census is now open.** It's a national survey of the UK space workforce, and the results will help improve what it's like to work in the sector, tackle discrimination, and make the sector more attractive to new recruits. Make sure you and your employees are included in the Census, visit [census.spaceskills.org](https://census.spaceskills.org). The census is open to anyone working in the space sector.
- b. Last week during Space-Comm Expo, the government announced its new [Space Industrial Plan](#) which is a joint civil-defence plan, establishing clear visions, missions, and actions to unlock growth and develop resilient space capabilities in the UK.
- c. Subsequently the UK Space Agency announced funding for [6 new projects](#) across the UK to boost growth. We're delighted to announce that #MidlandsSpaceCluster and the North West Space Cluster received funding for our Power4Space project which will develop novel power systems for deep space missions.
- d. It was great to see so many Midlands companies and organisations connecting at Space-Comm Expo. You can see a few photos on our LinkedIn post [here](#).
- e. We were proud to see the pictures of our [National Space Academy colleagues receiving their Queen's Anniversary Award](#) from Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester at Buckingham Palace recently. Loughborough College and National Space Academy received the award for their ground-breaking Space Engineering programme which offers a world-class qualification to aspiring engineers, physicists, and astronauts. As the only course of its kind, the academically intensive programme blends A-Level Mathematics and A-Level Physics with a BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Engineering, which is equivalent to four A-Levels. [Read](#)

## 2. Pivot into Space Update

- a. 5 Midlands SMEs received grant funding following our first call of Pivot into Space and kicked off their projects in January 2024. The second call of Pivot into Space prompted a flurry of applications and we have now made grant offers to an additional 4 companies, who will begin their projects this month. Details of the successful projects can be found [here](#).
- b. With projects ranging from motors to antennas to composites, we're excited to see all these projects progress over the coming months. Keep an eye on the MAA LinkedIn account as we share more details.

### 3. Events and Networking

- a. **Cosmic Coffee** is a monthly community event designed to provide a platform for those working in and around the space community in the Midlands, to come together and to share ideas & receive updates. Kindly sponsored by ESA Business Incubation Centre UK and free to attend. Sign up is through Eventbrite [here](#) follow Space Park Leicester on Eventbrite, Twitter, LinkedIn to receive updates about future events.

### 4. Funding and Support Opportunities

- a. Last week Airbus Defence and Space launched their [Airbus Space Accelerator](#) which is an exciting opportunity for startups, SMEs and academics to directly benefit from Airbus Defence and Space's extensive space heritage and technical expertise. Airbus is looking for companies and academics working on hardware and software technologies with potential applications in space. Technologies include in-orbit application, ground-based technologies, engineering tools or data analytics. They are especially interested to hear from startups who may not have previous experience in space. Find out more [here](#) where you will find an Expression of Interest form to receive full programme information as soon as it's released as well details on how to apply.
- b. Details on open funding opportunities from the UK Space Agency, the space sector, academic, education and community partners can be found [here](#).
- c. The UK Space Agency Fusion programme accelerates early-stage space industry startups to raise funding from angels and stage-appropriate funds. [Find out more and book to attend a free Fusion Investor Lounge webinar](#) on 21st March 10am or 18th April 1pm.
- d. Are you looking to access ESA funding? [Paul Bhatia](#) is the regional ambassador for the Midlands and is well placed to help companies navigate the [ESA Space Solutions](#) programme. The [ESA Business Incubation Centre](#) United Kingdom (ESA BIC UK) is part of ESA Space Solutions and provides start-ups with technical expertise and facilities, business support, networking, office space and funding needed to overcome innovation challenges and accelerate business growth. Our local ESA-BIC programme is run out of Space Park Leicester and you can read more [here](#).



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