



**Satellite
Applications
Catapult
and
Partner
News
(UKSA,
RAL,
UKRI,
IUK)**

Notice: UK Space Agency SEAC: Call for Chairperson nomination

UK Space Agency - Activity on GOV.UK / May 2, 2025

UK Space Agency seeks nominations for SEAC Chairperson by 31 May 2025.

The role is crucial for defining UK's space exploration strategy, especially ahead of the 2025 ESA Council of Ministers meeting.

UK Digital Twin Centre opens in Belfast, ushering in new era of industrial innovation

EV Driven / May 2, 2025

UK Digital Twin Centre opens in Belfast, pioneering technology that creates virtual models of physical assets. Backed by Innovate UK, the centre aims to transform industrial innovation, offering SMEs access to cutting-edge digital simulation tools across sectors like aerospace and maritime.

Notice: ARTES Call 2

UK Space Agency - Activity on GOV.UK / May 2, 2025

UK Space Agency offers £190M ARTES funding for satellite telecommunications. Two calls open: AI Satcom and Ground Station Innovation, supporting up to 5 projects with £10M available for developing satellite gateway technologies.

UK researchers access more quantum and space Horizon funding

News and communications / Apr 29, 2025

UK gains expanded access to Horizon Europe funding for quantum and space research, enabling researchers to bid for £80 billion in collaborative projects. This breakthrough supports international research partnerships and economic growth in cutting-edge technological sectors.

Space and Satellite Industry News

NASA's nuclear power system passes first test with 5x cheaper fuel

[Interesting Engineering Press Releases / Apr 29, 2025](#)

Innovation. NASA and University of Leicester develop a new nuclear power system using americium-241, which is 5x cheaper than traditional plutonium. Successfully tested a prototype that could power long-duration space missions, potentially enabling deeper space exploration.

Health tech firms showcase innovation to MP and Mayor of the West Midlands

[Express & Star / May 6, 2025](#)

West Midlands health tech innovators showcased cutting-edge technologies to local leaders, securing £4m additional funding. The WMHTIA unites 21 partners to support healthcare innovations, driving economic growth and technological advancements in medical solutions.

Chris Hadfield and King Charles Launch 'Astra Carta' to Combat Space Debris Crisis

[Brief / May 6, 2025](#)

Chris Hadfield and King Charles launch Astra Carta to combat space debris, addressing satellite disposal and space exploration sustainability. With 25,000+ debris pieces orbiting Earth, they aim to create regulations and protect astronauts' safety.

ISS Avoids Collision with Chinese Rocket Debris in Emergency Manoeuvre

[Orbital Today / May 5, 2025](#)

ISS avoided collision with Chinese rocket debris on 30 April 2025 by firing Progress 91 thrusters, raising its orbit to prevent a potential impact within 0.4 miles. This was the 41st such manoeuvre, highlighting growing concerns about space debris.

Spacecraft to plunge back to Earth a half-century after failed Venus launch

[The Independent / May 1, 2025](#)

Soviet spacecraft Kosmos 482, launched in 1972 for Venus mission, will likely reenter Earth's atmosphere around May 10. Experts predict a low-risk descent, with the half-ton spacecraft potentially landing in an ocean or between 51.7 degrees north and south latitude.

UP42 and Maxar Partner to Broaden Global Access to the Most Advanced Commercial Geospatial Intelligence

[Earth Imaging Journal: Remote Sensing, Satellite Images, Satellite Imagery / May 5, 2025](#)

UP42 partners with Maxar to provide customers direct access to high-resolution satellite imagery, enabling real-time geospatial intelligence across industries like government, oil, gas, and mining through advanced satellite tasking capabilities.

Unlocking Earth's Secrets from Space: NASA Develops Quantum Sensor to Measure Gravity

[Impact Lab / May 5, 2025](#)

Innovation. NASA develops quantum gravity gradiometer using ultra-cold rubidium atoms to measure Earth's gravitational field from space. This compact sensor could reveal underground structures and mark a breakthrough in quantum space exploration technology.

SatLeo Labs Aims to Transform Earth Observation with New Satellite Tech

[Orbital Today / May 5, 2025](#)

Market Data. Indian startup SatLeo Labs raises \$3.3M to develop thermal imaging satellites for climate monitoring. Their tech can track wildfires, floods, and crop water stress, supporting environmental planning and emerging Indian space innovation.

Webb space telescope en route to the stars

[Airbus Press Releases / May 6, 2025](#)

Webb Space Telescope arrives in Kourou for launch, carrying Airbus-built NIRSpec instrument. This \$10bn joint mission will study early universe formation, exoplanet atmospheres, and look further back in time than Hubble, using advanced infrared technology.

DARPA releases Lunar Assay via Small Satellite Orbiter (LASSO) solicitation

[SatNews / May 6, 2025](#)

DARPA's LASSO program aims to develop small satellite technology for lunar space situational awareness, focusing on mapping water concentrations across the Moon's surface with high-resolution measurements to support future space operations and resource utilization.

Huawei may upgrade satellite communication tech to elevate call experience

[Huawei Central / May 6, 2025](#)

Huawei plans to upgrade low-orbit satellite communication tech, aiming to improve voice calls and network connectivity. The company is working with China Star Network to develop low-orbit Internet and may begin public testing in H2 2025, potentially leading the satellite communication race.

TEKEVER becomes the latest unicorn in Europe's defencetech industry

[Tech.eu / May 6, 2025](#)

TEKEVER becomes Europe's newest unicorn with £1B valuation, launching £400M OVERMATCH program to advance UK defence tech. Focusing on autonomous drone systems, the company aims to transform defence innovation through strategic partnerships and cutting-edge AI technology.

Space Solar Completes Design Study for CASSIOPeiA Satellite

[Via Satellite / Apr 28, 2025](#)

Innovation. Space Solar completed an 18-month design study for CASSIOPeiA satellite, advancing space-based solar power technology. The project confirms achievable satellite mass targets and aims to deliver a megawatt-scale commercial system within 5 years.

Astroscale plans in-orbit satellite upgrades as 'end game' for space sustainability

[IMechE Press Releases / Apr 25, 2025](#)

Astroscale pioneers space sustainability by developing technologies for active debris removal, satellite refueling, and potential in-orbit recycling, aiming to create a circular economy in space while preventing dangerous space junk accumulation.

ISRO and NASA's NISAR mission set to launch in June after years of preparation

[Science News - Times of India / Apr 29, 2025](#)

ISRO and NASA's NISAR satellite launches in June 2025 using GSLV-F16, monitoring Earth's systems every 12 days. Part of ISRO's expanding space exploration with multiple missions including EOS-09, Gaganyaan, and Chandrayaan-4.

Astrogate Labs Bets On Laser Technology To Speed Up Satellite Data Transfers

[Inc42 Media / Apr 29, 2025](#)

Market Data. Astrogate Labs develops laser-based satellite communication tech to dramatically speed up data transfers, targeting small satellites with 1 Gbps transmission rates. Aiming to solve data bottlenecks, the startup plans space deployment by 2025, focusing on government and defense sectors.

Firehawk Aerospace to Develop Further Shelf-Stable Propellant Technology Under Phase II SBIR Contract

[3D Printing Industry / Apr 28, 2025](#)

Innovation. Firehawk Aerospace receives \$1.25M AFWERX contract to develop advanced shelf-stable propellant technologies for defense, focusing on additive manufacturing of solid rocket propellants to improve storage, deployment, and supply chain resilience.

Amazon's Project Kuiper internet network satellites: How much will it cost? Can it compete with SpaceX Starlink?

[mint - science / Apr 29, 2025](#)

Amazon launched its first 27 Project Kuiper satellites, aiming to build a global internet network with 3,232 satellites. Competing with SpaceX's Starlink, the project promises fast, affordable broadband with speeds up to 1 Gbps, targeting global connectivity.

**Govern
ment
and
Policy
News
and
Updates**

SATELLITE SYSTEMS, SATCOM AND SPACE SYSTEMS UPDATE

Update / May 2, 2025

Satellite systems update: SES talks EU communications, Firefly rocket fails, New Zealand creates space squadron, NAL Research and VectorNav develop navigation tech, Rivada expands Outernet, UK gains Horizon research funding, and tensions continue in space technology development.

House Panel Advances Three Space Bills

Payload / Apr 29, 2025

House Science Committee approved 3 space bills: ASTRO Act for astronaut transportation, ASCEND Act for commercial satellite data, and Celestial Time Standardization Act for lunar timekeeping. Bills advance to full House vote.

Intelsat and AXESS Networks extend partnership to boost satellite coverage across the Americas

Total Telecom / May 2, 2025

Intelsat and AXESS Networks (Hispasat subsidiary) extend partnership to enhance satellite connectivity across the Americas, offering improved, scalable communication solutions for enterprise and telecom customers in rural and urban environments.

AAS Sends Letter to Congress in Support of NASA Science

American Astronomical Society / Apr 30, 2025

AAS joins 7 organizations warning Congress about proposed 47% cuts to NASA Science Mission Directorate, highlighting risks to space research, mission development, STEM workforce, and national security. Urging congressional support for NASA science funding.

The UK Government Releases The Secure By Design Problem Book

Orbital Today / Apr 29, 2025

UK Ministry of Defence introduces Secure by Design approach, releasing a problem book highlighting four key security challenges: upskilling defence, managing knowledge distribution, integrating security early in development, and supporting security throughout a product's lifecycle.

Historic moment for Africa as African Space Agency is inaugurated

Realnews Magazine / Apr 26, 2025

Africa inaugurated its Space Agency on April 20, bringing together global space leaders. The event marked a milestone in continental unity, with international support and a vision for space development, symbolizing Africa's commitment to technological advancement and collaborative innovation.

Catapults and Research, Development and Innovation News

Space explosions scientists can't explain

[Hacker News / May 4, 2025](#)

Innovation. Scientists discovered bizarre space explosions called LFBots that are 100x brighter than supernovae. These mysterious cosmic events might be caused by intermediate mass black holes consuming stars, potentially revealing a missing link in understanding black hole evolution.

Heriot-Watt Opens \$3M Quantum Satellite Research Facility, UK's First Optical QKD Station

[The Quantum Insider / May 2, 2025](#)

Innovation. Heriot-Watt University opens UK's first optical quantum ground station (HOGS), enabling secure satellite communications, space debris tracking, and quantum research. The \$3M facility supports national quantum strategy, industry collaboration, and STEM education.

Last week funding recap: Female founders secure nearly €50M amidst challenging ecosystem

[Tech Funding News / Apr 28, 2025](#)

Female founders raised nearly €50M across diverse sectors like biotech, space tech, and healthcare. Startups including Oryzon Genomics, OKAPI:Orbits, and Ovo Labs secured significant funding, demonstrating resilience in a challenging investment climate.

University of Leicester and NASA Achieve Historic First Test Success for Innovative Space Power System

[Science / Apr 28, 2025](#)

Innovation. University of Leicester and NASA successfully tested a groundbreaking space power system using americium-241 heat sources with Stirling convertors, promising more efficient and reliable nuclear power for future space missions.

Scots Team Set Geospatial AI Standards for Environmental Sector

[DIGIT / Apr 28, 2025](#)

Scottish researchers develop Trustable AI in Mapping (TAiM) initiative to create standardized evaluation methods for AI-driven environmental mapping, addressing accuracy concerns and building trust through transparent assessment frameworks and high-quality validation datasets.

End-User Sector News

Ma'aden deploys space technology to explore projects across Arabian Shield

[MINING.COM / May 6, 2025](#)

Innovation. Ma'aden partners with Fleet Space Technologies to explore 12,012.6km² of Arabian Shield using space technology. The 4-year contract enables real-time 3D subsurface imaging up to 7km deep, supporting Ma'aden's growth strategy and Vision 2030 mineral exploration goals.

Debt-free farming: How satellite remote sensing is helping farmers avoid crop losses

[Yourstory](#) / May 4, 2025

Satellite remote sensing helps small Indian farmers overcome financial challenges by providing agricultural insights. It enables precise crop monitoring, resource optimization, and risk management, enabling farmers to make data-driven decisions and reduce crop losses.

NASA Technology Enables Leaps in Artificial Intelligence

[Science News via Michael Safyan on Inoreader](#) / Apr 29, 2025

Innovation. NASA's Ames Research Center helped develop Machine-to-Machine Intelligence (M2M) by creating an automated AI system for secure communications across global networks without human intervention, enabling cross-network device connectivity.

Batteries Used in Space Now Available for Household Use, NASA Says

[GreekReporter.com](#) / Apr 25, 2025

Innovation. NASA's space-grade nickel-hydrogen batteries, originally used in space missions like Hubble and ISS, are now being adapted for household energy storage. EnerVenue has developed a cost-effective version that offers durable, long-term clean energy storage with nearly 90% capacity retention after 20 years.

Earth Observation Emerges as Most Valuable Asset of Nature Finance

[Orbital Today](#) / Apr 25, 2025

Earth observation satellites are becoming crucial for nature finance, providing critical environmental data. Experts at Space-Comm Expo highlight how satellite tech can track climate risks, biodiversity, and environmental impacts, helping companies understand and mitigate their ecological footprint.

OroraTech Brings World's Largest Wildfire Satellite Constellation to the United States

[Earth Imaging Journal: Remote Sensing, Satellite Images, Satellite Imagery](#) / Apr 25, 2025

OroraTech opens U.S. headquarters in Denver, bringing world's largest wildfire satellite constellation to America. Their 40+ satellite network provides real-time fire detection and situational awareness, helping emergency services make faster decisions during wildfires.

NASA 3D Wind Measuring Laser Aims to Improve Forecasts from Air, Space

[NASA](#) / Apr 28, 2025

Innovation. NASA's Aerosol Wind Profiler (AWP) uses 3D laser technology to measure wind direction, speed, and aerosol concentration. Tested on aircraft and through Hurricane Helene, the instrument aims to improve global weather forecasting by providing precise wind measurements where current methods fall short.