



News and Events #10, October 2025

Welcome to our Space sector news, events and funding opportunities update.

1. News

a. Workforce Development and Foresighting, Satellite Applications Catapult

By anticipating the skills required to support the UK space sector, we can address gaps before they emerge and unlock the potential for growth. Unlike traditional workforce forecasting, which focuses on headcount, foresighting is skills-based. It identifies the knowledge, skills, and behaviours that the future workforce will need to succeed—ensuring our sector is ready to reach its goals.

Through the Workforce Foresighting Hub, funded by Innovate UK, the SA Catapult:

- Runs cycles of workshops with industry, academia, and training providers.
- Identifies gaps between current training (apprenticeships, degrees, and CPD) and the skills needed for future growth.
- Provides recommendations to influence policy, course design, and industry standards.
- Highlights transferable skills from other sectors to target career changers and improve upskilling pathways for the existing workforce.

Interested parties are invited to join upcoming foresighting cycles to help develop the workforce of tomorrow. The next workshop subjects are:

- Intelligent Autonomous Robotics Systems and Simulation for Proximity Operations in Space
- Resilient PNT: Building Robust Future Systems

Find out more and register your interest [here](#).

b. Have your say: Fit4Space

Fit4Space offers companies a unique insight into how to de-mystify some of the intricacies of the Space sector. The programme is based on over 55 years of combined experience and understanding of the sector.

Fit4Space is for SMEs new to the space sector as well as existing members of the Space supply chain who want to expand their awareness of relevant space based subjects beyond the confines of the UK sector.

You are invited to help understand the current landscape and identify the areas you would like to explore. Topics which have already been covered in previous sessions can be found on the [Airbus CUSP](#) (Community for Space Prosperity).

Fill in the survey [here](#) to have your say!

3. Events and Networking - Midlands

- a. Space Park Conservations: Tracing Forest Carbon from Space, Space Park Leicester, 14:00 Tuesday 28th October

Tracing forest carbon is crucial for understanding how forests contribute to climate change and helps researchers to discover how much carbon is stored in forests and how this can alter over time. Dr Nezha Acil, a research associate at the National Centre for Earth Observation (NCEO) and fellow of the Institute for Environmental Futures at the University of Leicester, will discuss the research and how it can guide sustainable forest.

[Book now.](#)

- b. How IP can benefit companies in the Space Sector, Webinar, 11:30-13:00, Tuesday 11th November 2025, hosted by Midlands Space Cluster

Intellectual Property (IP) can be used to provide protection and benefits to a wide range of innovations in the space sector. Join Dr Darren Watters of Swindell & Pearson Ltd for an insightful session on how IP rights serve as a crucial strategic tool for companies of all sizes.

In addition, Midlands Space Cluster has negotiated a time-limited benefit to attendees: a free 1-hour IP audit from Swindell & Pearson Ltd, an IP specialist firm. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from a qualified IP professional with over 8 years of experience about the benefits companies can receive from a strong IP portfolio. Book [here](#).

- c. Cosmic Coffee, Space Park Leicester, 15:00 - 16:00, Wednesday 19th November, Space Park Leicester

Join us at Space Park Leicester for a special Cosmic Coffee dedicated to the upcoming COP 30 climate summit. Book your place [here](#).

- d. Climate & Community – Leicester's Journey to COP30, 16:00-18:30, Wednesday 19th November, Space Park Leicester

This evening event following Cosmic Coffee will bring together leading researchers, innovators and local residents to explore how Leicester's work in

climate science, space technology and sustainable innovation is helping to create a better future for Earth.

[Join us](#) for an evening of science, creativity and community.

- e. Supply Chain Engagement and Meet the Buyer Event, Space Park Leicester, 09:00-16:00, Wednesday 26th November

Following the Ignite Space 2025 100-day challenge, The Airbus CUSP's "SME Actions for Success" initiative generated insights across market readiness, technical readiness, and investment readiness. Now, a group of brilliant organisations across the space ecosystem are taking the next step: connecting buyers and suppliers in a dynamic, targeted Supply Chain Engagement and Meet the Buyer event.

This is a unique opportunity for:

- Buyers (Tier 1 & Tier 2) to discover innovative UK SMEs,
- SMEs to showcase capabilities and forge new supply chain relationships,
- 1:1 meetings tailored to your requirements for maximum impact (please note these will be on application and agreed basis),
- Presentations from Industry Experts.

Whether you're looking to expand your supply chain, explore fresh solutions, or engage with the next generation of space innovators, this event is designed to deliver productive connections that matter.

Book your place [here](#).

- e. Midlands Space Cluster Collaboration Day: Connecting Academia and Industry, University of Nottingham, 09:30-13:30, Friday 12th December

This one-day event brings together leading researchers, industry professionals, and regional stakeholders to strengthen collaboration across the Midlands space ecosystem.

Focused on fostering meaningful partnerships between academia and industry, the programme will feature networking sessions, project showcases, and strategic discussions aimed at accelerating innovation in satellite technologies, AI applications, and sustainable space solutions.

Book your place [here](#).

4. Events and Networking - UK

- a. Trajectory - Space Ecosystem Roadshow, London, Tuesday 4th November

This autumn edition of the UK Space Agency Accelerator Trajectory will showcase the creativity, ambition, and diversity of the space start-up community. Expect inspiring conversations, interactive sessions, and plenty of opportunities to connect with pioneers across the industry.

See the agenda and book your place [here](#).

- b. Global MilSatCom, London, 3rd - 6th November 2025

Now in its 27th year, Global MilSatCom is the definitive event for military satellite communications, bringing together 1,000+ senior military, government, and industry leaders from 45+ nations. Renowned for its unmatched military participation, the conference delivers future-focused content, trusted insights, and strategic dialogue at the highest level.

Find out more [here](#).

- c. COP30 UK Online Event, 11:30-13:30, Wednesday 12th November, Online

Strengthening UK's Climate Resilience: Unlocking Socio-Economic Value Through Satellite Climate Intelligence

This is your chance to engage with the COP30 leading issues being discussed during the world summit, without having to travel to Brazil. Hosts Space4Climate are focusing on how Earth Observation can be used to protect the UK from climate extremes that cost lives, infrastructure and national security, putting the economy at risk.

Register [here](#).

- d. Defence Space Conference, IET, London, Tuesday 2nd December

UK Space Command's Defence Space Conference is the leading platform for all those who seek to influence and play a role in the development and operation of the UK's military space capabilities.

This is the UK's primary event for sharing strategic plans, operational capability targets, and programme delivery milestones for the space domain. It also facilitates dialogue and deepens UK defence's relationships with partners across government, the space industrial sector, international partners and academia.

Read more and register [here](#).

5. Funding and Support Opportunities

a. Airbus Launchpad

Airbus Stevenage will be opening the new Airbus Launchpad in early 2026 - a collaborative high-tech lab and workspace designed to accelerate innovation, partnership, and SME development within the UK's space ecosystem.

This new facility will serve as a hub for collaboration, creativity, and capability-building, with a range of lab facilities including robotics, AR, VR and rapid prototyping to strengthen the UK's position as a global leader in space innovation.

Please complete a [short form](#) to express your interest by 6th November.

b. UK Space Agency Accelerator's Shuttle Programme

You don't have to be a space company to benefit from the growing opportunities in the sector. The Shuttle Programme offers a 4-month guided journey to help established companies strategically explore the space sector. You'll gain expert insight, market understanding, and the confidence to identify where your business fits without losing focus on your core operations.

Applications close on 9th November, so apply [here](#).

c. The ESA Proposal Advice Service (ESA PAS)

ESA PAS is a new initiative from UK Space Agency designed to support UK-based organisations bidding for European Space Agency contracts. It is designed to improve the quality, completeness, strategic alignment and consistency of bids - thereby aiming to strengthen the bidder's application for funding - by providing free, non-technical advice to organisations through a thorough review of their draft bid (before submission).

ESA PAS focuses on improving the clarity, structure, and strategic alignment of proposals by identifying common errors and areas for improvement. This is done by a thorough review of the draft bid submission (all volumes), read alongside the ITT/RFP. Detailed feedback is provided giving recommendations for improvements, for example highlighting inconsistencies and common mistakes.

Organisations should apply as soon as they have taken a decision to bid for a specific opportunity. Read more [here](#).

d. Facilities for Academia, Satellite Applications Catapult

The Facilities for Academia gives UK based academics from PhD level and above the opportunity to access the Satellite Applications Catapult's cutting-edge facilities free of charge. Whether you are testing drones, antennas and RF systems, exploring additive manufacturing or trialling in orbit assembly

concepts, this support could help you validate your ideas, accelerate your technology readiness and deliver real world impact.

Deadline to Apply – 1st December 2025. Watch the Launch Webinar and apply [here](#).

e. Unlock the Power of Space to Transform Transport

There is a European Space Agency - ESA funding call that presents a unique opportunity for the region. Applications are required by 31st December 2025. Bring space-based solutions to rail infrastructure and operations.

- Manage rail traffic and capacity
- Predict and prevent delays
- Monitor assets and infrastructure

Apply now: [Space4Rail](#)

f. Horizon Europe 2025: European Innovation Ecosystems

This funding is designed to create innovation ecosystems that support the scaling of companies and spur innovation across the EU, with up to €8m per project.

The European Innovation Ecosystems work programme aims to create and expand more connected, inclusive, and efficient innovation ecosystems that support the scaling of companies and spur innovation.

The call closes on 20th January 2026. Read more [here](#).

g. UK Innovation Science Seed Fund (UKI2S)

Value added to a company is more than just money. UKI2S focuses on nurturing and adding value to innovative ideas that shape the future alongside investing in groundbreaking technology companies.

UKI2S invests in innovations that are in the UKIS strategic priority areas or from the UK's publicly funded science and knowledge base. They focus on those with high growth potential at pre-seed and seed stages – to get the most groundbreaking technologies and ideas to market.

If you are interested in learning more and applying visit [UKI2S – Investing in innovations that transform our future](#)

Sign Off

If you have had a success or reached a milestone in your space sector project or business, we would love to share your news on our website news page: [Latest News and Newsletters at Midlands Space Cluster](#)

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