



## **News and Events #11, November 2025**

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

### **1. Events and Networking - Midlands**

- a. 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](#).

- b. Cosmic Coffee, Space Park Leicester, 15:00 - 16:00, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

- c. Climate & Community – Leicester's Journey to COP30, 16:00-18:30, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

- d. Supply Chain Engagement and Meet the Buyer Event, Space Park Leicester, 09:00-16:00, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

A group of organisations across the space ecosystem are 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,
- 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. Return of the Resilience: Securing the Galaxy of Data, Space Park Leicester, 14:00-15:00, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

This Space Park Conversation explores how government, academia and industry can unite to defend the data that underpins our daily lives.

Book a place [here](#).

- f. Midlands Space Cluster Collaboration Day: Connecting Academia and Industry, University of Nottingham, 09:30-13:30, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

- g. Space Security Roadshow – Midlands, University of Nottingham, 13:30-16:30, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

As space becomes an increasingly vital domain for society, the economy, and national security, it is also becoming more congested, contested, and

competitive. Innovation continues to expand the capabilities of space systems, making them essential - but also more vulnerable to a range of risks.

To address these challenges, the UK Space Agency's Security & Resilience Team is hosting a series of workshops across the UK's cluster networks and regions. These events aim to raise awareness of the risks associated with operating in the space ecosystem and to foster a stronger security mindset among space organisations.

The Midlands event will immediately follow our collaboration event at the Winter Gardens in Nottingham. Register here [Space Security Roadshow Registration | Midlands | NCCUK](#)

## **2. Events and Networking - UK**

### **a. Defence Space Conference, IET, London, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](#).

### **b. Space-Comm Expo Scotland, 3-4 December, SEC Glasgow**

With ADS, ESA, and UKSA supporting you can gain unparalleled access to the powerbrokers shaping government, defence, and military policy and access seminars and roundtables discussing the future of European space. All the leading Space primes will be here and you can discover how Europe plans to become more sovereign in space capability.

Details at [New Home Page - Space-Comm Scotland](#)

### **c. 21<sup>st</sup> Appleton Space Conference, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Rutherford Appleton Labs (RAL)**

This major space conference returns to celebrate the latest advancements in space science, Earth observation and technology development.

The Appleton Space Conference invites academic and industry leaders from across the space sector to celebrate the latest research and developments and explore future opportunities.

Read more [here](#).

d. **GeoAI Festival: Unleash Innovation at the Intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Geospatial Satellite Data**

Defra are working with Innovate UK Business Connect (and several other partners) to organise a 3-day hackathon running in January 2026 in Leeds.

This initiative will bring together innovators, businesses, academics, end users, and public bodies to explore and advance the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in geospatial applications with EO data that would create new products and services for Agri-Food Systems, spatial planning, sustainable land and ocean use, and nature-based markets.

The culmination of these activities will result in participation at the GeoAI Showcase at Space-Comm Expo Europe in March 2026 in London, as well as tailored Commercialisation Credits for SAC's Space Commercialisation Engine valued at up to £80k per winning team.

Find out more here - [GeoAI Festival: Unleash Innovation at the Intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Geospatial Satellite Data - Innovate UK Business Connect](#)

e. **Space-Comm Expo Europe, 4-5 March 2026, London Excel**

Get ready as Space-Comm returns with more Meet the Buyer events, a dedicated Defence and National Security Zone backed by ADS, Smarter Networking and bigger and broader Symposia.

Details [here](#).

### **3. Funding and Support Opportunities**

a. **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](#).

b. 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025. Watch the Launch Webinar and apply [here](#).

c. 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](#)

d. 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 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Read more [here](#).

e. 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](#)

f. Made Smarter

The "Made Smarter" program offers funding and support to UK manufacturers, particularly SMEs, to help them adopt digital technologies and improve their operations. This includes match-funded grants of up to 50% (with a maximum of £20,000) for equipment and/or advice to implement projects, as well as access to digital technology advice and workforce development

Read more [here](#).

g. Cyber security consultancy support, plus assessment and certification

The threat to space is real and coming increasingly closer to the UK space industry, as attempted breaches have demonstrated. Demonstrating a commitment to security is critical to the ongoing success of any business. Ensuring secure, robust and recoverable services and services can provide a competitive advantage in the marketplace and avoid unnecessary costly retrofitting.

Successful applicants can receive up to 3 days consultation from a cybersecurity professional funded by the UK Space Agency. This can be virtual or at a place of business (UK), depending on requirements.

Find out more at [Cyber security consultancy support, plus assessment and certification - GOV.UK](#)

## 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](#)

Nicola Deards  
Technology Manager

Mobile: 07713 832217

Midlands Aerospace Alliance Tel: 024 7643 0256

[nicola.deards@midlandsaerospace.org.uk](mailto:nicola.deards@midlandsaerospace.org.uk)

