



News and Events #20, August 2026

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

1. News

a. **Lincoln College Named One of UK's Defence Technical Excellence Colleges**

Congratulations to Lincoln College, which has been selected as one of just five national **Defence Technical Excellence Colleges (DTECs)**, recognising its leadership in delivering industry-focused technical training for the defence sector. Building on the expertise of its Air and Space Institute in Newark, the college will work with defence employers to develop training in aerospace engineering, digital defence technologies and advanced manufacturing, helping create a pipeline of skilled talent while leading a regional network of training providers.

Read the full announcement [here](#).

b. **Midlands Businesses Well Represented at Airbus SME Peer2Peer Event**

Twenty Midlands Space Cluster member companies joined more than 30 innovative SMEs from across the UK at the **Airbus Launchpad SME Peer2Peer Support** event in Stevenage on 14th July. Organised as part of the **Community for Space Prosperity (CUSP)** initiative, the event brought together businesses, investors, industry experts and support organisations to share experiences, tackle common challenges and identify practical routes to growth through a series of interactive workshops focused on investment, business development, technology and ecosystem support.

The Midlands was strongly represented, with companies spanning advanced manufacturing, engineering, software, satellite technologies and space applications, demonstrating the breadth of capability within the region's growing space ecosystem. The event provided valuable opportunities to build new partnerships, exchange best practice and strengthen connections across the UK space sector.

c. **Unique Opportunity for Midlands Companies with Invest India**

Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India, is actively supporting companies in the space, aerospace and

advanced manufacturing sectors that are considering India as a potential market, manufacturing base or location for future operations.

They provide pro bono, end-to-end support to companies exploring opportunities in India, including:

- Understanding the Indian market and policy environment
- Identifying potential locations and partners
- Support with establishing an operational or manufacturing presence
- Engagement with relevant Indian Government and state-level bodies
- Exploring available incentives and support packages
- Ongoing support as companies establish and expand their activities in India

They are also facilitating an introduction to **IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre)**, which works with and supports India's growing private space sector.

If your organisation is currently considering India, or you would simply be interested in an initial conversation to understand the opportunities available, please contact [Vinay Patel](#) at Space Park Leicester.

There is no obligation at this stage – this is simply an opportunity to explore whether the Indian market could be relevant to your organisation.

d. **Help Inspire the Next Generation at Space Futures**

Space Futures will bring together young people, educators, STEM Ambassadors and the wider space sector for a day dedicated to inspiring the next generation to consider careers in space and STEM during World Space Week 2026 at the National Space Centre in Leicester. The programme will include an in-person event for around 60 students, featuring a student challenge and careers panel, alongside an online programme reaching around 1,000 students through interactive sessions and careers-focused fireside chats. The day will conclude with an evening awards dinner, bringing together the space sector and STEM Ambassadors to celebrate their contribution.

Organisations from across the Midlands space community are invited to support Space Futures and help give students a first-hand insight into the breadth of careers available within the sector. There are a range of ways to participate, including joining a careers panel, exhibiting at the mini careers fair, acting as an expert judge for the student challenge, or providing activities and resources for students. Supporting organisations will also be invited to the evening awards dinner, providing an opportunity to meet and network with others from across the sector.

If you are interested, please contact [Heidi Thiemann](#) for a brochure.

2. Events and Networking - Midlands

- a. **UK Earth Observation Conference 2026**, 15th – 17th September, University of Warwick

UKEO 2026 will bring together the UK's Earth observation community across research, industry, government and policy to share the latest science, applications and innovations shaping our use of Earth observation data and technology. The conference will provide a key forum to exchange ideas, build collaborations and explore how EO supports national and global priorities.

Register now: <https://ukeo.org/>

- b. **Introduction to Horizon Europe 2026**, 10:00–11:00, 23rd September, Online

Innovate UK Business Connect is running a free one-hour introductory webinar on Horizon Europe, aimed at organisations with little or no recent experience of the programme. The session will cover how Horizon Europe works, the different funding mechanisms, how to find relevant calls and partners, understand Work Programmes and access available support. Repeated later in 2026 on 29th October, 26th November and 16th December.

Register now: [Introduction to Horizon Europe 2026](#)

3. Events and Networking – UK and Europe

- a. **Space for Inspiration 2026**, 1st-2nd September, Copenhagen

ESA's flagship conference to spotlight the future of commercial space brings together companies, researchers, investors and space agencies to explore the next generation of commercial opportunities in space. The event will focus on scaling research and production in space, with sessions covering microgravity life sciences, advanced materials and in-space manufacturing, agri-food technologies, and lunar space resources.

Early-bird tickets available for a limited period [here](#).

- b. **ESA Industry Space Days 2026**, 16th-17th September, Noordwijk, the Netherlands

Organised by ESA's SME Office supporting SMEs working with ESA, this event facilitates networking and the establishing of new business contacts. It includes pre-arranged one-to-one meetings, exhibitions highlighting the innovations and expertise of selected SMEs, briefings on business opportunities by large groups and institutional organisations, and conferences on space perspectives and market trends.

Register [here](#).

c. **Aerospace & Defence Meetings 2026**, 16th –17th September, Brno, Czech Republic

Organised by BCI Aerospace, this international business convention brings together aerospace, defence and space companies for two days of pre-arranged one-to-one meetings, expert conferences and networking, helping organisations identify new customers, suppliers and collaboration opportunities across the European supply chain.

Registration is now [open](#).

d. **UK Space Power Conference**, 23rd -24th September 2026

Space has never been more important for our defence and economy. At this inaugural conference UK Space Command will outline plans to keep the UK secure in space, and prosperous at home. This new conference is the UK Ministry of Defence's flagship conference for space, bringing together industry, academia, government, and the military.

Read more and buy tickets [here](#).

e. **EU Access to Space Conference**, 23rd September, Brussels

The 2nd EU Access to Space Conference will bring together policymakers, launch providers, industry leaders and researchers to discuss how Europe can strengthen its independent, resilient and cost-effective access to space. Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), this year's event will focus on three key themes: aggregating institutional launch demand, accelerating innovation in next-generation launcher systems, and developing the critical ground infrastructure needed to support Europe's future launch capabilities.

Registration is now open [here](#).

f. **EURO DEFENCE EXPO (EUDEX) 2026**, 22nd–25th September, Essen, Germany

The inaugural EURO DEFENCE EXPO (EUDEX) will bring together the European defence and security community at Messe Essen, creating a new platform connecting industry, policymakers and users of military security technologies. Running alongside Security Essen, the event will combine civil and military security technologies, with a programme including conferences, forums, international matchmaking and live demonstrations.

EUDEX will also coincide with the annual **NATO Joint Air Power Competence Centre (JAPCC) Conference**, which attracts more than 400 senior military representatives from NATO nations, creating further opportunities for engagement between industry and defence decision-makers.

[Find out more and register](#)

- g. **ESA Open Days 2026 are coming: mark your calendar!** 10th October, ESA ECSAT, Harwell Campus

This free public event offers a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes of ESA's UK centre, meet space scientists and engineers, and discover the missions and technologies shaping the future of space exploration. Visitors will be able to enjoy interactive exhibits, talks, demonstrations and family-friendly activities covering everything from Earth observation and telecommunications to planetary science and human spaceflight.

Registration will open later this year - mark the date in your calendar and watch for further announcements.

- h. **Franco-British Aerospace & Space Industry Seminar**, 27th October 2026, London

GIFAS, the French Aerospace Industries Association, is bringing a major industrial delegation to the UK in October, led by GIFAS Chairman and SAFRAN CEO Olivier Andries. More than 60 French companies will participate, representing the full civil aerospace, defence and space ecosystem, from major prime contractors to suppliers, SMEs and start-ups. French government representatives, including the DGA – France's defence procurement agency, will also join the delegation.

As part of the visit, GIFAS and ADS will host a Franco-British bilateral seminar in London. The programme will include senior-level keynotes, roundtable discussions and an extensive B2B matchmaking session, providing UK companies with an excellent opportunity to build relationships with potential French customers, suppliers and partners. Participation is free but subject to validation and availability. [Register now](#)

- i. **NEXT Space**, 9th November, Gothenburg, Sweden

Next Space 2026 will bring together international space industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors and policymakers for a major new conference focused on the commercial future of space. The inaugural event will examine how nations and businesses can better leverage space technologies and services to create new capabilities, accelerate innovation and strengthen economic competitiveness.

The one-day conference will feature discussions on national strategy, commercialisation opportunities, cross-sector collaboration and emerging business models across the global space economy. Designed to showcase real-world applications of commercial space services while helping build stronger international partnerships and investment opportunities within the rapidly evolving space sector. Read more and register [here](#)

- j. **Space Tech Expo Europe 2026**, 17th-19th November, Bremen, Germany

Space Tech Expo Europe, Europe's largest B2B space event, returns to Bremen this November, bringing together the international space supply chain to showcase technologies, source solutions and develop new partnerships. The exhibition

covers the breadth of the sector, including satellite operations, launch services, communications and ground systems, manufacturing, materials, subsystems, components, software, optics and engineering services, alongside a programme of conferences exploring the latest industry trends, technologies and challenges.

[Find out more and register](#)

k. **Beyond the Moon 2026**, 19th - 20th November, London & Online

The British Interplanetary Society's 6th Beyond the Moon Symposium will explore the challenges and opportunities involved in expanding human activity beyond lunar bases and into the wider Solar System. Bringing together scientists, engineers, policymakers and other space professionals, the two-day event will consider both technical and societal challenges, including radiation protection, sustainable habitats, advanced propulsion and governance, while exploring the technologies and long-term strategies needed to enable a sustained human presence beyond Earth.

The symposium takes place at BIS HQ in London, with online participation also available via Zoom. A Call for Papers is also open, inviting researchers and industry experts to submit abstracts covering relevant projects, ideas and perspectives for consideration by the programme committee.

[Find out more and register](#)

l. **In-Orbit Servicing, Assembly & Manufacturing (ISAM) Conference**, 23rd February 2027, Excel London

One day before Space-Comm Expo, the ISAM Conference 2027 will bring together industry, academia, government and the wider space community to explore the technologies and capabilities enabling the next generation of activity in orbit. The conference provides a forum for discussion and collaboration around in-orbit servicing, assembly and manufacturing, including the technologies, applications, regulation and commercial opportunities that will support a more sustainable and capable space economy.

[Find out more and register](#)

4. **Funding and Support Opportunities**

a. **National Space Innovation Programme Call 3**

The UK Space Agency has launched NSIP Call 3, providing grant funding for ambitious UK-led projects developing innovative space technologies, applications and services with strong commercial potential. The competition supports both Kick Starter and Major Project proposals from UK businesses, universities and research organisations, helping to accelerate high-impact innovations towards market.

Applicants must first submit an Expression of Interest by 5th August 2026, with Outline Proposals due by **20th August 2026** and shortlisted applicants invited to submit Full Proposals later in the year. Midlands organisations with innovative space projects are encouraged to review the call guidance and apply.

See more [here](#).

b. Space Clusters Infrastructure Fund – Call 2

The UK Space Agency is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the next round of the Space Clusters Infrastructure Fund (SCIF), which will provide at least £37 million for R&D infrastructure projects that strengthen UK space capabilities. Funding will support infrastructure for areas such as testing, validation, manufacturing and scale-up, helping businesses commercialise technologies, attract investment and strengthen supply chains. At least 65% of funding is expected to be invested outside the Greater South East, subject to proposals meeting the required quality threshold.

The EOI is a light-touch, non-competitive stage ahead of the formal funding competition expected this autumn and is not mandatory for later applications. Expressions of Interest must be submitted by **12pm on 21st August 2026**, with outline proposals expected from September and grants awarded from February 2027. Midlands organisations considering an application are encouraged to engage with us in the Midlands Space Cluster, to help identify potential collaborations and strengthen proposals ahead of the formal competition.

See more [here](#).

c. Earth Observation Innovation Call 1

The UK Space Agency has launched Earth Observation Missions and Technology Innovation Call 1, supporting the development of early-stage Earth observation instrumentation and hardware technologies (TRL 1–4) with the potential to deliver future scientific, commercial and dual-use benefits. The call is aimed at UK organisations developing innovative mission concepts, sensors and enabling technologies that could strengthen the UK's Earth observation capability and create long-term economic growth.

Projects can apply for grants ranging from £100,000 to £2 million, with funding available for activities lasting up to 36 months. The competition is open to UK businesses, universities and research organisations, with applications closing on **21st August 2026**. Organisations considering applying are encouraged to review the call guidance and eligibility requirements as early as possible.

Full details and application forms [here](#).

d. **ESA InCubed Call Supports Commercial Earth Observation Innovation**

The UK Space Agency, in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA), has opened a new InCubed funding call to support organisations developing innovative, commercially viable Earth Observation (EO) products and services. The programme is aimed at projects that are close to market, helping businesses de-risk technologies and accelerate commercial deployment across the EO value chain, from satellites and sensors to data applications and downstream services.

Successful projects can receive €300,000 to €4 million in co-funding, depending on the scope of the activity. The competition is open to UK organisations with a clear route to market and evidence of commercial demand, with applications closing on **21st August 2026**. Read more [here](#).

e. **UK Space Agency Funding for Space Object Characterisation**

The UK Space Agency's Unlocking Space for Defence (USD) programme and the National Space Operations Centre (NSpOC) are offering funding to develop new approaches for the characterisation of Resident Space Objects (RSOs). The competition will support initial proof-of-concept solutions that improve the quality of data being ingested into the UK's BOREALIS space domain awareness system, strengthening NSpOC's ability to understand and characterise objects in orbit. Between three and five contracts worth £120,000–£250,000 each (including VAT) are expected to be awarded, from a total funding allocation of up to £750,000 including VAT.

As BOREALIS is a sovereign UK capability, the competition is restricted to UK-registered companies and universities and is particularly suitable for SMEs. Projects are expected to run from 21 September 2026 to 31 March 2027. The deadline for enquiries is **5pm on 24th August**, with tenders to be submitted through the UK Space Agency's Jaggaer eSourcing Portal by **3pm on 4th September 2026**.

[View the procurement notice](#)

f. **ESA BIC UK Opens Latest Call for Space Start-ups**

Applications are now open for the latest ESA Business Incubation Centre (ESA BIC) UK funding round, supporting early-stage companies with innovative ideas that use space technology, space data or develop new technologies for the space sector. Successful applicants receive £51,720 (€60,000) in non-equity funding, together with business coaching, technical expertise, intellectual property support and access to ESA's Europe-wide innovation network over a 12 or 24-month incubation programme.

The programme is open to UK-registered companies less than five years old with a demonstrable space connection. The next application deadline is **12:00 on Friday 28th August 2026**, and prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the ESA BIC UK team well in advance to discuss their idea and receive support with their application. Read more [here](#).

g. **ESA BASS Kick-Start Funding for Space-Enabled Services**

The European Space Agency's Business Applications and Space Solutions (BASS) Kick-Start programme offers funding for businesses to explore new commercially viable services that use at least one space asset, such as satellite communications, Earth observation data or satellite navigation. The six-month feasibility studies help companies test technical viability, engage potential customers and develop their business case and route to market. ESA provides 75% funding, up to €75,000 per project, against a maximum total project cost of €100,000.

The call is open throughout the year, with proposals assessed in batches. The next deadline is **28th August 2026 at 13:00 CET**, followed by a further deadline on **30th October 2026**. See more via the [ESA Business Applications website](#).

h. **ESA 'University of Tomorrow' Innovation Call**

ESA has opened its University of Tomorrow funding call, inviting businesses to develop space-enabled applications and services that help universities address challenges such as digital transformation, sustainability, research, education, campus operations and student experience. Selected Kick-Start studies can receive up to €75,000, covering 75% of project costs, to explore innovative concepts with strong commercial potential.

The competition is open to the UK, with proposals due by **31st August 2026**. Companies interested in applying are encouraged to attend the ESA webinar and review the call guidance on the ESA Business Applications website before submitting their proposal.

i. **Earth Observation Missions and Technology Innovation Call 1**

The UK Space Agency is inviting proposals for UK-based R&D projects developing innovative Earth Observation (EO) technologies through its new EOMT Innovation Call. A total of up to £1.4 million is available, with individual projects able to request up to £200,000 for activities lasting up to 12 months. Early-stage technologies supporting areas including climate monitoring, the environment, dual-use and commercial applications are particularly encouraged.

The call is open to UK organisations developing technologies that support the ambitions of the National Space Strategy, with successful projects required to complete by 31st October 2027. Applications must be submitted by **11:59pm on 1st September 2026**.

See more via the [UK Space Agency call page](#).

j. **Horizon Europe: Digital Technologies for Earth Observation and Satellite Communications**

A new Horizon Europe call is seeking collaborative R&D projects to develop digital enablers and technology building blocks for Earth Observation and satellite telecommunications. Part of the European Space Partnership, the opportunity aims to advance innovative technologies that can strengthen future European space solutions and capabilities, and is structured as a Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Action.

The call, HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-31, opened on 10 March and has a submission deadline of **3rd September 2026**. Midlands organisations with relevant expertise in satellite communications, Earth observation, digital technologies and enabling space technologies are encouraged to explore opportunities to participate in European consortia.

See more via the [Horizon Europe call page](#).

k. **ESA Launches Twin Open Calls to Shape Future Lunar Exploration**

The European Space Agency (ESA) has launched two complementary opportunities through its Open Space Innovation Platform (OSIP), inviting the space community to help shape future lunar exploration. A **Call for Scientific Instruments** is seeking innovative concepts for payloads and technologies to support future lunar missions, with submissions closing on **3rd September 2026**. Alongside this, a Request for Information is inviting ideas for **commercial lunar data products** that could support science, exploration and future lunar services, with a submission deadline of **29th September 2026**.

Both opportunities are open to industry, academia and research organisations, providing a chance to influence ESA's future lunar exploration strategy and develop technologies for upcoming missions. Midlands Space Cluster members with expertise in lunar science, instrumentation, Earth observation, mapping or commercial data services are encouraged to review the calls and submit their ideas before the respective deadlines.

Scientific instruments [call](#) and commercial lunar data products [RFI](#).

l. **Digital Twin Adoption Accelerator 2026**

Digital Catapult has opened applications for the Digital Twin Adoption Accelerator 2026, a nine-month programme supporting partnerships between UK technology SMEs and industry adopters to develop proof-of-concept digital twin solutions. The programme covers a range of sectors including aerospace and space, defence, automotive, maritime and clean energy, with up to £100,000 in Innovate UK grant funding per successful project, alongside technical expertise, mentoring and access to specialist facilities.

Applications must come from a pre-formed partnership between a UK technology SME and an organisation with a real-world digital twin adoption challenge. Nine partnerships will be selected, with applications closing on **6th September 2026** and the programme beginning in November.

See more [here](#).

m. Leonardo Solvers Wanted – Funding and Co-development Opportunities

Leonardo, one of Europe's leading aerospace, defence and security companies, is seeking startups, researchers and innovators to help develop emerging technologies through its Solvers Wanted programme. Three new challenges cover sustainable space operations and lunar resources; photonic technologies, optical processing and advanced materials; and AI, advanced computing, future sensing, low-observability and resilient materials. Rather than simply procuring existing solutions, Leonardo is offering the opportunity to co-develop technologies with potential strategic applications across its international business.

Selected participants will receive €50,000 in initial funding, alongside opportunities for technology validation, future industrial collaboration and inclusion within Leonardo's supplier ecosystem. Participants can also access internationalisation and grant-funding support, innovation networks and increased visibility within the Leonardo Group. Application deadlines are **15th and 30th September 2026**, depending on the individual challenge.

[Apply through the Leonardo Solvers Wanted programme.](#)

n. £14.3m Funding to Accelerate Quantum Sensing and PNT

Innovate UK has launched a new competition providing up to £14.3 million to accelerate the adoption of quantum-enabled sensing and Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) technologies. Projects must address a specific technical or commercial barrier to adoption and focus on one of three areas: quantum sensing for healthcare; quantum-enabled PNT; or quantum sensing for transport, telecoms, energy or defence. Individual collaborative projects can request between £1 million and £3 million in grant funding and run for 12–24 months.

Projects must be led by a UK-registered business and include at least one UK SME claiming grant funding, with universities, RTOs, public sector organisations and other businesses able to participate as partners. The competition closes at **11am on 16th September 2026**, with successful projects expected to start by 1 December 2026.

See more via the [Innovate UK competition page](#).

o. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships – 2026/27 Round 3

Innovate UK has opened the latest Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) competition, with £12.5 million available to support collaborations between

innovative UK businesses and universities, further education institutions, RTOs or Catapults. KTPs bring academic expertise and new skills into a business to deliver a strategic innovation project, with projects generally designed to run for up to 24 months.

SMEs can receive up to 67% of eligible project costs, while large companies can receive up to 50%. Applications must be led by an eligible knowledge base working with a UK-registered business and supported by a Knowledge Transfer Adviser. The competition is open now and closes at **11am on 14 October 2026**.

See more [here](#).

p. **Coming Soon: New UK–Florida Space Innovation Fund**

A new UK–Florida space partnership will create opportunities for UK companies and researchers to collaborate with organisations in one of the world’s leading space ecosystems. Announced by the UK Space Agency and Space Florida at Farnborough International Airshow, the partnership includes a new £300,000 joint innovation fund designed to help collaborative projects progress from concept towards demonstration and commercialisation. Areas of particular interest include space transportation, satellite systems, in-space research, advanced exploration technologies, and in-orbit servicing and manufacturing.

The formal funding call is expected to open in **Autumn 2026**, with successful projects selected in 2027. Projects will need to involve at least one UK organisation and one Florida-based partner and demonstrate clear commercial potential.

[Read the UK Space Agency announcement](#)

q. **UK National Delegate support for ESA ARTES Invitations to Tender**

UK organisations can now apply for National Delegate support to access funding through the European Space Agency's ARTES (Advanced Research in Telecommunications Systems) programme. ARTES supports the development of innovative satellite communications technologies, products and services, with eligible ESA Invitations to Tender (ITTs) offering up to 100% funding for early-stage technology development and innovation.

The opportunity is open to UK companies, universities and research organisations applying to UK Space Agency-supported ESA ARTES calls. Organisations should first check that their chosen ITT is supported by the UK Space Agency before applying for National Delegate approval, which is a mandatory step before submitting a proposal to ESA. Further details, supported activities and application guidance are available [here](#).

r. **ESA General Support Technology Programme (GSTP)**

The UK Space Agency is inviting UK organisations to access ESA’s GSTP, which supports the development and maturation of innovative space technologies across

almost all space domains, from early-stage concepts through to mission-ready hardware. The programme is open to businesses, universities and research organisations developing technologies with strong commercial or strategic potential, helping bridge the gap between research and deployment.

Funding opportunities are available through a range of GSTP activities, with support levels varying depending on the type of project. Organisations wishing to apply should review the current calls and submit a Statement of Interest to the UK Space Agency for National Delegate approval before applying to ESA. Full details, including submission dates and guidance, are available [here](#).

s. ESA NAVISP Supports Next-Generation Navigation Technologies

The UK Space Agency is inviting organisations to apply for funding through ESA's Navigation Innovation and Support Programme (NAVISP), which supports the development of innovative Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) technologies. The programme is open to UK businesses, universities and research organisations developing commercially focused products, services and technologies across the space, ground and user segments, with opportunities ranging from competitive tenders to open calls for proposals.

The programme is open year-round, with funding available across three NAVISP elements. Support can range from up to 100% funding for some early-stage research activities to co-funded commercial innovation projects, depending on the funding route. Organisations must obtain UK Space Agency National Delegate approval before submitting proposals to ESA and are encouraged to engage with the UK Space Agency at the earliest opportunity. Read more [here](#).

t. Horizon Europe work programmes

You can view available work programmes for 2026-27 now at [Horizon Europe work programmes - Research and innovation](#)

Work has been going on behind the scenes to make the opportunities more accessible for SMEs, start-ups and new applicants. Of particular interest are - Cluster 4 which covers Digital, Industry and Space and Cluster 5 which covers Climate, Energy and Mobility.

u. Accelerating Investment Export Pathway

This is a UK Space Agency programme, supported by KPMG, that is specifically designed to support high-potential, early-stage UK space businesses in expanding into international markets.

The programme offers:

- Targeted Training: Practical workshops on market entry strategies, international procurement, and export readiness, tailored for the space sector.

- Expert Guidance: Support from leading technical experts and international market specialists.
- Global Reach: Preparation for Department for Business and Trade missions and navigating complex international trade landscapes.

Further details on the programme can be found here, including eligibility criteria and how to apply: [Unlock Your Global Potential: Accelerating Investment Export Pathway for UK Space SMEs](#).

v. Mercia Ventures looking to invest up to £10m into Midlands companies

Mercia Ventures is a proactive venture capital investor focused on being the first-choice partner for growth. Mercia Ventures makes equity investments of up to £10million across all sectors, with specialisms in Software, Consumer, Healthcare and Deep Tech, and are looking to build their portfolio in the Space Sector.

Contact Amrit Sami at amrit.sami@merciam.co.uk

w. The ESA Proposal Advice Service (ESA PAS)

Designed to support UK-based organisations bidding for European Space Agency contracts and 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).

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

x. UK Innovation Science Seed Fund (UKI2S)

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 [Space – UKI2S](#)

y. 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](#).

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 here and on our website news page:

[Latest News and Newsletters at Midlands Space Cluster](#)

Get in touch!

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