

- **The Government has published its [Industrial Strategy](#) today which includes support for a £50 million programme to kick-start small satellite launch and sub-orbital flight from UK spaceports**
- **Funding will be used to invest in the first missions from the UK and deliver a programme of work to realise benefits across the country**
- **The UK Space Agency is currently considering proposals from companies planning to develop space launch services in the UK**
- **We are also developing plans to help companies, spaceports and communities across the UK benefit from new UK launch markets**
- **We are currently touring the country with a LaunchUK Roadshow and will set out our plans at a LaunchUK industry event in the spring**

Announcement of £50m funding for UK space launch

On Monday the 27th of November 2017 the Government announced its [Industrial strategy](#) to build a Britain fit for the future. The strategy recognises that low cost access to space offers an exciting opportunity for the UK to thrive in the commercial space age, and supports this ambition, subject to a business case, through “a [£50 million programme](#) to enable new satellite launch services and low gravity spaceflights from UK spaceports”.

This represents a strategic investment in new markets for UK space launch and sub-orbital flight, which will enable UK companies to pursue a global opportunity worth £10 billion from 2020-2030. The UK Space Agency will use this funding to help build the capabilities needed to deliver the first missions from UK spaceports, develop new components and services to supply the emerging global launch market, and realise the benefits of new launch services across the UK.

Space launch remains a bold and ambitious endeavour, but one that enables so much of our economy, society and security. The UK Government recognises the importance of low cost access to space and its role in empowering our digital economy, boosting our satellite industry and inspiring the next generation of UK science, technology and talent.

The UK is well placed to host and grow companies who share our ambition to provide low cost, commercial access to space. The UK has the right geography, industry and environment to thrive in the new commercial space age. This investment will accelerate progress towards a UK space and aerospace sector benefiting from direct access to space.

This funding will complement existing activity being delivered by the UK Space Agency, Department for Transport and Civil Aviation Authority, to develop a comprehensive regulatory environment (see the [Space Industry Bill](#) currently going through Parliament), and [establish the international agreements](#) needed to enable UK launch services. Our ambition is to be the first country in Europe where commercial operators can both launch small satellites into orbit and offer sub-orbital flights.

What the funding will be used for

The UK Space Agency's satellite launch programme intends to use this funding to stimulate rapid development of the UK markets for small satellite launch and sub-orbital flight, whilst increasing UK participation in the supply chain for commercial space launch services. This funding will amplify recent investments in UK facilities [for Satellite Testing and Space Propulsion](#), securing our future as a world leader in satellite technology, launch and spaceflight, and making the UK the best destination in Europe to grow a space business.

In [February 2017](#) the Space Agency invited companies interested in developing spaceports and vehicles in the UK to jointly submit grant funding proposals. [We received 26 proposals](#) and are considering a number of leading options to inform a business case for investment.

The announcement of £50 million of funding for space launch reflects the Government's confidence in the high level of interest and ambition evidenced through the UK Space Agency's call for proposals. This funding will be used to support industry led initiatives and kick-start markets for small satellite launch and sub-orbital flight in the UK.

Subject to business case, this may include:

- Providing grants to help **build the capabilities** needed to enable the first missions from UK spaceport(s), such as funding proposals [from our recent call](#).
- Delivering a market strategy to **develop a globally competitive spaceflight sector**, building on the UK's strengths and international outlook in technology and services.
- Conducting outreach and engagement activity that **inspires the next generation** of scientists and engineers, helping to grow new skills, science and technology.

What happens next

- We are currently touring the country with a [LaunchUK roadshow](#) to raise awareness of our ambitions, share our thinking and gather feedback on the UK's supply chain.
- The UK Space Agency is currently reviewing multiple proposals for grant funding to ensure any grant funding delivers the best outcome for the UK.
- The Space Industry Bill is making good progress through Parliament, towards its anticipated date of royal assent in the New Year.
- The UK Space Agency, DfT and the CAA will engage with industry as it continues to develop the regulatory and licencing framework to support UK launch.
- **We will hold a LaunchUK event in spring 2018 to set out our long term strategy, and to work with stakeholders on how we can deliver competitive low cost access to space from the UK, and realise the benefits this will bring, together.**

Keep an eye on the [commercial spaceflight](#) page on GOV.UK and follow the UK Space Agency on twitter [@spacegovUK](#) for updates on LaunchUK events and announcements.