



# MIDLANDS SPACE CLUSTER

News and Events #4, May 2024

## 1. News

- a. *The UK Space Agency is opening a new regional office in the Midlands as it works to support the space sector across the UK. The office, which will be located at Space Park Leicester, will be open in the coming weeks – read more [here](#).*
- b. *One of the world's foremost independent research and technology organisations has recently joined Space Park Leicester. **TWI** is a membership-driven organisation which helps firms design, create and operate products by providing them with expert advice and safety assurance related to engineering, materials and joining technologies. As of this month, TWI is also the European Space Agency's official Technology Broker in the UK and will run a Space technology transfer programme called Prepare for Space. You can hear from TWI at our [Midlands Space Cluster Networking Event](#).*

## 2. Pivot into Space Update

- a. *9 Midlands SMEs have now received funding from our Pivot into Space Programme and projects are now underway. Details of the successful projects can be found [here](#).*

## 3. Events and Networking

- a. [Ignite Space 2024](#) is a free-to-attend, two-day conference designed for anyone in or seeking opportunities in the UK space sector. The event will be held at Leeds Royal Armouries on the 11th and 12th June. Book your free ticket [here](#).
- b. The second in-person [Midlands Space Cluster Networking Event](#) is now confirmed for the morning of June 25<sup>th</sup> at Space Park Leicester. Connect with industry, academic and funders as we come together for a morning of presentations and networking. With tours of Space Park Leicester also available, we hope to see many of you there. Please follow the link to [book your free place](#).
- c. [Cosmic Coffee](#) will take place on the same day (June 25<sup>th</sup>) and directly following the MSC Networking Event. We encourage you to stay for both events. **Cosmic Coffee** is a monthly community event designed to provide a platform for those working in and around the space community in the Midlands, to come together and to share ideas & receive updates. Sign up is separate from the MSC event and is through Eventbrite [here](#).
- d. From 22-26 July, the Space Zone will once again be a prime spot at the [Farnborough International Airshow](#) offering exceptional opportunities to network with the leading innovators driving this growing sector. Many Midlands Space Cluster partners and members

will be attending and the MAA will be offering guided tours around the Space zone for companies new to the sector. Please get in touch directly if you are interested in a tour.

#### 4. Funding and Support Opportunities

- a. The [UK Space Agency Accelerator's Explore programme](#) is open for applications until **31st May**. Explore is a 9-week accelerator sprint to support budding Space entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into solid foundations for a scalable business. Successful applicants will work with a panel of experts and join a vibrant community of fellow Space entrepreneurs.
- b. Innovate UK's [New Innovators in communications networks 2024](#) programme is open for applications until **12th June 2024**. UK-registered micro and small businesses can apply for a share of up to £500,000 to develop adoptable and investable innovations within communication networks.
- c. European Space Agency's [Commercial Applications of Space-Enabled Robotics: Transport and Logistics](#) programme is inviting proposals for services that combine the use of satellite technologies and robotics for downstream services for transport and logistics. The deadline for this call is **26th June**.
- d. Mandala Space Ventures in California is partnering with the UK Space Agency to deliver space accelerator services to early-stage startups in the UK. Applications close on **31st May**. Read more here on [UKSA's blog](#) and apply [here](#).
- e. Full details on open funding opportunities from the UK Space Agency, the space sector, academic, education and community partners can be found [here](#).
- f. The Department of Business and Trade (DBT) are organising a trade mission to Japan during week commencing July 8<sup>th</sup> to coincide with SpaceTide and the Space Sustainability Summit. Registration for the trade mission closes on **7th June**. A webinar is being held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 9am for anyone interested – please contact us for webinar details.
- g. Space Park Leicester offer the [ESA Business Incubation Centre](#) programme which helps SMEs to develop technologies for the space sector. The programme is for firms working in the industry or those considering developing new products and services for the sector and its next deadline for submissions is in **September**. Read more about ESA-BIC at Space Park in this recent [press release](#).

