



MIDLANDS SPACE CLUSTER

News and Events #5, October 2024

1. News

- a. For up to date news from across the Space ecosystem we strongly recommend you sign up to the [Space Enterprise Community \(SEC\)](#) which is run by the Space Applications Catapult and brings access to all the latest news and events as well as providing opportunities to connect and collaborate.
- b. Work on a cutting-edge X-ray telescope has been completed at Space Park Leicester and the **final instrument has been handed over to Airbus to join the SMILE mission**. The telescope will be integrated into a spacecraft that will make new insights into the solar winds that bombard our planet's magnetosphere. Read this and other news from Space Park [here](#).
- c. Congratulations to Midlands-based company [D-RisQ Ltd](#) who were selected to take part in the inaugural **Airbus Defence and Space UK Accelerator**. The programme, which was announced at the Farnborough International Airshow this summer, is the first of its kind and part of the wider Community for Space Prosperity (CUSP) initiative to develop the UK's #space ecosystem. D-RisQ's new toolset is believed to be a first-of-its-kind set of tools, underpinned by formal methods, for the development and verification of control systems software.

Nick Tudor – CEO of D-Risq, told us "Working with the cohort selected by Airbus Defence and Space UK on the programme delivered by Plexal has given us an excellent insight into the space sector, building upon our work in aerospace, medical devices, nuclear, automotive and autonomous vehicles and we look forward to exploiting our technologies in the space sector ...and beyond."

- d. Midlands Space Cluster has this month commissioned build of **a new website** to enhance our presence in the eco-system. The website is due to go live in the coming months and we will be including a listing of all Midlands Space Cluster participants, academic and industrial. To make sure your company is included in the listing, please ensure you have filled in your Capability Assessment form – details [here](#).
- e. Our **8 Pivot into Space projects** are all well underway and on track to complete by year end. We'll be sharing lots about these innovative companies and their next steps in the coming months. Pivot into Space was celebrated at the Farnborough Air Show this year – see [Press Release](#).
- f. As the UK develops a range of nuclear power systems for deep space applications, the adjoining Space Clusters of the North West of England and the Midlands, each home to leading capabilities in this field, have created '**Power4Space**', a **UK Space Agency funded**

Pan-Regional Partnership, to ensure that the UK maximises its retention of the value chains associated with these technologies. See details of the next [Power4Space workshop](#) below.

2. Events and Networking

- a. Our next in person [Midlands Space Cluster Networking Event](#) is now confirmed for the morning of **Thursday November 28th** at the Gowling WLG Offices in Central Birmingham. Hear from University of Birmingham alongside other academics, industry representatives and funding bodies as we come together for a morning of presentations and networking. Please follow the link to [book your free place](#). Detailed agenda will follow.
- b. [Ignite Space 2025](#) is a free-to-attend, two-day conference designed for anyone in or seeking opportunities in the UK space sector. In 2025 we will be hosting Ignite Space here in the Midlands at **the National Space Centre, Leicester** and will have increased involvement to make sure we showcase our region. Please block **February 5th and 6th** out in your diary and we'll be in touch with more news.
- c. [ESA101-Sheffield](#) is a whole day event on **November 13th** designed to help businesses engage with ESA and the UK Space Agency. Delivered by UK Space Agency in collaboration with ESA and the Space Clusters, this event covers essential topics such as ESA's industrial policy, current activity and programmes, basics of ESA procurement and how to navigate through ESA STAR. The location for this free event is being finalised but sign up is open now on Eventbrite [here](#).
- d. The **Power4Space partnership** are holding a [free workshop at Space Park Leicester on 30th October](#) exploring the progress and potential of UK built nuclear power systems bound for Space, where you will develop use-cases with potential collaborators.

Imagine if you had long-term access to power and heat, from tens of watts to tens of kilowatts, anywhere in the Solar System. What capabilities, missions, or markets could your organisation develop if you were no longer limited by access to sunlight? What would you launch? Where would you go? What would you do? [Book your place](#)

3. Funding and Support Opportunities

- a. **SKILLS** : Would your organisation benefit from free training on core concepts of satellite applications? Free expert-led online training for Positioning Navigation & Time (PNT), Earth Observation (EO) & Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and Satellite Communications (SatComms) is now available for registration on the Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN) website: <https://rin.org.uk/page/SALHUBTraining>. The Space Applications Learning Hub (SALHUB) is one of five new projects recently announced by the UK Space Agency (UKSA) to help tackle key skills gaps identified by the recent UK space sector skills survey.
- b. Full details on open funding opportunities from the UK Space Agency, the space sector, academic, education and community partners can be found [here](#).
- c. The 5th Polish-British Science Forum will focus on space and take place on **Wednesday 11 December 2024 at Space Park Leicester** in the UK. The event will provide an opportunity for key space stakeholders from the UK and Poland to exchange ideas and best practices, over

the course of two days of workshops, networking events and presentations. The Polish-British Science Forum has taken place annually since 2018 following a pledge by the Polish and UK Prime Ministers to strengthen scientific, innovation and technological links between the UK and Poland. Find out more and register [here](#).

4. Help needed from you!

- a. **Capability Mapping.** We are compiling a list of companies in the region who have capabilities needed by the Space Industry. This will include companies already in the space sector and those who have potential to enter the sector. To make sure you are included on this listing, please download and complete our Capability Assessment Form. The list of companies will be included on the Midlands Space Cluster website (coming soon) and also the National Capability Catalogue. You can download the form [here](#).
- b. **Understanding Business Support Needs - Can you give 15 minutes of your time to complete a survey to tell us the support you need to help expand your business?** The Midlands Space Cluster is working to develop targeted support packages to help space sector companies expand their businesses. This work package is being led by the University of Nottingham. We would really appreciate your input. More details and links to surveys can be found [here](#).

