

09-Oct-2023

Dear colleagues

Once again we're writing to share information and relevant links regarding current opportunities and events in the Midlands Space Community.

1. Pivot into Space Update

- a. *Grant Applications.* Our first call for Expressions of Interest is closing on **Friday 13th October**. Don't miss out. You can access the EOI form [here](#) and read more about the programme [here](#). Please [get in touch](#) with any questions.
- b. *Drop-in session **Wed 11th Oct, 1pm**.* We are running one final drop-in session before the EOI deadline. Sign up [here](#) to join for an informal chat or help with your application.
- c. *Capability Assessments.* We are now starting to carry out Capability Assessments with the intent of highlighting the Midlands' strengths and capabilities to the national and global space sectors. [Contact us](#) to get involved.

2. Events and Networking

- a. *Midlands Space Cluster Christmas Networking Event.* We will be hosting a Networking event on **Thursday 7th December** at the University of Nottingham and hope to see lots of you there. The event will be free and bookable via the MAA website [here](#) in coming days.
- b. *UK Space Conference, **21-23 November** at ICC Belfast.* The UK Space Conference is a significant biennial event for the UK Space sector. The event unites the UK and international space communities, such as government, industry, and academia. Find out more and book your place [here](#).
- c. *Cosmic Coffee, Leicester Space Park.* Cosmic Coffee is a monthly community support event designed to provide a platform for those working in and around the space community at Space City and across the Midlands, to come together on an informal basis to share ideas, receive updates about what is going on and get to know those working in this exciting and expanding sector. So, if you are already working in or interested in getting involved with space & space-enabled industries, this event is for you! Sponsored by ESA BIC, Cosmic Coffee is free to attend and will be running around the beginning of each month, so please follow Space Park Leicester on Eventbrite, Twitter, LinkedIn or sign up to the Space Park [newsletter](#) to receive updates about future events. The next event is on **Wed 1st Nov** at 2pm and you can sign up [here](#).

3. Other Funding and Support Opportunities

- a. Last week the [UK Space Agency](#) announced the [National Space Innovation Programme \(NSIP\)](#), which will support high-risk, high-reward projects designed by British organisations with the potential to accelerate the development of new space technologies, satellite



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applications, and services. The programme provides an opportunity for the UK space sector to develop novel and valuable commercial innovations that could tackle challenges such as the use of satellite data to combat climate change or providing services to make in-orbit applications more sustainable. The first tranche of up to £34 million funding is open to proposals that will drive innovation, accelerate the route to market, and catalyse investment into the UK space sector. The remaining funding will be split across further calls in 2024 and 2025 with projects running until March 2027.

- b. Meanwhile the [UK Space Agency Accelerator](#) has announced that their Leo and Geo programmes are returning and open for applications until **1st December 2023**. The programmes are designed to support space businesses; Leo is ideal for entrepreneurs who have proof of concept in place and are at the stage of embarking on their business journey, and Geo is perfect for those with strong market traction with over £500k in funding raised or annualised sales run rate, and now looking to scale up at pace. Learn more and apply [here](#). The team will be running Q&A sessions to answer all your questions with the first on **24th October 2023**. Look out on Eventbrite [here](#) for details.
- c. Are you looking to access ESA funding? [Paul Bhatia](#) is the regional ambassador for the Midlands and is well placed to help companies navigate the [ESA Space Solutions](#) programme. The [ESA Business Incubation Centre](#) United Kingdom (ESA BIC UK) is part of ESA Space Solutions and provides start-ups with technical expertise and facilities, business support, networking, office space and funding needed to overcome innovation challenges and accelerate business growth. Our local ESA-BIC programme is run out of Space Park Leicester and you can read more [here](#).
- d. The Department of Business and Trade are facilitating a UK Technology Showcase with Axiom Space at their Houston, Texas facility. Any interested companies are invited to join a DBT Teams call to hear a brief intro to the Showcase and background, **1500 Thurs 12th October** - email space@businessandtrade.gov.uk to join this call. Please also get in touch if you are interested so we can provide more details and facilitate an introduction.

Kind regards

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