

29-Nov-2023

Dear colleagues

Attached is the latest news from the Midlands Space Cluster, including events coming up in the coming weeks.

## 1. Events and Networking

- a. *Midlands Space Cluster Christmas Networking Event. December 7<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 1pm, Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham.* For full agenda and booking form click [here](#).

Connect with industry, academics and funders as we come together in the inaugural event of the Midlands Space Cluster. Speakers are confirmed as follows :

- Prof. Stuart Marsh, Director of Nottingham Geospatial Institute (NGI) and Professor of Geospatial Engineering
- Jon Hulks, Space Ecosystem Development Manager, UK Space Agency
- Mark Dumville, Chief Executive Officer, GMV NSL
- James Moore, Business Development Manager, Honeywell Hymatic

There will also be plenty of time for networking and opportunities for SMEs to exhibit at a free table top stand (book yours by e-mailing [tanja.siggs@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:tanja.siggs@nottingham.ac.uk))

- b. *Cosmic Coffee, Leicester Space Park. Wed 6<sup>th</sup> December at Space Park Leicester, 2pm.* sign up [here](#).

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.

## 2. News from the UK Space Conference

Last week was an exciting and successful week for the #Midlandsspacecluster at the UK Space Conference in Belfast. The Midlands had strong representation from both industry and academia including GMV, Rolls-Royce, Space Park Leicester, University of Leicester, University of Nottingham and University of Birmingham to name a few. The National Space Academy was leading in the Schools Outreach programme and the Cluster team met with Primes and Tier 1s to promote our Pivot programme and encourage links with Midlands SMEs.

Dr. Chloe Billing of City-REDI and University of Birmingham Business School shares her thoughts and take away messages from the 2023 UK Space Conference [here](#), and describes the key pillars emerging as vital for growth and advancement in the sector as *collaboration, innovation, diversity, public engagement, and government support*.

During the conference we were delighted to hear that The National Space Academy and Loughborough College received education's highest honour, the Queen's Anniversary Prize, for their Space Engineering programme and that one of our #Midlandsspacecluster SMEs announced new business :

### **\*\*Space Engineering course receives education's highest honour with Queen's Anniversary Prize \*\***

*The National Space Academy and Loughborough College are being celebrated for excellence and innovation after receiving a prestigious [Queen's Anniversary Prize](#) for their unique Space Engineering programme. The ground-breaking partnership offers a world-class qualification to aspiring engineers, physicists, and astronauts. As the only course of its kind, the academically intensive programme blends A-Level Mathematics and A-Level Physics with a BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Engineering, which altogether is equivalent to four A-Levels. Students enjoy high quality teaching which covers various aspects of engineering co-delivered at the Loughborough College campus and the National Space Centre, giving learners access to cutting-edge technology and innovation. Throughout the programme, they receive masterclasses conducted by space industry experts and gain insights from leading astronauts. More details can be [found here](#).*

### **\*\*PGM Reball moves deeper into Space \*\***

*PGM Reball are pleased to announce that its UK manufactured specialist ballscrews will be flying on the Latitude Zephyr Space Launcher. Due to launch from Scotland towards the end of 2024 the French owned Zephyr will carry small satellites to space and aims to achieve the shortest time between order to launch of its competitors of around six months.*

*This is a fantastic high profile business win adding to the space portfolio of this Leicestershire based manufacturer who currently manufacture miniature ballscrews for the IAI DROR satellite.*

*Anne Ford, Managing Director at PGM Reball said “We are thrilled to have our ballscrews fly on one of the first UK based space launchers and we are excited to see how the spaceport at SaxaVord in Shetland develops.”*

*PGM Reball manufactures compact specialist ballscrews for aerospace, defence and aerospace operating across the full product life cycle from innovation and design to manufacture and servicing. They also provide a fast ballscrew refurbishment and replacement service for all commercial sectors working with a range of customers within and outside the UK.*

### 3. Pivot into Space Update

- a. *Grant Applications.* Our second call for Expressions of Interest is currently open and closing on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec**. 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. *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.

### 4. Size and Health Report

- a. The Size and Health of the UK Space Industry 2023 survey is now open. We are encouraging #space companies across the region to participate. The data that organisations provide is used in shaping policy, designing support mechanisms, and is instrumental in ensuring government support for a vibrant and internationally competitive space industry in the UK. Take part here : [Size & Health of the UK Space Industry 2023 \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)

### 5. Funding Opportunities

- a. Last month the [UK Space Agency](#) launched #UnlockingSpaceforBusiness, to support businesses in the Transport & Logistics and Financial Service sectors capitalise on the benefits of satellite data and services.

Find out more on our gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publica...>

Or hear the details on YouTube here : [Unlocking Space for Business by the UK Space Agency - YouTube](#)

- b. Meanwhile the [UK Space Agency Accelerator](#) applications are closing this week on **1<sup>st</sup> 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](#).
- 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](#)



## MIDLANDS SPACE CLUSTER

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](#).

Kind regards

Liz Griffiths  
Technology Manager (Pivot into Space Lead)  
Mobile: 07726 106182  
[liz.griffiths@midlandsaerospace.org.uk](mailto:liz.griffiths@midlandsaerospace.org.uk)

Frank McQuade  
Technology Manager (Midlands Space Cluster Manager)  
Mobile: 07716 385630  
[frank.mcquade@midlandsaerospace.org.uk](mailto:frank.mcquade@midlandsaerospace.org.uk)

Midlands Aerospace Alliance Tel: 024 7643 0256

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