

British spaceflight to become reality as government provides launchpad for spaceports

- government paves the way for commercial space launches from UK soil with new regulations
- planned spaceport sites across Great Britain to create hundreds of jobs as we build back better
- regulations provide grounding for new business opportunities such as space tourism from newly established spaceports

Another barrier to space exploration from UK soil is lifted today (24 May 2021), with spaceports expected to be in operation from next summer.

Developed with the [UK Space Agency](#) and the [Civil Aviation Authority](#), new regulations being laid in Parliament today will mean satellites and rockets can launch from UK soil for the first time – with spaceports planned for Cornwall, Wales and Scotland.

Future satellite launches will improve our access to data and communications, and revolutionise services such as satellite navigation and earth observation – enhancing the way we live, work, travel and interact with our planet.

Space exploration has a long history of inspiring us all to consider our impact on the Earth, and access to space is essential as we tackle global environmental issues such as climate change.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

This is a pivotal moment for our spaceflight ambitions. Since the start of the spaceflight programme in 2017, we have been clear that we want to be the first country to launch into orbit from Europe.

The laying of these regulations puts us firmly on track to see the first UK launches take place from 2022, unlocking a new era in commercial spaceflight for all 4 corners of our nation.

The legislation, laid just 2 weeks before the [G7 summit in Cornwall](#), will come into force this summer and will help propel the development of commercial spaceflight technologies, from traditional rockets to high-altitude balloons and spaceplanes.

In time, we will also start to see new and emerging space activity – including sub-orbital space tourism and eventually new transport systems such as hypersonic flight, which will dramatically reduce aviation travel times.

UK spaceport launches will help create new jobs and offer economic benefits

to communities across the country, as well as inspiring the next generation of space scientists.

Not only will this support our thriving space sector, it will also attract companies from around the globe to come to, and benefit from, these commercial opportunities.

Science Minister Amanda Solloway said:

Continuing to grow our launch capability will help bring jobs and economic benefits across the UK. The Space Industry Regulations we've tabled today will create a supportive, attractive and safe environment for commercial spaceflight.

Today marks another crucial milestone that will enable the first launches from British soil in 2022 and make UK commercial spaceflight a reality.