

Ariel

Ariel will help scientists understand the key processes which form planetary systems and affect how they evolve.

- Ariel is a UK proposed medium class mission within the European Space Agency's Science Programme
- The UK is coordinating the mission's science objectives and leading an international consortium of 17 countries building the mission's payload module
- The UK Space Agency has committed over £6 million to support UK teams during Ariel's definition phase up to March 2022, with further funding currently being reviewed
- Airbus Defence and Space UK are part of the mission's core industrial team, working under contract to ESA developing the spacecraft platform, leading on avionics, payload interface and electrical design

Overview

Thousands of exoplanets have now been discovered with a huge diversity of masses, sizes and orbits, but very little is known about their chemical composition, formation, or their evolutionary links to their host stars.

Ariel will carry out the first ever large-scale survey of exoplanets specifically to examine and characterise their atmospheres. By returning large amounts of data for the first time Ariel will highlight trends and correlations between planets and their systems to answer the following science questions:

- What are exoplanets made of?
- How do planets and planetary systems form?
- How do planets and their atmospheres evolve over time?

Expected to launch in 2029, in its four-year mission Ariel will survey a diverse sample of about 1000 extra-solar planets, simultaneously in visible and infrared wavelengths. It is the first mission dedicated to measuring the chemical composition and thermal structures of hundreds of transiting exoplanets, enabling planetary science far beyond the boundaries of the Solar System.

UK involvement

The UK exoplanet science community is one of the largest and most successful in the world, involved in a broad range of observational and theoretical projects. Leadership of Ariel puts the UK at the heart of the next logical step in exoplanet research, as it evolves from discovery to characterisation, and enables the mission's science planning to be built around UK strengths and interests.

The payload leadership role provides the UK with a deep understanding of the design of the Ariel mission. This then informs the research undertaken using the data returned from the spacecraft; UK scientists will have an intimate knowledge of the performance of the payload, which will help them be ready to interpret the data and maximise UK science return.

Opportunities for UK industry in Active Cooler System development work and payload detector technologies – developing solutions for Ariel that can be reused in the future for other applications.

The discovery of more than 2000 exoplanets in recent years is a major achievement in modern astronomy and resonates strongly with the general public. Being able to take this work into the classroom and the public sphere is key to finding and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. Several outreach projects and programmes have been delivered by the UK Ariel team so far, with more planned over the mission's next phase.

UK Space Agency funding currently supports core roles shaping the mission.

Leading the mission from the UK: the mission's Principal Investigator at University College London (UCL), Professor Giovanna Tinetti, will lead Ariel science development.

Building and testing the Ariel payload module: Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Harwell, Oxfordshire will assemble, integrate, and test the Ariel payload module, managing the instrument, telescope and other hardware contributions from the European consortium, as well as the development of the payload's £5.5 million cryogenic Active Cooler System.

Performance analysis & Science Ground Segment: Scientists at University of Cardiff and UCL will develop comprehensive end-to-end mission simulations to test and fine-tune the complex algorithms that drive Ariel data retrievals, this activity is overseen by Ariel Payload Scientist Professor Giorgio Savini, UCL. The UK is also deputy lead of the Ariel Science Ground Segment, ensuring close involvement in data processing and calibration.

Optical ground support equipment, University of Oxford: Delivery of equipment which will provide end to end testing of the Ariel payload's telescope and optical elements.

Current status & next steps

March 2018 – Ariel proposal selected by ESA as fourth Medium Class (M4) mission in its Cosmic Vision programme

May 2019 – Completion of Intermediary payload design consolidation review, a progress checkpoint of the study phase

March 2020 – Completion of payload Systems Requirements Review, examining system architecture and sub-assemblies against mission requirements

November 2020 – Ariel formally adopted by ESA Science Programme Committee as M4 mission of ESA's Cosmic Vision programme

Mid 2022 – Payload Preliminary Design Review to finalise plans and hardware models, refine schedule and mature designs

Early 2025 – Payload Critical Design Review to finalise the design and detailed definition of interfaces

2026-2027 – Delivery of Payload Flight Model for integration with the Ariel spacecraft

Early 2029 – Flight Acceptance Review to complete testing and authorise delivery for launch

Mid 2029 – Launch

2029-2033 – Four-year nominal science operations phase

Further Information

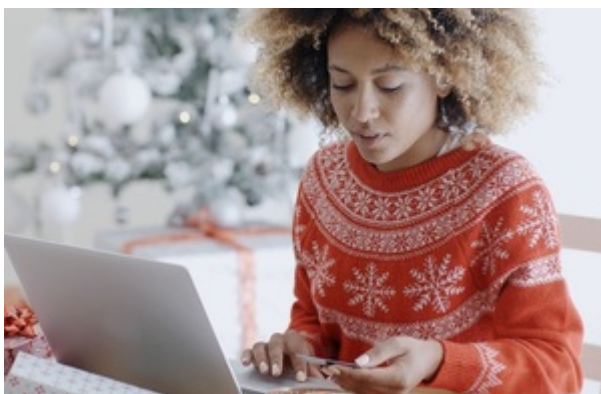
[ESA](#)

[Ariel Space Mission](#)

[DVLA opening hours: Christmas and New Year 2021](#)

News story

Opening times for DVLA's contact centre over Christmas and the New Year.



Customers will be able to [use our online services](#) throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

Date
Monday 20 December

Contact centre opening times
8am to 8pm

Date	Contact centre opening times
Tuesday 21 December	8am to 8pm
Wednesday 22 December	8am to 8pm
Thursday 23 December	8am to 8pm
Christmas Eve 24 December	8am to 12pm
Christmas Day 25 December	closed
Boxing Day 26 December	closed
Monday 27 December	closed
Tuesday 28 December	closed
Wednesday 29 December	8am to 5.30pm
Thursday 30 December	8am to 5.30pm
New Year's Eve 31 December	8am to 5.30pm
New Year's Day 1 January 2022	closed
Sunday 2 January	closed
Monday 3 January	closed
Tuesday 4 January	8am to 8pm

Published 7 December 2021

[New prison strategy to rehabilitate offenders and cut crime](#)

- New technology to thwart smuggling and bolstered plans to tackle addictions to keep offenders clean
- Rigorous new literacy and numeracy standards and job-matching service to find employment
- 'Resettlement Passports' to ensure prisoners have the basics to stay crime-free upon release

Modern jails will cut reoffending and protect the public by giving prisoners the education, skills and addiction support they need to live crime-free lives.

The Prisons Strategy White Paper, published today (7 December 2021), sets out a new plan to deliver the biggest prison-building programme in more than 100 years – creating the right conditions to reform and rehabilitate offenders and ultimately cut crime, keeping streets safe.

Key measures include:

- A zero-tolerance approach to drugs – all new-build prisons will have cutting-edge body scanners and airport-style security as standard to prevent offenders from continuing criminal activity behind bars

- Getting offenders clean and treating addictions that thwart rehabilitation – assessing all prisoners on arrival for drug and alcohol addictions and putting in place a comprehensive plan to support them to properly recover from day one – including abstinence-based treatment
- Making sure prisoners gain basic standards of numeracy and literacy while inside –ensuring every single prisoner has a basic level of English and maths so they are equipped for work on release, and a new Prisoner Education Service to train up offenders with vocational skills including construction and coding – improving their job prospects and steering them clear of crime
- New drive to get offenders into work – introducing a new job-matching service that pairs offenders up with vacancies in the community on release and dedicated employment advisors in prisons to help offenders find work
- Resettlement Passports to put proper plans in place for prisoners on release – providing all prisoners with a personalised passport that brings together all the things offenders need to start looking for work straight away, including a CV, identification and a bank account as well as vital support services in the community
- New fast-tracked punishments – bringing forward a speedier punishment scheme when prisoners transgress. Penalties will be linked directly to their offence and support rehabilitation, for instance forcing prisoners to repair their cells or prison landings if they cause damage

Deputy Prime Minister, Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor Dominic Raab said:

We're building the prisons to incarcerate dangerous and prolific offenders. We're deploying the tech to stop the flow of drugs, weapons and phones into prisons. And we're re-orienting the regime to get offenders off drugs for good, and into work – to cut crime, and keep the public safe.

This new strategy will be backed by unprecedented investment and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Last month, the government allocated an extra £550 million to reduce reoffending and £3.75 billion to create 20,000 extra prison places across the estate. These will ensure the right modern, innovative and secure conditions are in place to truly rehabilitate offenders and keep the public safe.

The 6 new prisons to be built over the next 5 years will have the latest in technology – meaning more in-cell learning so offenders leave prison with the skills they need to move away from crime and into employment. This will include basic education like maths and English, vocational skills such as IT and engineering, and even driving theory tests so they can get a licence on release – helping them get to and from work.

Frontline staff are also crucial to making the strategy a success, and the White Paper includes a new commitment to recruit an additional 5,000

officers, with 2,400 employed in the next two years, and a new retention programme to keep existing staff.

Prison governors will be given greater autonomy and freedom to run their jails, with new key performance measures and public league tables incentivising the spread of best practice right across the estate in vital areas including security, training and employment and drug and alcohol addiction.

New prisons, such as those currently under construction at Glen Parva, Leicestershire, and HMP Five Wells, Wellingborough, will play a crucial role in cutting crime by training prisoners in the skills of the future, helping them find a job on release and dramatically reducing their chances of reoffending.

These will act as a blueprint for the government's ambitious prison-build programme, which will create 20,000 modern, rehabilitative places by the mid-2020s.

The White Paper follows the publication of the 10 Year Drugs Strategy yesterday which outlines plans backed by record investment to crack down on supply chains and criminal gangs profiting from the trade in illegal drugs, as well as boost treatment services to get people off the drugs responsible for driving crime in the first place, so that everyone across the country can benefit from the safety and security that comes from a safe neighbourhood.

Note to editors

The [Prisons Strategy White Paper](#) can be found on GOV.UK.

[Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Peru: Gavin Cook OBE](#)

Press release

Mr Gavin Cook OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Peru.



Mr Gavin Cook OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Peru in succession to Ms Kate Harrisson. Mr Cook will take up his appointment during April 2022.

Full name: Gavin Douglas Cook

Married to: Elizabeth Cook

Children: Three daughters and one son

Date	Role
2021 to present	Full-time Language Training (Spanish)
2021	Secondment: International Government and Sustainability Relations, Anglo American
2020 to 2021	FCD0, Head of the Repatriation Taskforce, Deputy Director Consular
2019 to 2020	FCO, Deputy Director, Strategy Directorate and Head of Policy Unit
2018	FCO, Deputy Director, Africa Directorate and Deputy Director, National Security Strategy (Gulf/Iran)
2015 to 2018	Accra, Deputy High Commissioner
2013 to 2015	FCO, Deputy Head, Consular Assistance
2010 to 2013	FCO, Chief Press Officer for Minister for the Middle East and North Africa
2007 to 2010	Addis Ababa, Second Secretary (Political/Information)
2006 to 2007	Full-time Language Training (Amharic)
2006	Kyiv, Second Secretary (Political-External)
2006	Cabinet Office, Assessment Staff, International Security Directorate
2005 to 2006	FCO, Desk Officer, Common Foreign and Security Policy (EU-External)
2005	Full-time language training (Russian)
2003 to 2004	FCO, Desk Officer, Civilian-Military Security Policy (EU-External)
2002 to 2003	FCO, Desk Officer, Turkey and Malta (EU-External)

Newsdesk

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Foreign flagged ships detained in the UK during November 2021

During November, there were five new detentions of a foreign flagged vessel in a UK port.

1. In response to one of the recommendations of Lord Donaldson's inquiry into the prevention of pollution from merchant shipping, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) publishes details of the foreign flagged vessels detained in UK ports each month.
2. The UK is part of a regional agreement on port state control known as the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MOU) and information on all ships that are inspected is held centrally in an electronic database known as THETIS. This allows the ships with a high risk rating and poor detention records to be targeted for future inspection.
3. Inspections of foreign flagged ships in UK ports are undertaken by surveyors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. When a ship is found to be not in compliance with applicable convention requirements, a deficiency may be raised. If any of their deficiencies are so serious, they have to be rectified before departure, then the ship will be detained.
4. All deficiencies should be rectified or in agreed class/ flag condition before departure.

Notes on the list of detentions:

- Full details of the ship: The accompanying detention list shows ship's International Maritime Organisation (IMO) number which does not change throughout the ship's life and uniquely identifies it. It also shows the ship's name and flag state at the time of its inspection.
- Company: The company shown in the vessel's Safety Management Certificate (SMC) or if there is no SMC, then the party otherwise believed to be responsible for the operation of the ship at the time of inspection.
- Classification society: The list shows the classification society responsible for classification of the ship only.
- Recognised organisation: Responsible for conducting the statutory surveys and issuing statutory certificates on behalf of the flag state.
- White (WL), grey (GL) and black lists (BL) are issued by the Paris MoU on 01 July each year and shows the performance of flag state.
- Deficiencies: The deficiencies listed are the ones which were detainable. Further details of other deficiencies can be provided on request.

SHIPS DETAINED IN NOVEMBER 2021

Vessel Name: NOVA

GT: 7767

IMO: 9294977

Flag: Antigua & Barbuda (white list)

Company: Candler Schiffahrt GmbH & Co KG

Classification society: NKK

Recognised organisation: NKK

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: NKK

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: BV

Date and place of detention: 1st November 2021 at South Shields

Summary: Twelve deficiencies with two grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
07116 –Ventilation	Not as required	Yes
07125 – Evaluation of crew performance (fire drills	Lack of familiarity	Yes)

This vessel was released 4th November 2021

Vessel Name: PACIFIC VENTURE

GT: 7522

IMO: 9743045

Flag: Dominica (Not Listed)

Company: MyriadSea GmbH

Classification society: BV

Recognised organisation: BV

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: Flag Issued

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: Flag Issued

Date and place of detention: 15th November 2021 at South Shields

Summary: Sixteen deficiencies with two grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
11124 – Embarkation arrangement survival craft	Not properly maintained	Yes
15150 – ISM	Not as required	Yes

This vessel was released 18th November 2021

Vessel Name: EVER ALLIANCE

GT: 32309

IMO: 9423255

Flag: Panama (white)

Company: First Steamship SA

Classification society: NKK

Recognised organisation: NKK

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: NKK

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: NKK

Date and place of detention: 24th November 2021 at Teesport

Summary: Twenty-two deficiencies with one ground for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
15150 – ISM	Not as required	Yes

This vessel was still detained 30th November 2021

Vessel Name: NAVIN HAWK

GT: 5087

IMO: 9522738

Flag: Marshall Islands (white)

Company: Bright Denizcilik ve Gemi Isletmeciligi AS

Classification society: BV

Recognised organisation: BV

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: BV

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: BV

Date and place of detention: 26th November 2021 at Hull

Summary: Thirty-three deficiencies with seven grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
07114 – Remote means of control (opening, pumps, ventilation, etc) Machinery spaces	Not as required	Yes
08408 – Electrical	Not as required	Yes
18420 – Cleanliness of engine room	Not as required	Yes
13101 – Propulsion main engine	Not as required	Yes
13102 – Auxiliary engine	Not as required	Yes
11113 – Launching arrangements for rescue boats	Inoperative	Yes
15150 – ISM	Not as required	Yes

This vessel was still detained 30th November 2021

Vessel Name: VILLE DE BORDEAUX

GT: 21528

IMO: 9270482

Flag: France (white)

Company: Louis Dreyfus Armateurs SAS

Classification society: BV

Recognised organisation: BV

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: Flag Issued

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: Flag Issued

Date and place of detention: 30th November 2021 at Royal Portbury

Summary: Six deficiencies with three grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
14104 – Oil filtering equipment	Inoperative	Yes
07114 – Remote means of control (opening, pumps, ventilation, etc) Machinery spaces	Inoperative	Yes
15150 – ISM	Not as required	Yes

This vessel was still detained 30th November 2021

DETENTIONS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS

Vessel Name: POSEIDON

GT: 1412

IMO: 7363217

Flag: Iceland (White list)

Company: Neptune EHF

Classification society: NA

Recognised organisation: NA

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: DNV-GL

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: N/A (SMC issued by Flag)

Date and place of detention: 19th July 2018 at Hull

Summary: Ten deficiencies with two grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
02106 – Hull damage impairing seaworthiness	Holed	Yes
07113 – Fire Pumps	Insufficient Pressure	Yes

This vessel was still detained on 30th November 2021

Vessel Name: TECOIL POLARIS

GT: 1814

IMO No: 8883290

Flag: Russian Federation (Grey list)

Company: Tecoil Shipping Ltd

Classification society: RMRS

Recognised organisation: RMRS

Recognised organisation for ISM DOC: RMRS

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: RMRS

Date and place of detention: 6th June 2018 at Immingham

Summary: Twenty-seven deficiencies with six grounds for detentions

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
10104 – Gyro compass	Inoperative	Yes
10127 – Voyage or passage plan	Not as required	Yes
15150 – ISM	Not as required	Yes
11104 – Rescue boats	Not properly maintained	Yes
11101 – Lifeboats	Not ready for use	Yes
01117 – International Oil Pollution Prevention (IOPP)	Invalid	Yes

This vessel was still detained on 30th November 2021

Vessel Name: CIEN PORCIENTO (General Cargo)

GT: 106.

IMO No: 8944446.

Flag: Unregistered.

Company: Open Window Inc.

Classification society: Unclassed.

Recognised organisation: Not applicable.

Recognised organisation for ISM DOC: Not applicable.

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: Not applicable

Date and place of detention: 4 March 2010, Lowestoft

Summary: Thirty deficiencies including seven grounds for detention

This vessel was still detained on 30th November 2021

Notes to Editors

- The MCA is a partner in the Sea Vision UK campaign to raise awareness and

understanding of the sea and maritime activities. Sea Vision promotes the importance and economic value of the sector and works to highlight the exciting range of activities and career opportunities available to young people within the UK growing maritime sector.

- Follow us on Twitter: @MCA_media

For further information please contact Maritime and Coastguard Agency Press Office, on: +44 (0) 2380 329 401 Press releases and further information about the agency is available [here](#).