

Press release: Rocketing to success – Space Industry Act to unlock billions for the UK economy

- Sam Gyimah announces 8 ground-breaking satellite projects that will transform society, including improving Electric Vehicle charging points
- Science Minister discusses pioneering commercial space opportunities for UK businesses during visit to the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton
- the UK is one step closer to becoming a leading destination for space flights, as the Space Industry Act receives Royal Assent

The government's plans to add billions of pounds to the UK economy and create hundreds of high-skilled jobs by unlocking opportunities in the new space age, were outlined by the Science Minister Sam Gyimah yesterday (Thursday 15 March).

Developing the UK space sector is a crucial aspect of the government's modern and ambitious [Industrial Strategy](#) and during a visit to the [National Oceanography Centre \(NOC\)](#) in Southampton, the Minister announced 8 ground-breaking satellite data projects, which will demonstrate the potential of using satellite technology to solve challenges faced by society.

As part of his visit, Sam Gyimah toured NOC's Marine Robotics Innovation Centre, which houses the Boaty McBoatface autosub

Part of the UK Space Agency's [Space for Smarter Government programme](#), the schemes include a project with Bournemouth Borough Council which will use satellite data and machine learning to map out where charge points for electric vehicles can be installed.

Other projects include using satellites to monitor and mitigate air pollution, enhancing healthcare and urban air quality management, and deploying satellites and drones in the battle against marine waste.

During his visit, the Science Minister Sam Gyimah said:

The UK is leading a new space race. 50 years ago countries were competing to send the first man to the moon, now the new race is on to develop the commercial space sector and spaceports.

Through the government's modern Industrial Strategy, we are laying the ground work to boost the UK's space sector with record investment in our world leading science sector. With the passing of the Space Industry Act, and the new satellite data projects, we are one step closer to launching satellites from UK soil and offering low gravity spaceflights from the UK.

The [Space Industry Act](#) is the most modern piece of space industry regulation anywhere in the world, enabling the first ever commercial space launch from UK soil. It will open up the universe to businesses, allowing them to better compete in the commercial space race using UK spaceports, and taking advantage of future developments, including hypersonic flight and high-speed point-to-point transport.

The passing of the Space Industry Act and the 8 new projects will open up a new space era for the UK ensuring it becomes a leading destination for space flight. In addition, companies will have greater access to commercial space opportunities, increasing the UK's share of the global space industry – currently 6.5% – and growing the sector which is currently worth £13.7 billion to the British economy.

[National Oceanography Centre \(NOC\)](#) is part of the Natural Environment Research Council, and houses the infamous Boaty McBoatface autosub and other equipment used for research under the sea.