

Press release: Four companies awarded grant funding to develop commercial range control services



The successful applicants Telespazio VEGA UK Ltd, Deimos Space UK Ltd, Heliag UK Ltd and Inmarsat Global Ltd will use the funding to develop a business plan and initial concept of operations to offer range services from the UK on a commercial basis.

The 2018 Space Industry Act enables companies to use cutting edge technology while also safeguarding public safety. Range control services are vital to this and include activities such as tracking rockets and spaceplanes in flight, as well as notifying users of airspace when launches are taking place.

Organisations submitted grant applications to undertake studies into range control services and the successful companies were awarded grants on their ability to meet robust selection criteria.

Claire Barcham, UK Space Agency's Director of Commercial Space said:

Public safety is at the heart of our efforts to enable spaceflight from the UK, and range services are an essential part of this work.

The commercial provision of range services presents a new opportunity for businesses and, through the government's modern Industrial Strategy, the UK Space Agency is advancing these exciting developments.

As part of its work to ensure the safety of spaceflight, the UK Space Agency today [published a report from the Health and Safety Laboratory \(HSL\)](#), outlining a potential method of calculating risk in the area around the launch site and spaceflight path to ensure public safety. HSL provides health and safety expert advice to government and industry in the UK and internationally.

- Telespazio VEGA UK Ltd, together with its partner organisations QinetiQ Ltd, GTD sistemas de información SAU and Commercial Space Technologies Ltd have been awarded £165,166 to develop a Commercial Range Control Service to support multiple UK Launch Sites, Launch Systems and Service Operators, with the potential to also address the global launch export market.
- Deimos Space UK Ltd, together with its partners Orbital Express Launch Ltd, UK Launch Services Ltd, QinetiQ Ltd, Helios Ltd and Heliq Ltd have been awarded £131,901 of funding to study the provision of a low-cost commercial range to cover vertical spaceflight from the A'Mhoine spaceport in Sutherland.
- Heliq UK Ltd, together with its partners Spaceport Cornwall, UK Launch Services Limited, Deimos, Reutech Radar Systems and Alden Advisers have been awarded £56,576 to develop a business plan and initial concept of operations for commercial range control services in support of orbital space launches from Spaceport Cornwall. The project will analyse applicable UK regulations, vehicle trajectories, and other inputs in order to derive top-level requirements for the range control services.
- Inmarsat Global Ltd, together with its partner organisation Deimos UK Limited, has been awarded £63,328 to conduct a feasibility study and business case assessment to investigate providing a bespoke satellite communications (satcom) service for launch providers with a satcom terminal integrated on the launch vehicle itself.

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Last updated 5 March 2019 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 5 March 2019 Inmarsat Global Ltd added to list of grant winners, becoming the fourth company to be awarded grant funding to develop commercial range control services.
2. 21 February 2019 First published.

[News story: January 2019 Transaction Data](#)



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In January:

- HM Land Registry completed more than 1,797,030 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 412,262

HM Land Registry completed 1,797,037 applications in January compared with 1,274,031 in December and 1,782,088 last January, of which:

- 398,058 were applications for register updates compared with 306,302 in December
- 909,149 were applications for an official copy of a register compared with 578,979 in December
- 212,934 were search and hold queries (official searches) compared with 199,533 in December
- 23,040 were postal applications from non-account holders compared with 18,104 in December

Applications by region and country

| Region/country | November applications | December applications | January applications |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| South East | 442,882 | 289,089 | 412,262 |
| Greater London | 441,362 | 230,749 | 338,286 |
| North West | 204,499 | 145,147 | 203,371 |
| South West | 174,105 | 125,765 | 169,585 |
| West Midlands | 157,744 | 109,261 | 156,126 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 140,167 | 104,949 | 144,169 |
| East Midlands | 131,654 | 95,112 | 131,926 |
| North | 85,231 | 60,968 | 83,163 |
| East Anglia | 74,312 | 53,130 | 73,402 |
| Isles of Scilly | 62 | 69 | 48 |
| Wales | 86,231 | 59,740 | 84,618 |
| England and Wales (not assigned) | 95 | 52 | 81 |
| Total | 1,938,344 | 1,274,031 | 1,797,037 |

Top 5 local authority areas

| Top 5 local authority areas | November applications | Top 5 local authority areas | December applications | Top 5 local authority areas | January applications |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Hounslow | 71,338 | Birmingham | 20,015 | Birmingham | 30,192 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 41,992 | City of Westminster | 15,677 | City of Westminster | 23,156 |
| Birmingham | 28,388 | Leeds | 15,669 | Leeds | 21,625 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 27,253 | Cornwall | 13,531 | Cornwall | 17,981 |

| Top 5 local authority areas | November applications | Top 5 local authority areas | December applications | Top 5 local authority areas | January applications |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| City of Westminster | 24,887 | Manchester | 13,468 | Manchester | 17,818 |

Top 5 customers

| Top 5 customers | November applications | Top 5 customers | December applications | Top 5 customers | January applications |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| WSP Management Services Ltd | 114,339 | Enact | 39,404 | Enact | 14,622 |
| Enact | 52,463 | Infotrack Limited | 25,145 | Optima Legal Services | 8,994 |
| Infotrack Limited | 36,291 | Optima Legal Services | 21,820 | O'Neill Patient | 8,153 |
| SupportaTerraquest | 27,451 | O'Neill Patient | 21,302 | Infotrack Limited | 7,454 |
| Optima Legal Services | 27,179 | Eversheds Sutherland | 14,877 | My Home Move Limited | 4,878 |

[Access the full dataset on data.gov.uk](#)

Next publication

Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month. The February data will be published at 11am on Thursday 21 March 2019.

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[News story: New DVLA campaign highlights consequences for drivers who evade vehicle tax](#)



The message is clear to motorists – if you don't tax your vehicle on time, DVLA will take action: tax it or lose it.

The 11 areas of the UK have been targeted where vehicle tax evasion is highest (based on the number of enforcement actions that took place in 2018).

| Area | Clamped Fines or Penalties Totals | | |
|------------------|--|--------|---------|
| London | 27,605 | 94,550 | 122,155 |
| Northern Ireland | 5,516 | 67,944 | 73,460 |
| Birmingham | 5,076 | 50,045 | 55,121 |
| Manchester | 7,573 | 26,214 | 33,787 |
| Glasgow | 2,666 | 29,705 | 32,371 |
| Sheffield | 3,987 | 25,291 | 29,278 |
| Cardiff | 3,021 | 24,598 | 27,619 |
| Nottingham | 3,507 | 21,346 | 24,853 |
| Bristol | 3,496 | 20,412 | 23,908 |
| Leicester | 3,344 | 19,196 | 22,540 |
| Coventry | 1,257 | 18,193 | 19,450 |

The advertising campaign focuses on the consequences of not taxing your vehicle – from financial penalties to court action to clamping and finally the loss of a car.

A giant clamp at the centre of the campaign image reflects the fact that DVLA take enforcement action against untaxed vehicles on streets across the country and it will happen to you if you don't tax your vehicle on time.

DVLA Head of Enforcement Tim Burton said:

This campaign has a clear message for anyone who flouts the law in this way – tax it or lose it.

It's never been easier to tax your car, so there really is no excuse. We would rather not have to clamp or remove vehicles, but this campaign highlights the consequences of not taxing a vehicle. Having your vehicle clamped is expensive and inconvenient – and you could end up losing your car.

Motorists can go online, 24 hours a day, to [tax a vehicle](#) or [check whether their vehicle tax is up to date](#). You can even check by asking Amazon Alexa or Google Home – all you need is your vehicle registration.

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Last updated 27 February 2019 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 27 February 2019 Added translation
2. 21 February 2019 First published.

[Press release: UK to invest up to £30m through partnership with African Union](#)

The UK is set to inject up to £30 million into prosperity and security projects across Africa as it steps up its investment in the continent, Minister of State for Africa Harriett Baldwin has announced today (Thursday 21 February).

The funding boost comes as Britain signs a new strategic partnership with the African Union, strengthening the engagement between the continent and the UK Government.

Speaking ahead of the signing of the partnership at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Mrs Baldwin said:

From our support to observers ensuring free and fair elections in Nigeria and Senegal this weekend, to the crucial training our Armed Forces provides to security forces in Kenya, the UK's partnership with African countries continues to help empower and upskill people across the continent, and this funding will allow us to boost those efforts.

Our new partnership will also cement our relationship with the African Union, building on growing economic ties to forge new opportunities for young people and reinforce our close bonds.

The partnership will strengthen cooperation on security and prosperity, and support a joined up approach to tackle climate change.

The funding, which forms part of the partnership agreement, and will be spread over three years, will be used to train peacekeepers in Kenya, assist free and fair elections, and support the next phase of negotiations for the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The signing of the strategic partnership also allows the UK to support African-led ambitions with British expertise, to create more opportunities and more jobs.

Mrs Baldwin's visit to Ethiopia comes after Prime Minister Theresa May visited Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa in August to set out her vision for the UK's future partnership with Africa and the UK's aim to be the largest G7 investor in Africa by 2022.

It also follows the rapid expansion of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's diplomatic network in the region, including plans to open new embassies in Djibouti, Chad, Niger, Eswatini and Lesotho, and recruit more diplomats with new skills-sets, including in trade and investment.

Further information

[News story: Dstl Seeks SMEs for Additional £40M Research and Partnership Opportunities](#)

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the science and technology sectors could benefit from an additional £40 million to £45 million of external investment opportunities from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). The organisation is seeking supply chain partners for a series of research projects across the defence spectrum due to start this year.

Representatives from Dstl will be available to meet potential SME partners at Venturefest South at the Ageas Bowl on 29 March. Venturefest South brings together top talent from the region to demonstrate technologies and innovations, allow start-ups to pitch for investment, and match entrepreneurs with the right organisations to take their businesses to the next level.

Dstl works with a range of start-up and SMEs, providing funding and guidance to develop new and innovative ideas to help protect the UK's armed forces; helping companies grow and boosting the regional economy. Defence is a hugely important sector in the South East, employing more than 39,000 people, with a further 18,000 in aerospace and space.

By working with investors Dstl also helps companies to commercialise the impact and bring new technologies to market. Licensing agreements have been signed for 125 technologies across defence and security, biometrics, life sciences, and diagnostics which have created 580 jobs.

Gary Aitkenhead, Dstl Chief Executive said:

Venturefest is a terrific opportunity to meet potential suppliers and explore ways we can work together. We're especially interested in companies who have not traditionally worked in defence but have specialist expertise and fresh ideas. SMEs need rapid decisions and it can take as little as a week for a new supplier to be approved.

Venturefest South is a not for-profit initiative that has been created and developed by a group of partners within the regional innovation economy including: Carswell Gould, Solent LEP, Innovate UK, the Knowledge Transfer Network, University of Portsmouth, Southampton City Council, Solent University, The University of Southampton, Portsmouth City Council, and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

The fast-growing innovation network in the south is supported by a number of corporate sponsors including BDO, Natwest and Dstl. All the money raised from sponsorship and ticket sales will go towards creating opportunities for early-stage business start-ups to exhibit for free at the conference.

Venturefest South is part of the wider Venturefest network, which works nationally to draw local innovation eco-systems together through a number of local events around the country, working closely with the Knowledge Transfer Network, Innovate UK and other national partners.

[Find out more and to apply to take part in any of the pitching sessions, showcase an innovation in the exhibition or sponsor Venturefest South 2019](#)

A host of opportunities exist for SMEs to work across Dstl's portfolio over the next 12 months, and through the SME Searchlight programme there will be a series of events, workshops and consultations to develop a broader supplier ecosystem, particularly in the fields of radio frequency engineering, artificial intelligence, synthetic biology and wargaming. The team can be contacted by emailing searchlight@dstl.gov.uk