

Current UK space launch activities

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Context - Today



- *Orbital Space Launch from the UK* is still relatively new (first attempt January 2023) but the UK industry as a whole is much more than that:
 - 52,000 direct employees (2021/22)
 - £18.8bn total industry income (2021/2022)
 - 1,765 UK-based organisations have space-related activities
 - £364bn of UK GDP is supported by satellite services

(data from UK Space Agency / London Economics https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6697d345fc8e12ac3edafeb4/Infographic_Size_Health_of_the_UK_Space_Industry_2023.pdf)

- Multiple companies are currently building satellites in the UK
e.g. AAC Clyde Space; Airbus; In-Space Missions; Open Cosmos; Space Forge; Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL)

[Introducing The League Table of UK Satellite Manufacturers 2023 - Orbital Today](#)

Context - History



- Looking further back:
 - “Skylark” sounding rocket launched 1957 (441 launches until retirement in 2005)
[BRITAIN'S FIRST SPACE ROCKET and its pioneering astronomical observations](#)
 - First British satellite “Ariel 1” launched 1962
[British space programme - Wikipedia](#)
 - UK Rocketry Association founded 1996
[UKRA – United Kingdom Rocketry Association](#)

Context - Some Key Organisations

UK Government Ministries



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology



Department
for Transport



Ministry
of Defence

Other UK State Organisations



National Space
Operations Centre

Coordinating Organisations



Space
Partnership

**15 Regional
“Space Clusters”**

Multinational Manufacturers / Launch Operators



- Orbex
- Skyrora
- Rocket Factory Augsburg (RFA)
- HyImpulse
- B2Space
- Space Engine Systems
- Space Forge
- ClearSpace

Active Launch Sites

- Saxa Vord Spaceport
 - Licensed for Vertical Launches (Orbital and Suborbital)
 - Up to 30 launches per year once in full operation
 - Multiple potential customers
 - 3 separate launch pads
- Spaceport 1
 - Suborbital Vertical Launches
 - 1 launch pad, up to 10 launches per year
- Spaceport Cornwall
 - Horizontal Launches
 - Hosted Virgin Orbit's attempted launch
 - Future customers to be announced

Potential space launch sites

Active:

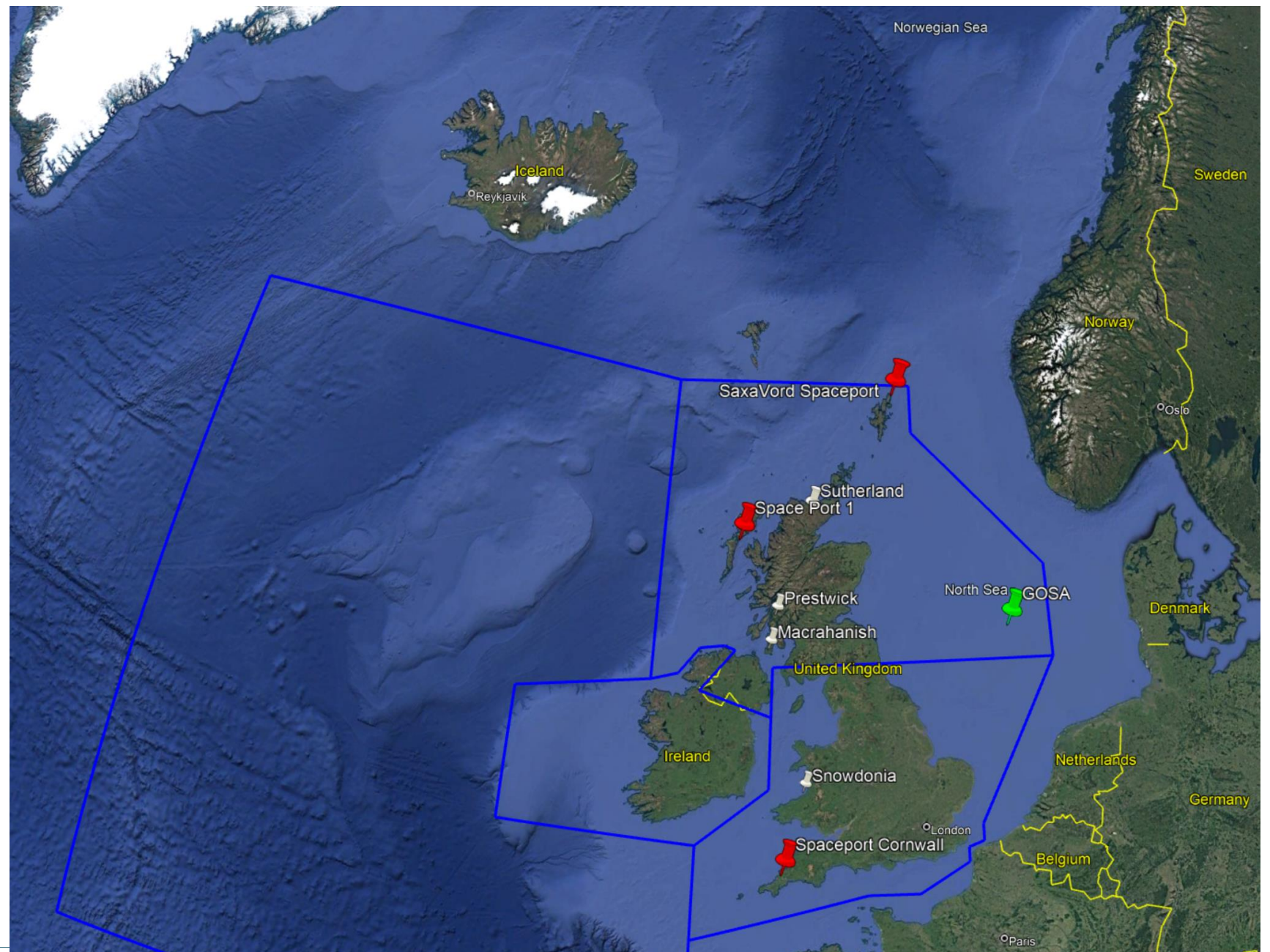
- Saxa Vord
- Space Port 1
- Spaceport Cornwall

Test / Potential Future Sites:

- Sutherland
- Prestwick
- Macrahanish
- Snowdonia

Potential Offshore Site:

- German Offshore Spaceport Alliance (GOSA)



Web Links



- DSIT
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-science-innovation-and-technology>
- DfT
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport>
- MoD
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence>
- UK Space Agency
<https://www.ukspace.org/>
- UK CAA
<https://www.caa.co.uk/home/>
- UK NSPOC
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-space-operations-centre>
- UK Space
<https://www.ukspace.org/>
- UK Space Partnership
<https://www.spacepartnership.org.uk/>
- Saxa Vord Spaceport
<https://saxavord.com/>
- Spaceport 1
<https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/news/2024/construction-work-begins-spaceport-1-north-uist>
- Spaceport Cornwall
<https://spaceportcornwall.com/>
- GOSA
<https://www.offshore-spaceport.de/en/>
- Orbex
<https://orbex.space/>
- Skyrora
<https://skyrora.com/>
- Rocket Factory Augsburg (RFA)
<https://www.rfa.space/>
- HyImpulse
<https://hyimpulse.de/en/>
- Space Engine Systems
<https://www.spaceenginesystems.com/>
- Space Forge
<https://www.spaceforge.com/>
- ClearSpace
<https://clearspace.today/>
- AAC Clyde Space
<https://www.aac-clyde.space/>
- Airbus
<https://www.airbus.com/en/products-services/space/space-technology-made-in-uk>
- In-Space Missions
<https://in-space.co.uk/>
- Open Cosmos
<https://www.open-cosmos.com/>
- Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL)
<https://www.sstl.co.uk/>