

Space Partnership Project Criteria

Approved: 17/3/26

Next review: 31/3/27

Background

The Space Partnership (SP) brings together industry, academia and Government stakeholders to work on shared priority issues to realise the ambition set out in the National Space Strategy (NSS), and to grow the UK space sector. The Space Partnership Board is the mechanism to fairly reflect all stakeholders across industry, academia and Government to agree these shared priorities and the collective activities so that all parts of the sector across the whole of the UK benefit.

This document lays out the criteria for the tangible proposals that the SP Board may approve and then ask the SP Director to deliver.

Project Criteria

Following engagement across the UK space sector the SP Director will put forward a range of potential projects for the SP Board to consider. Before the SP Director and team undertake substantive work on any project, the following 'Project Criteria' need to be satisfied:

1. Clear need for industry, academia & government to come together to address
2. Clear deliverables (will require discussion with SP Director)
3. Identified contribution from each group of stakeholders & SP team
4. SP Board approval, which will be dependent on current SP Board priorities and resource available within the SP team and beyond.

Project Restrictions

Stakeholders have had the opportunity to note any constraints that the SP Board must adhere to. These are:

From Government

Where appropriate, the Space Partnership will develop tangible proposals which can be shared across government, industry and academia. Government will propose policy activities where the Partnership will be invited to provide support and expert advice. However, the ownership and design of government policy is the responsibility of civil servants, and policy decisions made by Ministers must be implemented by civil servants. Proposals to work on alternatives to established government policy, or in areas where there are constraints due to commercial sensitivities, security considerations or government negotiations (e.g. ESA), will not be suitable activity for the Space Partnership.

The outputs of work carried out by the Space Partnership will be reported into the National Space Board through the DSIT and MoD directors and will be used to inform decision making across Government. However, where outputs from Space Partnership include recommendations that are relevant to government policy or activity, civil servants will be responsible for advising Ministers on if and how to apply these recommendations. Ministers are responsible for all final decisions on government policy.