

PE1746/D

Scottish Enterprise submission of 8 November 2019

A decision on whether or not to create a dedicated non-departmental public body for the Scottish space industry is for the Scottish Government. It should be noted that there is already considerable joint working among the enterprise agencies in this sector.

As the planned home to Europe's first dedicated small satellite launch facility, Scotland is at the forefront of the commercial NewSpace market as it develops the infrastructure, technologies and skills to anchor a new industry in Scotland, creating sustainable jobs for our economy. Given its history, Scotland has all the prerequisites for a strong and leading space industry. Indeed, Scotland's space industry is significant and it leads the line globally in the nascent field of small satellites and covers activities across the value chain – from concept to launch; from components to services – spanning our existing business and academic excellence in engineering, manufacturing and data.

Scottish Enterprise is committed to maximising nationally significant opportunities such as space and in response to the £400 billion global space opportunity we are actively involved in a number of developing projects to create growth of the commercial industry in Scotland across the full space value chain. We work closely with key partner organisations such as the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise on a national basis to deliver our overarching strategic aims for the industry as outlined in the Programme for Government.

Scottish Enterprise support the ambitions of the industry which is highlighted by the recently announced £14.7m investment into Glasgow-based satellite company Spire Global which will help the firm generate over 260 jobs in Scotland's space sector. This announcement timed with the release of our inward investment proposition entitled Scotland in Space: Expanding your Horizons during the UK Space Conference 2019 at which Scottish government authorities and industry created a strong Scottish presence marking our leading position in commercial space.

We continue to work collaboratively with partners including Glasgow Prestwick Spaceport and South Ayrshire Council to develop Scotland's horizontal launch capability and through the Ayrshire Growth Deal, support development of the nationally significant infrastructure required to assist in maximising Scotland's ambition in Space. Most recently, Scottish Enterprise completed a study to map Scotland's range control assets, highlighting growth opportunities to deliver range control services critical for developing launch capabilities.

I trust that this information is useful to the Committee in your deliberations.