

**PE1746/E**

UK Space Agency submission of 8 November 2019

The UK Space Agency is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. It is responsible for all strategic decisions on the UK civil space programme and provides a clear, single voice for UK space ambitions. Whilst space is a reserved matter, our ambitions to grow the sector within the UK lead to clear synergies with Local Enterprise Partnerships in England and with the Devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with regard to economic development. We believe that actions to support local growth of the space sector should be locally-led, and we work closely with our partners across the UK to best achieve their, and our, shared ambitions.

The space sector is diverse, ranging from the development of instruments and small satellites to data processing and exploitation within other market segments as diverse as offshore energy, financial services and transport and logistics. Scotland has significant space activity, employing circa 18% of the UK space sector workforce with end-to-end capabilities across the space value chain and strengths in both industry and academia.

The Scottish space sector is growing strongly with significant support from the Scottish Government (which has identified ambitious targets to host a £4bn space sector by 2030), the industry-led Scottish Space Leadership Council, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scottish Development International and other agencies. These bodies work closely with each other, and with the UK Space Agency and UK bodies, to bring their individual skill sets and expertise to bear in relation to the core space sector and its application markets. This approach ensures that Scottish companies (including inward investors) across the breadth of space activities benefit from coordinated and tailored support. This means that the Scottish space community is well placed to maximise its potential through the existing relationships and bodies, and it is not therefore clear what benefit a new NDPB would add.

The UK Space Agency would be pleased to discuss this further with colleagues from the Scottish Government if this would be helpful.