



National Developments – Response Form

Please use the table below to let us know about projects you think may be suitable for national development status. You can also tell us your views on the existing national developments in National Planning Framework 3, referencing their name and number, and providing reasons as to why they should maintain their status. Please use a separate table for each project or development. **Please fill in a [Respondent Information Form](#) and return it with this form to scotplan@gov.scot.**

Name of proposed national development	Space Hub Sutherland (SHS)
Brief description of proposed national development	Facility for small satellites to be launched into Earth orbit
Location of proposed national development (information in a GIS format is welcome if available)	A' Mhòine, Sutherland (2600m South West of Dunbuie, Talmine, Tongue) – see attached location plan.
What part or parts of the development requires planning permission or other consent?	Launch operations control centre, site integration facility, launch pad complex, antenna park, access road, fencing, services and associated infrastructure
When would the development be complete or operational?	First launches anticipated to take place in 2022.
Is the development already formally recognised – for example identified in a development plan, has planning permission, in receipt of funding etc.	<p>Funding of £2.55m has been allocated to the project from the UK Space Agency with an additional £9.8m funding provided by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and £5m sought from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to fulfil its obligations under the Energy Act 2004 to provide funding to projects which have a demonstrable positive impact on jobs in the Caithness and North Sutherland area.</p> <p>A planning application for the development was submitted to The Highland Council in February 2020. This was supported by a range of specialist reports including an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAR), Economic Impact Assessment (EconIAR) and Socio-economic Statement (SES). The application is still to be determined.</p>

Contribution of proposed national development to the national development criteria (maximum 500 words):

SHS contributes to each criterion for national development status, as well as to achieving national outcomes, relating to economy, fair work and business, communities and education.

Climate change – satellite data is a vital tool in climate science. 35 of 45 essential climate variables defined by the UN are measured from space, in many cases by small satellites which businesses will be attracted to launch from SHS, assisting in understanding the pace and global impact of climate change (land/sea temperatures, greenhouse gas emissions, sea levels etc.) and will inform policies and actions to reduce carbon emissions and contribute to reaching Scotland's target of net zero emissions by 2045.

SHS itself has been designed to minimise carbon emissions from build and operation, with habitat restoration offering opportunities for the development to be carbon neutral over its lifetime (see EIAR).

People – SHS is within a fragile area, with a declining and ageing population, where the run-down of Dounreay presents economic and community challenges. Sustainable year-round employment in new well paid and skilled jobs will enable young people to remain in the area, as well as attracting new families who will contribute to the sustainability of local communities through increasing school rolls and supporting essential services and facilities (e.g. shops and GPs). SHS will also provide opportunities to develop the STEM agenda locally and nationally, contributing to educational attainment. It will therefore deliver significant benefits in terms of wellbeing, sustainability and quality of life for current and future populations of the local area, the wider Highlands and Islands, and Scotland as a whole.

Inclusive growth – National Space Policy (2015) sets out the UK Government's commitment to establishing a spaceport for small satellite launch activities and/or sub-orbital spaceflight operations, and to grow the value of the UK Space Sector to £40bn by 2030. Independent assessments of potential sites identified A'Mhòine peninsula as an optimal location for the spaceport, based on technical, logistical, cost and safety considerations.

The EconIAR and SES demonstrate SHS will create jobs across a range of sectors, including in satellite companies, academic and research institutions and supply chain companies, allowing them to offer a wider proposal to the global market. It will create 44 direct jobs in Melness, 250 elsewhere in the Highlands and Islands, 480 in Scotland and 530 in the UK. Already, there are benefits from Orbex opening a manufacturing facility in Forres and, further afield, small satellite manufacturing sites and data analysis companies in the central belt will benefit from a launch facility within 6 hours of these. SHS will make Scotland the only country in Europe with capacity to design, build and launch satellites. It will therefore clearly contribute to sustainable economic growth across Scotland.

Place – the layout and design of SHS have been informed by environmental designations on and adjacent to the site, avoiding built development on designated sites and ensuring any adverse impacts are minimised. The development therefore protects the quality of the natural environment in which it is located.



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