



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	Outer Hebrides Space Industries
Brief description of proposed national development	Vertical launch facility and associated infrastructure and a Space Enterprise Park.
Location of proposed national development (information in a GIS format is welcome if available)	North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist
What part or parts of the development requires planning permission or other consent?	All parts of the development will require planning permission and there will be an obligation to obtain launch specific licences from agencies such as Marine Scotland and the Civil Aviation Authority. Other licencing requirements may emerge from the Space Industry Act Regulations through the UK Space Agency. With the proximity of Hebrides Range and the synergies with our proposal, formal collaboration with the Ministry of Defence is also required.
When would the development be complete or operational?	This is a major initiative which is dependent on significant development work including a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment, detailed design and a capital funding package. Furthermore, the ability for any orbital space industry activity is wholly reliant on the development of the regulatory regime linked to the Space Industry Act 2018. It is anticipated that the development could be operational in 2022/23, subject to the emergence of the Regulatory Framework.
Is the development already formally recognised – for example identified in a development plan, has	Such developments are not specifically referenced within the Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan. Funding has only been

planning permission, in receipt of funding etc.

approved for early stage feasibility activities at this stage.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

One of the greatest challenges in tackling climate change is the ability to obtain a detailed understanding of the complex variables involved. Earth observation techniques from space are one of the most effective ways of monitoring environmental change. As more and more satellites are developed in Scotland for exactly this purpose, our aspiration to develop infrastructure and capabilities here in the Outer Hebrides will allow these satellites to be launched in our own country, more quickly and cost-effectively and will retain the economic benefit in Scotland.

PEOPLE

The Outer Hebrides is one of the most fragile and economically at risk areas of the UK and current demographic forecasts highlight major challenges for the long term sustainability of the island economy and local communities.

Our economic analysis indicates that the Outer Hebrides has the greatest economic need for strategic investment in a high growth future industry sector, such as Space. Development of facilities and capabilities which would allow the Scottish Space sector to flourish would be transformational for the Outer Hebrides as it would provide new opportunities in employment, services, training and research and development. The resulting economic security will support the health, wellbeing, sustainability and quality of life of the island population in an unprecedented way.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

More small satellites are built in Glasgow than any other place in Europe and nearly a fifth of all UK space jobs are based in Scotland. The Scottish Government's aspiration is for the Scottish Space sector to be a £4 billion industry by 2030. Key to achieving this, will be the development of one or more orbital launch facilities in Scotland, with associated infrastructure and capabilities.

PLACE

With challenging demographic forecasts, it is vital that we strive to make the islands a more attractive place in which to live, work, study and invest, particularly for younger, working age people. Our population is currently overly reliant on the public sector and traditional industries for employment, and as a result we have a low-wage economy. This taken together with the fact that the cost of living here is considerably higher than in other parts of Scotland makes the case for investment in new, high-value sectors all the more critical.

For more information and other resources



<http://www.transformingplanning.scot>



<https://blogs.gov.scot/planning-architecture/>



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