



## Satellite Update January 2019

### ***The UK Government restates its commitment to the UK space industry***

*Mark Garnier MP posed the below question on 8 January 2019 at Parliamentary questions as to the UK Government's commitment to the space industry.*

*We include the full Hansard verbatim record of the discussion. The response provides clear confirmation of the Government's continuing commitment to the UK space industry.*

#### **“UK Space Industry**

**Mark Garnier (Wyre Forest) (Con)** - What steps he is taking to support the UK space industry.

**The Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation (Chris Skidmore)**

- the UK plays a leading role in space science and exploration, and our commercial sector is globally competitive, underpinned by Government support of up to £370 million a year. We have further committed £92 million to develop options for a possible UK global navigation satellite system to maintain the UK's security capabilities,

and £31.5 million to kick-start small satellite launch from the UK as part of our modern industrial strategy.

**Mark Garnier** - I can tell from that answer that my hon. Friend recognises the increasing importance of the space sector in our everyday lives, particularly for communications and broadband. Does he therefore agree that elements of the space sector should be designated and treated as part of the UK's critical national infrastructure, thus receiving the extra support and potential financing that such designation would provide?

**Chris Skidmore** - My hon. Friend is right that space capabilities are fundamental to UK prosperity and security. Every day, we rely on telecommunications, earth observation, position navigation and timing services from space. Many of the parts of the UK's critical infrastructure—from telecommunications to transport—also depend on services from space to operate effectively, and that is why the space sector is designated as a critical national infrastructure sector, with efforts focused on improving the security of our critical assets.”

*[[hansard.parliament.uk](http://hansard.parliament.uk) - 08 January 2019, Volume 652]*