

Regulatory Briefing – October 2021

Europe

United Kingdom

The UK Government publishes its National Space Strategy

On 27 September 2021, the UK Government released its much anticipated [National Space Strategy](#). Outlining the importance of the space sector in the UK, the Government detailed the industry’s 45,000 jobs and the importance of space in facilitating day-to-day activities and addressing and mitigating climate change.

The Strategy set out four pillars under which the Government will take action:

- unlocking growth in the UK space sector;
- international collaboration;
- growing the UK as a science and technology power; and
- developing the resilience of UK space capabilities and services.

Looking to the future of the UK space industry, the Strategy outlined five long term goals:

- to grow the UK space economy;
- to promote an open and stable international order in space;
- supporting research and innovation;
- defending national interests; and
- using space for national and global challenges like climate change.

The importance of using space to assist with sustainability and mitigate climate change was a common theme throughout. Space sustainability was included as one of the Strategy’s 10 focus areas, alongside promoting Earth Observation and space-focused venture capital funds.

Emphasis was also placed on collaboration, notably the continued importance of the UK – ESA partnership, with the UK hoping to launch the first rocket into orbit from Europe in 2022.

Aiming to empower small businesses and enhance the UK space industry, the Strategy looks to harness existing UK space sector strengths to become a leading space power.

The UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy publishes its Space Based Solar Power Study

On 27 September 2021, the UK Government published an independent [Study](#) into the technical feasibility, cost and economics of space based solar power (SBSP) as a means of helping the UK deliver its net zero policy.

SBSP technology collects solar energy in a high Earth orbit, where it is constantly available, before beaming this power down to a fixed point on Earth.

The SBSP Study comes after recent technological developments which have made the concept of SBSP feasible. Supporting the case for developing SBSP, the study concludes that SBSP is:

- technically feasible;
- affordable with a competitive Levelised Cost of Electricity; and
- would bring significant UK economic gains.

The Study also recommended that SBSP is incorporated into Government Policies such as Net Zero and the National Space Strategy. It demonstrated both the potential and importance of space in promoting sustainability.

Following this Study, the government has published a call for input on:

- how SBSP could support innovation in the development of dual use technologies; and
- how these technologies could be used in SBSP systems or terrestrial power systems.

If you would like to provide input, please register [here](#) and provide a description of the dual-use technology you wish to develop. The deadline for input to be provided is 1 November 2021.

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The UK Government publishes its National Severe Space Weather Preparedness Strategy

On 27 September 2021, the UK Government published its [National Severe Space Weather Preparedness Strategy](#), outlining its five year vision for boosting UK resilience to the risk of severe space weather events.

The Preparedness Strategy supplements the National Space Strategy in facilitating the development of the UK space industry.

Setting out three pillars, the Preparedness Strategy demonstrates the commitments of the UK in the context of severe space weather:

- the Assess Pillar, focused on developing the UK’s understanding of severe space weather and the ability to accurately forecast events;
- the Prepare Pillar, focused on increasing the resilience of the industry through developing mitigation options and ensuring that both the Government and industry have response plans for severe space weather events; and
- the Respond and Recover pillar, focused on developing international collaboration through a real-time communication system for information sharing.

The UK Government releases spaceflight launch liabilities guidance

On 27 September 2021, the UK Government published its [guidance](#) on ‘Commercial spaceflight: launch and liabilities insurance’ in relation to the liabilities and insurance requirements set out in the Space Industry Act 2018 (SIA), which determines the conditions for horizontal and vertical launch capabilities in the UK.

The guidance clarifies:

- what the SIA says on limiting liability;
- the setting of launch insurance requirements;
- the level of launch operator liability limits in regulations; and
- the factors that Modelled Insurance Requirement (or MIR) take into account.

If you have further questions, please email:

- SpaceTeam@dft.gov.uk for launch insurance and liability;
- legislation-ukxa@ukspaceagency.gov.uk for orbital insurance and liability; and
- commercialspaceflight@caa.co.uk for licensing.

DCMS consults on reforms to create a pro-growth, trusted data protection regime

On 10 September 2021, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport launched a [consultation](#) on reforms to create a data protection regime which encourages growth and innovation.

The consultation is part of the UK Government’s wider National Data Strategy. The consultation aims to help reform UK data protection laws and build on elements of the current UK GDPR in order to increase regulatory agility and adaptability.

The consultation will close on 19 November 2021.

Ofcom calls for evidence on net neutrality

On 7 September 2021, Ofcom published a [call for evidence](#) for its review on the UK net neutrality framework which implements the EU Open Internet Regulation which came into force at the end of April 2016.

Net neutrality is the principle of ensuring that internet users control what can be seen and done online in order to protect the freedom of equal access to all lawful internet content.

This call for evidence invites fixed and mobile networks, internet service providers and content and application providers to submit evidence in order to allow Ofcom to evaluate the functioning of the UK’s net neutrality framework, such as:

- how well aspects of the current net neutrality framework work;
- steps to mitigate impact of less effective aspects;
- current or future developments which may raise concerns under the present net neutrality framework;

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- suggestions of business models or aspects which should be considered in the review;
- international approaches to net neutrality which may be useful to consider; and
- gaps within the existing framework; and determine whether it would be beneficial to update guidance on Ofcom’s interpretation and approach to assessing the current net neutrality framework.

The call for evidence will close at 5pm (GMT) on 2 November 2021.

Finland and Hungary

Finland and Hungary enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on Space Cooperation

On 14 September 2021 Finland and Hungary signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for space research and astronautic activities.

The MoU will provide the basis for cooperation between the two countries’ universities and companies in areas such as:

- space research;
- Earth surveillance; and
- navigation technology.

United States

The House Science Committee presses NOAA on commercial weather data and space traffic management

On 23 September 2021, members of the House Science Committee requested that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration increase

the use of commercial satellite data and management of satellite traffic.

This follows calls from NASA’s Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel for Congress to take action on space traffic management, indicating a trend towards heightened awareness of the importance of space traffic management.

Asia

India

A new space and satellite industry body launches in India

On 11th October 2021 Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a newly formed space and satellite industry body, the Indian Space Association (ISpA). These reforms of the Indian space sector aim to implement:

- freedom of innovation to the private sector;
- the Indian government acting as an enabler;
- preparation of the next generation for the future of space; and
- use of the space sector as a tool to develop the common man.

The industry body seeks to bring together public and private interests to make India a leading player in space. ISpA will engage in policy advocacy and work alongside the Indian government.

Founding members include Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro, Nelco (Tata Group), OneWeb, Mapmyindia, Walchandnagar Industries and Ananth Technology Limited.

Taiwan

Taiwan seeks to secure a strategic position in the space industry’s supply chain

On 14 September 2021, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen visited the country’s National Space Organisation. During this visit, the President emphasised the importance of Taiwan leveraging its competitive advantages in semiconductor and precision engineering to “secure a position in the space industry’s supply chain”.

This comes against the backdrop of Taiwan’s Space Development act published in May 2021, and the 25.1 billion New Taiwan dollars which the

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Taiwanese government intends to invest in the local space sector by 2028.

International

Finland and UAE discuss cooperating in space field

On 7 October 2021, the UAE and Finland held talks over strengthening their collaboration in:

- space technology;
- science; and
- innovation.

This aims to build on the existing bilateral partnerships between the two countries.

Mexico and Russia sign an agreement for space cooperation

During the Russian delegation’s visit to Mexico last month, the two countries signed a broad-sweeping agreement for space cooperation.

Proposed areas for cooperation include satellite communications, outer space, exploration, and academic research. The countries seek to share information regarding spatial meteorology, space biology, and medicine. The two countries may pool resources to share spacecraft launch services in the future.

This agreement comes shortly after Mexico’s deal in July 2021 with Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Costa Rica to form a Latin American regional space agency. Through these actions, it is evident that Mexico has ambitions in space.



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