

Context

Satellites and space-based services are vital to modern life. They enable a diverse range of civilian activities, from agriculture to banking to transportation, and provide communications, imagery, precision targeting and friendly force tracking for the armed forces. As their importance continues to grow, there would be severe consequences from any disruption, whether by natural or man-made hazards, or intentional threats from hostile states.

The 2018 National Security Capability Review concluded that we are in a period of increased complexity and risk. The challenges identified in the 2015 National Security Strategy have grown faster than anticipated, which is why the Defence Secretary initiated the Modernising Defence Programme (MDP) to strengthen our world-leading Armed Forces while putting Defence on a stable and affordable footing.

We have seen growing investment by other states in capabilities that threaten the use of space by the UK and its allies. The forthcoming Defence Space Strategy will set out in detail how we are responding; this leaflet provides a high-level summary of its main themes.

Governance



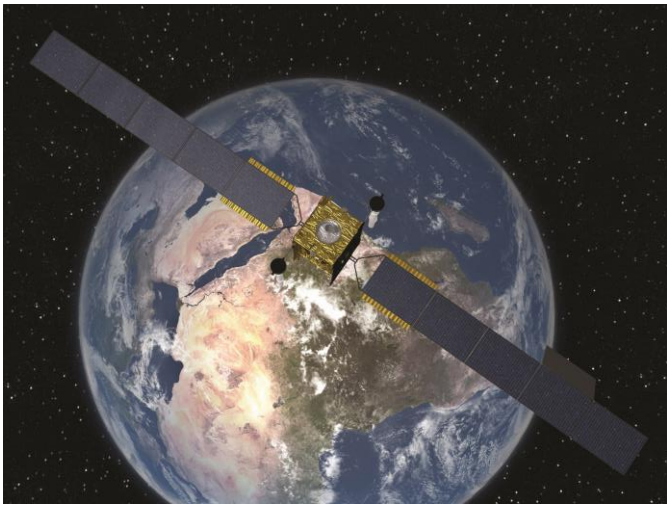
Air Command has assumed responsibility for the Command and Control of UK military space operations, leading the development of a cadre of qualified and experienced Space personnel, and engaging internationally in support of these responsibilities.

Leads for the management of space-enabled capabilities remain unchanged, although an important part of our future approach will be to enhance the overall coherence and co-ordination of activity across the Defence space enterprise. Joint Forces Command will continue to be responsible for Satellite Communications and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities, and Air Command for Space Situational Awareness and Space Control capabilities.



Ministry
of Defence

TOWARDS A
DEFENCE
SPACE
STRATEGY



© Skynet 5, Graphic Representation

Vision

To secure freedom of action in space, fully exploiting its military and civil potential.

Mission

To ensure that Defence has the capabilities, skills and operational plans to protect and defend its space assets and interests in an increasingly contested environment, working closely alongside the rest of Government, international partners and the private sector.



© Carbonite-2

Optimise Space Support to the Front Line

Increase awareness of the nature and importance of the space domain

Develop a skilled and sustainable space workforce

Integrate space into all relevant aspects of Defence business

Produce coherent space policies, plans and capabilities

Enhance Space Resilience and Operational Effectiveness

Strengthen governance to ensure effective Space operations

Identify and attribute threats to space assets and systems

Support Wider Government Activities

Develop space capabilities to deliver effective operational outcomes

Support the private sector and Government to enhance resilience of space services

Support international efforts to make space a safe and secure environment

Respond to hostile activities in a proportionate and coordinated manner

Support the Government's aspiration for growth of the UK space sector

Jointly scope, with the UK Space Agency, a civilian-military National Space Operations Capability (NSpOC)

- Focussing on People & Skills
- Promoting Cross-Government Collaboration

- Broadening & Deepening Multinational Co-operation
- Driving Innovation & Exploiting Technological Opportunities

Strategic Objectives

Enhance space resilience and operational effectiveness. We need to be able to protect and defend our space interests, and we will develop the plans, capabilities, skills and relationships needed to do so. The nature of the threats, and the space domain itself, means that international co-operation will be central, and we should aim to maximise the benefits of any space activities we conduct to our allies and partners.

Optimise space support to the front line. We need to ensure that the armed forces can take full advantage of the opportunities offered by space-based technology. This means integrating space issues into a much wider range of activity than before, including operational planning, doctrine, capability development and training. We need to get our focus and balance of investment

in space capabilities right, taking into account both increased threats and new opportunities.

Support wider Government activities. The UK Space agency is pursuing ambitious plans for small satellite launch and industrial growth, and leads the UK's international collaboration on civil space programmes. Defence will actively support this work by providing capabilities, infrastructure and personnel, and will derive benefit from these activities for us and our partners. We will strengthen our partnerships across Government and support international initiatives to promote the responsible use of space. We will identify opportunities to support growth of the UK space sector and expansion of UK space exports. And we will work with the owners and operators of our space Critical National Infrastructure to enhance their resilience, including by developing co-ordinated plans to respond to threats and hazards.