



Department
for Transport

The Spaceflight Safety and Regulatory Council – First Meeting 13.00-14.30, Thursday 25th November 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

Attendees

Member attendance

- Luis Gomes, CEO, AAC Clyde Space
- Kevin Craven, Chief Executive, ADS Group
- Phil Wadey, Head of Space, Airbus
- Joanne Wheeler, Managing Partner, Alden Legal
- Paul Williams, Executive Director, Black Arrow Space Technologies
- Manny Shar, Head of Analytics, Bryce Tech
- Phil Davies (deputising for Sean Hardacre, Managing Director), Deimos Space UK Ltd
- Akiko Hama, Client Executive Space and Aerospace, Global Aerospace
- Mark Dickinson, Vice President of Satellite Operations, Inmarsat
- Grant Lewis, Project Manager (deputising for Paul Livingston), Lockheed Martin UK Ltd
- Chris McLaughlin, Chief of Government, Regulation & Engagement, OneWeb
- Chris Larmour, CEO, Orbex
- Mick O'Connor, Programme Director, Prestwick Spaceport
- Steve Powell, Senior Campaign Lead, Qinetiq
- Chris Mutlow, Director, RAL Space
- Scott Hammond, Operations Director, Shetland Space Centre
- Volodomyr Levykin, CEO, Skyrora
- Melissa Thorpe, Head, Spaceport Cornwall
- Victoria Montag, General Manager – UK Launch Services, Spaceport Macrihanish
- Matthew Hinton, Estates Manager (deputising for Lee Paul), Snowdonia Aerospace
- Mark Roberts, Project Director, Spaceport 1
- Jan Skolmli, Chief Commercial Officer, UK Space
- Andy Bradford, Co-Founder and CEO, UKLSL
- Dan Hart, CEO, Virgin Orbit

Department for Transport (DfT), Aviation Directorate official attendance

- Jenny Ward, Deputy Director, Aviation Strategy, Consumers and Innovation (Deputy Chair)

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) official attendance

- Rebecca Evernden, Director for Space

Ministry of Defence (MoD) official attendance

- Air Vice Marshal Harvey Smith, CBE, OFC, DFC, Head of UK Space Directorate

Apologies

- Rt Hon Trudy Harrison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport
- Stephen Vance, CGI
- David Oxley, Space Hub Sutherland
- Phil Brownnett, Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd

Meeting observers & technical advisors

The Spaceflight Safety and Regulatory Council (SSRC) is formed of senior-level members from spaceflight industry, government officials, and Ministers. It is representative of the segments of the commercial spaceflight industry affected by the Space Industry Act 2018 and new commercial spaceflight regulations.

Observer status was offered to stakeholders and industry members who are not members of the Council and to other government departments and the devolved administrations.

The meeting was also supported by technical advisors from other government departments including the UK Space Agency, the Civil Aviation Authority, Air Accidents Investigation Branch, Health & Safety Executive, and Maritime Coastguard Agency.

Agenda

1. Welcome from Trudy Harrison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

A pre-recorded speech was played to those in attendance and this is available on the SSRC website.

2. Opening remarks from the Chair

Jenny Ward (deputising for Trudy Harrison MP) gave an overview of the government landscape of the space programme, emphasising this year's passing of the Space Industry Regulations and the publication of the National Space Strategy as part of the Government's intention to establish the UK as one of the most attractive and innovative space economies in the world. The roles of DfT, BEIS and the MoD were outlined.

The SSRC is a partnership between industry and government to bring together ministers, government officials, and senior-level stakeholders, with the aim of ensuring that the UK has the right regulatory environment to support the growing UK spaceflight market, and contribute to the ambition for UK to become a global leader in space.

It is intended to run in tandem with the Space Launch and Orbit Group (SPLOG), which is the forum for the regulator and industry to talk to each other and discuss space launch and orbital regulatory activities and policy. The DfT is working closely with CAA to ensure that there's no duplication between the two whilst ensuring that industry members will steer the direction for content and topics for discussion

The Council is not operating under Chatham House rules and this meeting is being minuted and recorded. After the meeting the minutes will be made publicly available on the SSRC's GOV.UK page (<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/spaceflight-safety-and-regulatory-council>). Council membership will also be published on this page.

3. Introductions

Members were invited to introduce themselves and their role in the company, agency or body they represented.

4. Co-Chair vote

The SSRC is a partnership between industry and government, and therefore an industry Co-Chair for Council has been appointed. There was only one candidate, Chris McLaughlin, Chief of Government, Regulation & Engagement at OneWeb, and this was agreed unanimously, followed by a brief statement of acceptance.

5. Spaceflight Safety and Regulatory Council terms of reference

The Council's terms of reference had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was clarified that it would only work within the agreed terms of reference.

The Council agreed the terms of reference unanimously.

6. Setting out the next stages of work

The Council is tasked with keeping the Space Industry Act 2018 and Space Industry Regulations 2021 under review and to provide recommendations focussed on addressing issues directly impacting the UK space sector which can be addressed or improved through changes to UK space regulatory landscape. This does not currently include the Outer Space Act 1986, which has a focus on activities outside the UK but can be reviewed as appropriate in future. The Council was asked to

agree (i) the priority issues for its initial focus and (ii) the process for working on these issues over the Council's first year, including whether any working groups should be established.

It was noted that the close proximity to the commercial spaceflight regulations coming into force meant that there was not yet substantial experience of working within the new regulatory framework, and in the plan of work for the coming year there should be room set aside to pick up further issues as experience develops.

It was agreed that the SSRC will focus work initially on: (i) insurance and liabilities, (ii) the plans for the UK's charging regime and ensuring that the UK remains competitive, and (iii) range and range control.

It was also agreed that coordinating airspace would also be an important aspect for the SSRC to consider. This will be discussed at a future meeting with the Civil Aviation Authority.

Given the novel nature of UK commercial spaceflight it was agreed that at each session there would be updates given as to what is happening more widely on UK commercial spaceflight before turning to the agenda items for discussion.

Some members raised issues that are outside the remit of the SSRC. Alternative avenues will be explored to progress these issues outside of the SSRC.

There would be a continual assessment of the overall progress of the Council itself and an annual report prepared to synthesise the discussions, the latter intended to permit the Government to make a formal response if required.

The need for any working groups was not considered and Council members were encouraged to feed in relevant issues to the Secretariat for future discussions.

7. Any other business

The Spaceflight Safety and Regulatory Council will next meet in March 2022, with a date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 14.15.