

PE1746/A

Argyll & Bute Council submission of 30 October 2019

How can Scotland maximise its potential as a spacefaring nation?

By recognising the benefits of having multiple launch site options and taking due consideration of all available sites. Promotion of the different locations and their unique features and benefits to the development of the space industry. Dispersed locations will help ensure inclusive growth in some of Scotland's most fragile rural economies.

What action should the Scottish Government take to harness Scotland's potential within space industries?

Provide adequate support for R&D in or near the most appropriate spaceport location for each discipline. Encourage small business development through small business grants and support. Positive engagement with local communities is essential to highlight the benefits to remote communities of setting up a spaceport. Interactions with schools and curricular development are also key to the success of the industry.

Provide fiscal and/or policy incentives to enable business growth and attract inward investment.

What are the best ways for government, academia and industry to work together?

The space industry is growing rapidly and the opportunities for graduates and postgraduates are set to increase across a wide array of disciplines.

To take full advantage of the opportunities Scotland needs to create a strategy that will encompass the needs of each sector, monitor and oversee development. Providing support and showcasing what the space industry and Scotland can do together.

What is the best way to inspire tomorrow's youth through space?

Early years engagement, especially in our more geographically challenged areas. Interactions with schools and curricular development are also key to the success of the industry and that of associated areas such as software development, law, insurance, journalism, education and tourism. This will allow for good succession planning and reduced population drift to the central belt, given that the majority of space port options are in remote, rural locations.