



SPACE BRIDGE

The 'Space Bridge', architected by the Satellite Applications Catapult and inspired by the highly successful 'FinTech Bridge' already in existence between the UK and Australia, is a mechanism to unlock greater collaboration between governments, regulators and industry.

On Tuesday 24th September 2019 a political declaration and statement of intent was made between the UK Space Agency and Australian Space Agency to establish a Space Bridge between the two nations. The Australian UK Space Bridge will provide a platform to enable closer and stronger collaboration on space technologies and satellite applications. Providing this formal framework, minimises risks, and lowers the barriers to entry for the UK and Australian space industry to collaborate and commercialise more easily.

Following a successful Government campaign, the UK Space Agency and the Australian Space Agency, together with the UK Department for International Trade, Austrade, Satellite Applications Catapult, and the Smartsat CRC, will develop the Space Bridge Framework Agreement to accelerate economic benefits to both nations Space and Satellite Applications communities. The framework will leverage business models and principles that support activities across four levels:

1	GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT
2	REGULATOR TO REGULATOR
3	TRADE AND INVESTMENT
4	BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

The Catapult, as a commercial party, will drive the business to business layer of the Space Bridge whilst our government partners (UKSA, DIT, ASA, and Austrade) will be developing the policy and regulation to underpin the commercial activity. As the foundation of the business to business layer, the CRC and the Catapult are aiming to establish a framework to realise accelerated benefits for industry through commercial and collaborative activity under the Space Bridge.

WHO ARE WE?

SATELLITE APPLICATIONS CATAPULT

The Satellite Applications Catapult is a non-profit distributing Research & Technology Organisations (RTO) limited by guarantee. We are one of a network comprising of 12 Catapult's which aim to drive economic growth through the commercialisation of research. Our mission is to energise markets, empower technology, and enable business by supporting UK industry use and commercialise satellite enabled systems, satellite data, and space technologies.

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Department for International Trade is a United Kingdom government department responsible for striking and extending trade agreements between the United Kingdom and non-EU states, as well as for encouraging foreign investment and export trade.

AUSTRALIAN SMARTSAT CRC

The Australian CRC (Collaborative Research Centres) Program links researchers with industry and government with a focus on commercial applications. The Australian Smartsat CRC aims to be a leading contributor to Australia's Space Economy through Satellite Technologies and Analytics.

UK SPACE AGENCY

The United Kingdom Space Agency is an executive agency of the Government of the United Kingdom, responsible for the United Kingdom's civil space programme.



AUSTRALIA SPACE AGENCY

The establishment of the Australian National Space Agency by the federal government in July 2018 marks the birth of the Australian Space programme. The Smartsat CRC aims to support the endeavours of the Australian National Space Agency through collaboration to build the largest network concentration in space research & Innovation capability in Australia.

AUSTRADE

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission, or Austrade, is the Australian Government's trade, investment and education promotion agency.

COMMERCIAL BENEFITS



INCREASED RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Supporting commercial space enterprise in exploitation of technology development to improve return on investment



ACCESS TO GLOBAL MARKETS

Both the UK and Australia are existing established markets, but can also provide a gateway and facilitate commercial ventures and strategic partnerships into respective regional markets.



IMPROVED INDUSTRY AWARENESS AND INFLUENCE

Through facilitated knowledge exchange, skills development programmes, and access to new capabilities.



WHAT IS THE OPPORTUNITY?

As the foundation for the Business to Business activities of the Space Bridge, the Catapult will be working with Australian industry bodies to develop strategic frameworks to support both jurisdictions at an operational level. Initially the Catapult will work with the Smartsat CRC to create the mechanisms and attract funding which shall allow industry to better collaborate, exploit, and commercialise new and latent IP in an international context.

The framework will endeavor to establish formal connections, create upstream and downstream reciprocal opportunities, and attract funding to encourage and enable:

- Greater commercialisation and exploitation opportunities
- Increased collaborative technical development
- Growth of joint sovereign capabilities

OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE SPACE POLICY

The Space Bridge framework shall encourage discussion and collaboration between the different levels of involved actors. The Business to Business engagement shall help to inform Space Policy from collaborations and market intelligence in both nations. This influence would provide future opportunity and strengthened relationships.

HOW DO WE DO THIS?



SKILLS GROWTH AND R&D PROGRAM

Access to, and development of skills and capability through establishment of a reciprocal researcher in residence program that will host and fund industrial placements, participation on program and project advisory boards and establish shared post-doctoral capability.



COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PORTFOLIO

Endeavour to secure funding mechanisms and support grant for grant applications to lower the barrier to entry and mitigate risk for international collaborative technology development projects across geo-spatial intelligence, ubiquitous connectivity and access to space with commercially viable outcomes focused in agriculture, natural resources (including mining), logistics and transport, and security & defence.



COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION FOR SPACE & SATELLITE TECHNOLOGIES PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Creation of reciprocal landing and launch pads, which shall facilitate access to Australia and Asia Pac, and UK and European markets by providing advice on legal landscape, in country network navigation, access to funding, and an initial base within the UK or Australian Space hubs.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The Satellite Applications are working with UKSpace Agency, Australian Space Agency, DIT, and Austrade on the progression of the overall Space Bridge framework but would like to thank and acknowledge our other partners and funders for supporting the Catapult in developing the opportunities within the business, commercial and collaborative aspects of the Space Bridge.



Foreign & Commonwealth Office



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