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Collaboration in Space Research & Innovation

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Questions

- Do we collaborate enough?
 - Do we collaborate with the right people? Do we really know how to collaborate?
- Are there too many / too few intermediaries seeking to encourage collaboration?
 - What is their added value? Are they in competition with each other?
- How do we encourage collaboration?
- What does a successful collaboration look like?



Questions

- Do we collaborate enough? **No**
 - Do we collaborate with the right people? Do we really know how to collaborate? **Sometimes**
- Are there too many / too few intermediaries seeking to encourage collaboration? **Its complicated**
 - What is their added value? Are they in competition with each other?
- How do we encourage collaboration? **See examples**
- What does a successful collaboration look like? **See examples**



Observations

- HEIs compete for students & funding
- Government policy forced more competition between HEIs
 - Particularly for past 15+ years
 - Engine for dividing scarce resources
- Landscape is changing (maybe)
 - Recent schemes require collaboration (e.g. CCF)
 - Levelling-up agenda
 - Increased focus on regions
- Is it now 'good' to collaborate?... it is essential



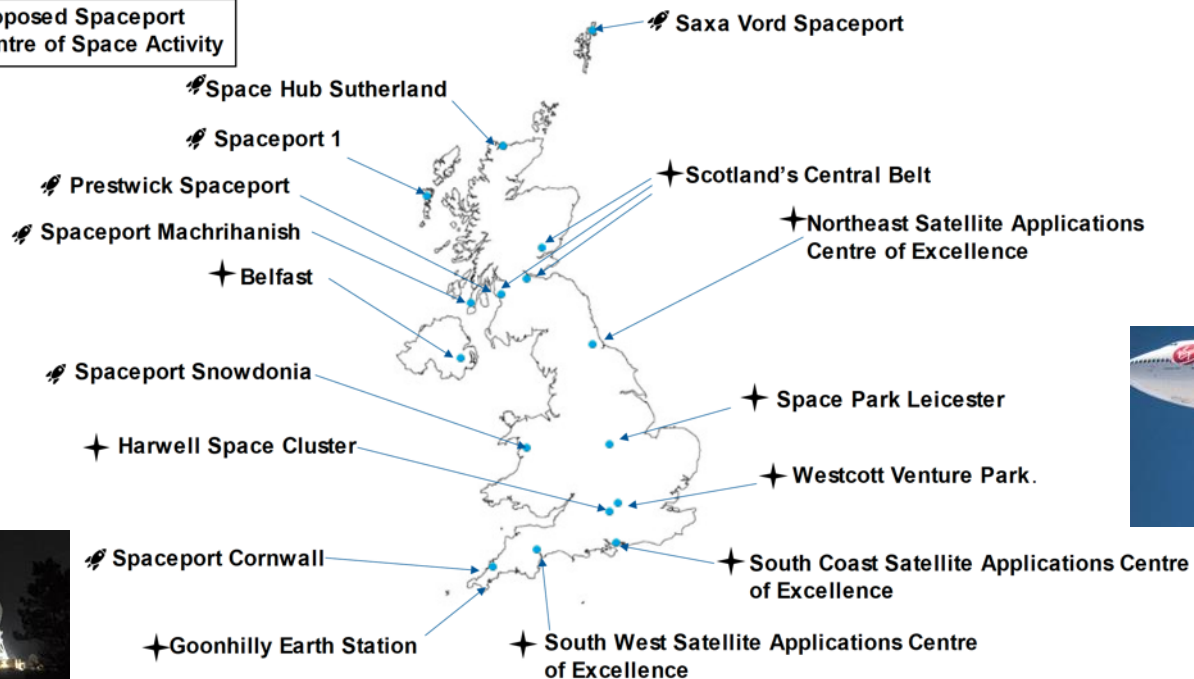
Development of UK Space Sector

- Central importance of space to Government & economy
 - National Space Council established, chaired by PM
 - Key for UK aim to become 'a global science superpower' & future outside the EU
- New UK Space Strategy (27th September)
 - Themes include: skills, diversity, research and place (levelling-up)
- Significant space workforce, skills and infrastructure required to support spaceports & clusters



The UK Space Landscape

-  Proposed Spaceport
-  Centre of Space Activity



Space Park Leicester

- Hub for Space and Space-enabled industry enabling Space 4.0
- Earth Observation (EO) data into Commercial Applications, Services & Businesses
- Business co-located in UoL building
- Extended partnership between academia & business beyond city and region
- Creating a dynamic community of businesses, researchers, students & agencies



Midlands Innovation Space Group

- Midlands Innovation – Aston, Birmingham, Keele, Leicester, Nottingham, Warwick
- Space as a regional priority
- Significant cluster of expertise - > 900 space researchers and support staff
- Anchor for levelling-up investment
- Critical mass for large programme bids



SPRINT

- Research England Connecting Capabilities Fund + UKSA
 - Funds committed – wave 1 £4.8M, wave 2 £2.0M, UKSA £0.6M
- Space HEIs supporting growth and sustainability of SMEs
- Founder HEIs - Leicester, Surrey, Southampton, Open University, Edinburgh
- New Associate members – Exeter, Durham, Leeds, City (London), Kingston, Bristol, Strathclyde, Glasgow
- Example of expertise & I/P sharing
- HEIs networking to develop projects



Conclusion

- Space is a great opportunity for development of science & growth of the economy
- But... collaboration not competition between HEIs, regions & clusters is essential
- We have shown HEIs and industry can work more closely together
- Policy & funding must support this approach
 - “One-off” funding opportunities (e.g. Connecting Capabilities Fund) not sufficient
 - Continued, coordinated support must be part of landscape

