



CORNWALL &  
ISLES OF SCILLY  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

## Cornwall makes case for space to Westminster

Cornwall's space industry ambitions have taken centre stage at Westminster this week with a high-powered briefing for MPs and Ministers – and a warning that the UK risks losing its commercial advantage unless new laws and funding to establish UK spaceports are brought forward quickly.

The briefing at Portcullis House was organised by St Austell and Newquay MP Steve Double, who has championed plans to establish a horizontal launch spaceport at Cornwall Airport Newquay.

Earlier this summer the airport's owners, Cornwall Council, [signed a partnership agreement](#) with satellite launch company Virgin Orbit to meet the Government's target of launching the first satellite from the UK by 2020.

The deal followed more than a year's work funded and led by the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Cornwall Council to establish a spaceport in Cornwall and grow a £1 billion space economy by 2030.

The London briefing was attended by Transport Secretary Chris Grayling, Aviation Minister Liz Sugg (who also visited Cornwall Airport Newquay this week), MPs, space industry leaders, Cornwall Council and the LEP.

**Steve Double MP said:** "The Space Industry Bill in March was a crucial milestone towards commercial space flight from the UK, and it's vital we don't lose momentum. I'm pressing Ministers to bring forward the necessary supplementary legislation and investment to pave the way for launch from Cornwall."

**LEP Chairman Mark Duddridge added:** "The market for small satellite applications is growing exponentially but the UK risks losing out unless we can develop our own launch capability, which is a key ambition of the Government's Industrial Strategy. We have the infrastructure in Cornwall and a launch partner with soon to be proven technology to take the UK into the commercial space age by securing the first critical launch, but we need the investment to support that ambition."

**Adam Paynter, Leader of Cornwall Council,** was also at Westminster. He said: "We want Cornwall to reap the benefits of the rapid growth of the international space sector. With assets like Cornwall Airport Newquay, Goonhilly Earth Station and a strong South West Aerospace supply chain, the global space industry is a huge opportunity for our region and a key part of our New Frontiers post-Brexit economic plan."

Virgin Orbit is seeking to provide launches from a Spaceport at Cornwall Airport Newquay by December 2020 using a modified Boeing 747-400 aircraft called "Cosmic Girl". Cosmic Girl would carry the company's LauncherOne rocket under its wing to a launch range over the Atlantic and release the rocket at around 35,000 feet for onward flight into space, carrying satellites into Earth orbit.

The aircraft is undergoing tests in the US and carried LauncherOne in flight for the first time on Monday [Nov 19].

It is estimated that a horizontal launch spaceport at Cornwall Airport Newquay could create 150 immediate jobs and £200M of GVA to the UK, and Cornwall. The LEP's [Space Action Plan](#) predicts that the wider space sector could create thousands more jobs in Cornwall and by 2030 be worth £1 billion a year.

**Copy ends –20<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

## **Notes to editors**

### **New Frontiers**

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Boards New Frontiers proposition is designed to allow Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to bring together a number of separate initiatives that allow us to prepare for the opportunities and challenges of Brexit, develop our distinctive economic strengths and build on the existing devolution deal. It provides a framework for negotiation with Government that will allow us to form new partnerships, gain additional powers and also articulate our economic, social and environmental aspirations in a single document. The timing seems right: as with the Scottish referendum that aligned with Cornwall's first devolution deal being signed, Brexit provides a catalyst for change that we must grasp to ensure that our regions prospers now and into the future.

For more information visit: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/newfrontiers>

### **Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership**

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP is business-led and works with local authorities, education providers and others to drive forward economic growth and job creation in our area by concentrating on business, people and places. To date we have secured Growth Deals and other funding from Government to support an investment programme worth more than £450 million, investing in a raft of projects ranging from road improvements to unlock housing and employment sites and ease congestion, to rail infrastructure projects, new workspace and business growth.

Follow us on Twitter [@LEPCornwall\\_IoS](#) and visit [www.cioslep.com](http://www.cioslep.com)

### **Contact:**

Jason Clark, DCA Public Relations, 01208-77900, [jason.clark@dca-pr.co.uk](mailto:jason.clark@dca-pr.co.uk)



CORNWALL &  
ISLES OF SCILLI  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

[www.cioslep.com](http://www.cioslep.com)

[Twitter: @LEPCornwall\\_IoS](https://twitter.com/LEPCornwall_IoS)



GROWTH  
HUB Cornwall &  
Isles of Scilly

[ciosgrowthhub.com](http://ciosgrowthhub.com)

[Twitter: @CioSGrowthHub](https://twitter.com/CioSGrowthHub)