



For immediate release

25 March 2024

Orbex requests amendments to current Sutherland Spaceport plan for efficiency and environmental purposes

Orbex has requested amendments to its approved planning permission for the construction and operation of Sutherland Spaceport, aiming to further minimise environmental impacts during the build and operation of the facility.

The Spaceport already has planning approval (granted in 2020), however, Orbex's proposed changes will reduce the footprint of the launch pad area, adjust the layout and height of one of the buildings, realign the access road and relocate the antenna park.

These modifications are expected to reduce peat disturbance, decrease traffic movements, create less disturbance to and lower the visual impact of the development site.

The proposed changes were first formally communicated through the submission of a Proposal of Application Notice, which was submitted to The Highland Council on 2 November 2023. Following the three month statutory period in which public consultation was carried out, Orbex has now submitted a new application.

For more details, visit the Orbex website: <https://orbex.space/spaceport/changes-to-the-spaceport-scheme>.

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Notes to Editors

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About Orbex

Orbex is a UK-based spaceflight company with headquarters, production and testing facilities in Scotland, and design and testing facilities in Denmark. Orbex staff members have professional backgrounds with NASA, ESA, and several commercial spaceflight organisations. The company is funded by the Scottish National Investment bank, two of the UK's largest venture capital funds, BGF and Octopus Ventures, two of Europe's largest venture capital funds, Heartcore



Capital and the High-Tech Gründerfonds, as well as strategic investors Elecnor, parent company of Deimos Space, and Jacobs, the largest services supplier to NASA. The company has won more than a dozen R&D contracts from a wide variety of bodies, including the UK Space Agency (UKSA), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Commission Horizon 2020 programme.

In 2022, Orbex signed a lease with development agency Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) for the spaceport location on land on the A' Mhoine peninsula in north-west Sutherland. Orbex will oversee the construction and assume full operational management of the new facility. The 10-acre launch site will become the long-term 'home' spaceport of Orbex and will see the launch of up to 12 orbital rockets per year, carrying satellites into low Earth orbit.

<https://www.orbex.space/>

About Sutherland Spaceport

Sutherland Spaceport has permission for 12 launches per year and is intended to become the first and only carbon-neutral spaceport globally, in both its construction and operation. A study undertaken by the University of Exeter in 2021 showed that a single launch of the Orbex Prime rocket will produce up to 96 percent lower carbon emissions than comparable space launch systems using fossil fuels.

The build of Sutherland Spaceport is currently forecasted to be completed by the end of 2024.