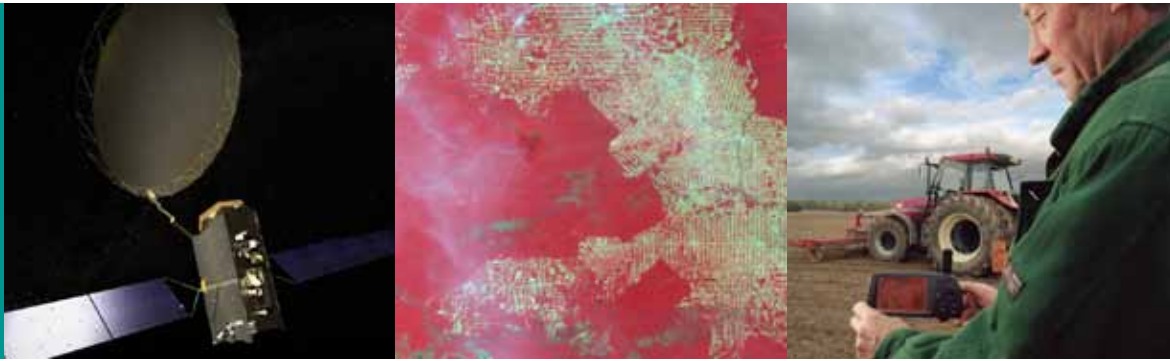


Technology Strategy Board

Driving Innovation



Feasibility Studies for Innovation in Space

**COMPETITION FOR FUNDING
JANUARY 2011**



Feasibility Studies for Innovation in Space

COMPETITION FOR FUNDING

Summary

The Technology Strategy Board is to invest up to £2m in feasibility studies to stimulate innovation across the space industry, ensuring that small and micro businesses in the UK are well-equipped to respond to society's greatest current and future challenges.

The competition builds on the growth opportunities identified in the *Space Innovation and Growth Strategy*, and will exploit the facilities and open innovation culture of the International Space Innovation Centre (ISIC).

Feasibility studies should last up to three months and each cost no more than £33,000 in total. We will fund 75% of the project cost (up to £25,000). Projects may be collaborative or carried out by a single company.

This competition will focus on feasibility studies that:

- accelerate the development of innovative commercial technologies for space
- lead to new services which exploit data gained from space-based systems
- lead on to identifiable commercial opportunities or will position UK organisations to access other public/private funding where this is required for further development.

The competition is co-funded by South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) which will co-fund collaborative projects that:

- have at least one industrial partner in the SEEDA region
- demonstrate the potential for significant impact in the south east of England.

Each project will culminate in a short report and, where relevant, a demonstrator. Projects will also present their achievements at a public 'Collaboration Nation' event to be held in autumn 2011.

This competition activity complements three feasibility studies competitions being run concurrently in the areas of technology-inspired innovation, digital services and nanoscale technologies.

Background

The Technology Strategy Board became a partner in the British National Space Centre (BNSC) in January 2009 and took on responsibility for UK European Space Agency (ESA) satellite telecommunications and satellite navigation R&D programmes, and other aspects of innovation in UK civil space.

We lead activity related to innovation in space that supports the economic growth opportunities identified in the *Space Innovation and Growth Strategy*. We also play an important role in engaging the space industry and UK space capability in addressing broader challenges and growth opportunities across a wide range of emerging markets.

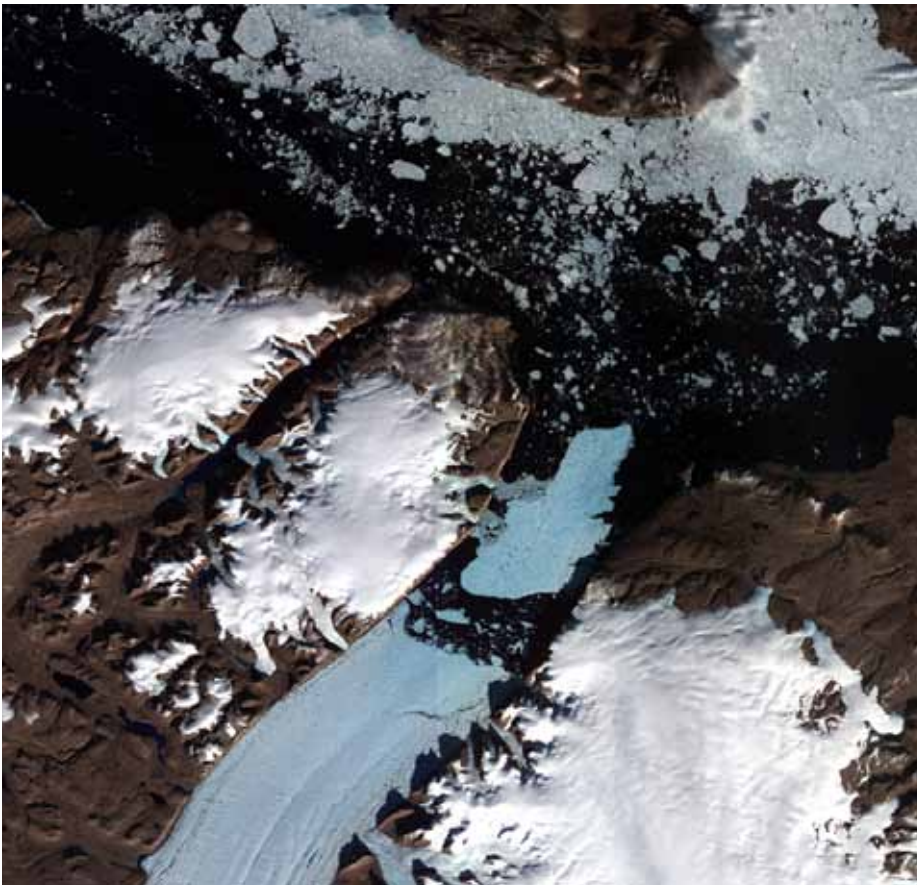
The Technology Strategy Board is supporting the transition of BNSC to the UK Space Agency, which will be fully operational on 1 April 2011 and is responsible for all strategic decisions on the UK civil space programme.

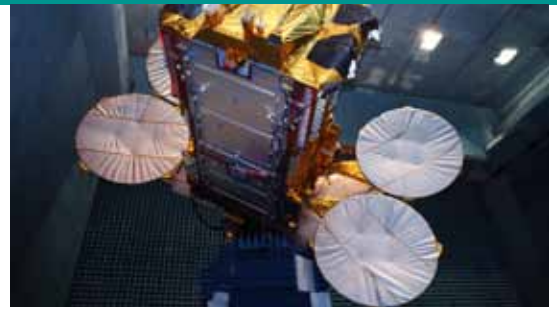
SEEDA has committed funding to the International Space Innovation Centre to support R&D activity that drives economic growth in the south east.

Scope

Feasibility studies should be aligned with the objectives of one or more of the following strategies and programmes:

- Recommendations of the *Space Innovation and Growth Strategy* (see www.spaceigs.co.uk)





- Priority research themes identified in the *National Space Technology Roadmaps* to be published in January 2011
- SEEDA regional economic strategy
- European Space Agency programmes such as Advanced Research in Telecommunications Systems (ARTES), Integrated Applications Promotion, Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) Evolutions, Climate Change Initiative, Aurora.

Proposals must fall into one or more of the following five market areas:

Satellite Telecommunications

Addressing market opportunities for technology or applications in:

- Satellite broadband
- Broadcast
- Transport
- Security
- Environment.

Sensing

- Monitoring the planet – environment and climate
- Commercial earth observation
- Security and defence (security related applications should not be subject to any classification restrictions).

This includes innovative new detectors – visible, infrared and microwave, and optical and microwave systems – both active and passive.

Position, Navigation and Timing

- Services that exploit the potential of satellite navigation
- Integration of satellite navigation capability into other products or services
- Novel techniques to enhance the security of commercial satellite navigation services – encryption, protection, interference detection.

Robotics and Exploration

- Autonomous systems
- Robotics
- Novel power sources.

Access to Space

- Significant cost savings in satellite platform design and manufacture
- Miniaturisation and exploitation of micro-electro-mechanical technology in space
- Novel mission concepts leading to new commercial opportunities in earth observation or telecommunications
- Innovation launch solutions.

Applicants are encouraged to review the scopes of concurrent feasibility studies competitions in technology-inspired innovation, digital services and nanoscale technologies, to assess the most relevant competition in the case of cross-cutting technologies. See www.innovateuk.org.

If you have any specific queries about the scope of this competition please email your questions to: competitions@tsb.gov.uk

Looking for partners to work on your project? Go to **_connect** (https://ktn.innovateuk.org/web/iis_comp) to find collaborators and networks.

Funding allocation and application process

The Technology Strategy Board has allocated up to £2m to fund feasibility studies that address the technical challenges and align with the technology areas described above. The total project costs can be no more than £33,000 and the Technology Strategy Board will award grants at 75% (up to around £25,000) to suitable projects.

The key criteria for assessment will be market potential, commercial impact and potential for success in the next steps of development. Projects are strongly encouraged to exploit and build on the capability of the International Space Innovation Centre (either at Harwell or the ISIC 'spokes').

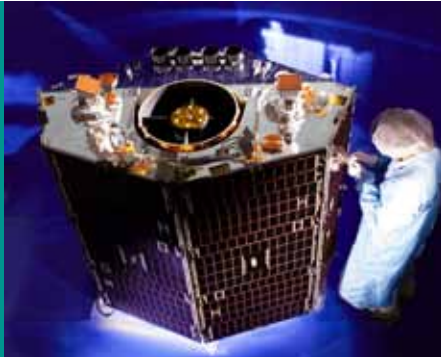
The competition is a single-stage process that will open on **10 January 2011** and close at midday on **10 February 2011**. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by **28 February 2011**. A competition briefing will be held in London on **19 January 2011** to explain the process and we strongly recommend that applicants attend.

Further details can be found in the *Guidance for Applicants* for this competition (available from our website after you have registered for this competition).

Note that ALL deadlines are at 12 noon.

Key dates

Competition opens	10 January 2011
Competition briefing	19 January 2011
Competition closes	10 February 2011
Successful candidates informed	28 February 2011
Deadline for delivery of reports	17 August 2011
Collaboration Nation event	Autumn 2011



Further information

The feasibility studies supported under this competition may develop into submissions to a follow-on competition, which is under consideration for later in 2011.

To apply for funding through this competition and to get further details you will need to register your interest via the Competitions section of our website at **www.innovateuk.org**.

It is important to allow enough time to register, to read the 70-page *Guidance for Applicants* and prepare your application. Note that registration can take 48 hours.

Uploading your application form at least 24 hours before the deadline will give the Business Support Team time to resolve any problems. See the FAQs at www.innovateuk.org under Competitions for more information.

Competition helpline:
0300 321 4357

Email:
competitions@tsb.gov.uk

Publicity

The Technology Strategy Board frequently publicises the results of competitions and this includes engagement with the media. All applicants will be given a chance during the competition process to opt out of any publicity. Willing applicants will be asked to provide an agreed form of words for use in publicity material. E-mail pressoffice@tsb.gov.uk with any queries.

The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the Government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve quality of life.

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