



# **Space Industry Act 2018**

**Spaceport Licence**  
**(No. SR-APP-001019/V002)**  
for  
**SaxaVord Spaceport**

## Control Page

<b>Status log of licence SR-APP-001019</b>		
<b>Licence / Variation Number</b>	<b>Issued Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SR-APP-001019	15/12/2023	Spaceport licence issued
SR-APP-001019/V002	11/11/2025	Amendment to site plan boundary

**LICENCE DATED: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Licence granted under the Space Industry Act 2018**

**to**

**Shetland Space Centre Limited (a company with registration number SC575537)  
("the Licensee")**

## **1. Terms of Licence**

- 1.1. In exercise of the powers conferred by the Space Industry Act 2018 and the Space Industry Regulations 2021, the Civil Aviation Authority ("the Regulator") GRANTS the Licensee a licence to carry out the Licensed Activities subject to the terms and conditions contained within the Licence.
- 1.2. The Licence is granted on the date stated at the head of the Licence but the authorisations under the Licence must not be exercised by the Licensee unless the conditions under condition 3 have been met to the satisfaction of the Regulator.
- 1.3. The Spaceport to which the Licence relates is known as SaxaVord Spaceport, situated at Unst, Shetland, Scotland, on the eastern part of the Lamba Ness peninsula, whose western boundary is delineated in red on the Site Plan attached to the Licence ("the Spaceport").
- 1.4. The Licensed Activities are the use of the Spaceport for the purpose of facilitating launch activities by another person, which that person is authorised to carry out by an operator licence, and any ancillary activities required for the operation of the Spaceport.
- 1.5. In accordance with the Assessment of Environmental Effects, the frequency of the Licensed Activities is limited as follows:
  - 1.5.1 the Licensee must not permit a number of launches which exceeds a maximum of 30 launches in the 12-month period starting from the date the Licence is granted, and for each subsequent 12-month period;
  - 1.5.2 the Licensee must not permit a number of launches per calendar month which exceeds a maximum of four launches;
  - 1.5.3 the Licensee must not permit a number of launches which exceeds one launch within a 24-hour period; and
  - 1.5.4 the Licensee must not permit more than a total of one static hotfire test or launch on any night (meaning between the hours of 23:00 and 07:00 local time).
- 1.6. All launch trajectories are to be undertaken along azimuths between 330° to 030° relative to true north except as otherwise agreed in writing by the Regulator.

## **2. Interpretation**

- 2.1. In this Licence:
  - 2.1.1 "Act" means the Space Industry Act 2018;
  - 2.1.2 "Assessment of Environmental Effects" means the Assessment of Environmental Effects prepared by the Licensee in accordance with

section 11 of the Act;

- 2.1.3 “Enters administration” has the same meaning as in paragraph 1(2)(b) of Schedule B1 to the Insolvency Act 1986;
  - 2.1.4 “Goes into liquidation” and “insolvency” have the same meanings as in section 247 of the Insolvency Act 1986;
  - 2.1.5 “Hangar A” means the hangar identified as such on the Site Plan;
  - 2.1.6 “Licence” means this licence;
  - 2.1.7 “Licensed Activities” means the launch activities, the operation of the Spaceport and ancillary activities, as defined in clause 1;
  - 2.1.8 “Operator” means any person who intends to launch from the Spaceport;
  - 2.1.9 “Reporting Plan” means the information, reporting and notification requirements as set by the Regulator in relation to the Licensed Activities, as attached and provided to the Licensee and as may be amended or updated by the Regulator from time to time;
  - 2.1.10 “Regulations” means the Space Industry Regulations 2021 and references to a Regulation in the Licence are to be construed accordingly unless otherwise specified;
  - 2.1.11 “Siting Assessment” means a siting assessment as required by Regulation 38;
  - 2.1.12 “Site Plan” means the attached plan showing the boundaries, launch pads, storage areas for hazardous materials and buildings on, or to be built on, and the site of, the Spaceport; and
  - 2.1.13 “Storage Area” means the storage area for hazardous materials identified as such on the Site Plan.
- 2.2. Except where the terms are defined in the Licence or the context otherwise requires, the words and expressions used in the Licence have the same meaning as they have in the Act or the Regulations.
- 2.3. The Interpretation Act 1978 applies to the Licence as it applies to an Act of Parliament.

### **3. Conditions Precedent**

- 3.1. Before the Licensee is entitled to carry out the Licensed Activities in accordance with the Licence, the Licensee must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Regulator that, based upon the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, it is compliant with the following conditions.
- 3.2. Until an Operator has been granted an operator licence to launch from the Spaceport by the Regulator, the Licensee must not permit the Operator, or any person on behalf of the Operator, to store or handle hazardous materials that could generate a major accident hazard anywhere on the Spaceport unless the Regulator has confirmed to the Licensee that it is satisfied that the Operator will take, or has taken, all steps necessary to ensure that the risks of storing or handling of hazardous materials are as low as reasonably practicable.

- 3.3. The Licensee must not store or handle hazardous materials that could generate a major accident hazard in Hangar A, or permit an Operator, or any other person intending to store or handle such hazardous materials in Hangar A, to do so unless the Regulator has confirmed to the Licensee that it is satisfied that the Operator, such other person and the Licensee will take or has taken all steps necessary to ensure that the risks of storing or handling of hazardous materials in Hangar A are as low as reasonably practicable.
- 3.4. The Licensee must ensure that hazardous materials that could generate a major accident hazard are not stored or handled in the Storage Area unless the Regulator has confirmed to the Licensee that it is satisfied that the Licensee, or any other person intending to use the Storage Area, will take or has taken all steps necessary to ensure that the risks of storing or handling of such materials within the Storage Area are as low as reasonably practicable.
- 3.5. Prior to the first sub-orbital launch, the Licensee must provide an updated Siting Assessment to the Regulator, to demonstrate that the site is suitable for undertaking sub-orbital launches and that the level of risk is acceptable.
- 3.6. The Regulator is not to be taken to be satisfied as to the matters set out in conditions 3.1 to 3.5 unless it has confirmed so to the Licensee in writing.

#### **4. General Conditions**

- 4.1. The Licensee must comply with the requirements set out in the Reporting Plan.
- 4.2. The Licensee must satisfy the Regulator that it is able to put in place an appropriate Safety Clear Zone, as agreed by the Regulator, and that the Licensee is able to comply with the requirements of Regulation 157.
- 4.3. The Licensee must afford all reasonable assistance, co-operation and compliance as may be requested or required by the Regulator in the exercise of the Regulator's functions under the Licence, the Act or the Regulations.

#### **5. Environmental Conditions**

- 5.1. The Regulator may require the Licensee to carry out a new or revised Assessment of Environmental Effects by the time specified by the Regulator where there has been, or will be, any material change in any of the information provided to the Regulator by, or on behalf of the Licensee, whether in or with the application for the Licence or after the Licence has been granted.
- 5.2. Prior to any variation of the Licence, the Licensee must submit a new or revised Assessment of Environmental Effects or, as the case may be, a written explanation as to why any previously submitted Assessment of Environmental Effects remains satisfactory.

#### **6. Termination, revocation, variation and suspension terms**

- 6.1. Without prejudice to its powers under section 15 of the Act, the Regulator may revoke, vary or suspend the Licence (including any conditions attached to the Licence) where it appears to the Regulator that:
  - 6.1.1 there has been any material change in any of the information provided to the Regulator by, or on behalf of, the Licensee, whether in or with the application for the Licence or after the Licence has been granted;

6.1.2 the Licensee enters administration or goes into insolvency or liquidation; or

6.1.3 the Licensee has breached a condition of the Licence.

6.2. The termination of the Licence for whatever reason will not affect the obligations of the Licensee (or former Licensee) under its provisions.

Signed for and on behalf of the Regulator:

Signed: 

Name: Colin Macleod

Position: Head of UK Space Regulator

Attachments

Spaceport Site Plan

Reporting Plan

