

UK-Australia Space Bridge

Framework Arrangement

Date: 23/02/2021

Framework Arrangement for the Space Bridge between:

The Government of the United Kingdom (**UK**) as represented by the UK Space Agency, an Executive Agency within the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the UK Department for International Trade (**DIT**);

and

The Government of Australia as represented by the Australian Space Agency, part of the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, and the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (**Austrade**).

Introduction

The UK Space Agency, UK Department for International Trade, Austrade and the Australian Space Agency, herein referred to individually as '**Participant**' or collectively as '**Participants**';

- A. Recognising the inherently global nature of space that depends on partnerships and cooperation, and the strengths of the existing long standing and enduring space relationship between the UK and Australia that can be built upon and enhanced between the two countries;
- B. Noting their position at the global forefront of space capability development, supported by a regulatory approach to space that has adapted to address the changing needs of the global space industry – striking the right balance between efficiency and stability, ensuring that innovation is not stifled, while prioritising safety first;
- C. Recognising the significant growth opportunity offered by space for the economies and security of both the UK and Australia through its potential to improve the everyday lives and prosperity of all citizens, enhance national and collective international security, and provide influence and standing on the global stage;
- D. Recognising the full breadth of strategic and economic benefit in embracing and embedding the consideration of space across all national interests;
- E. Acknowledging the policy and regulatory impact of rapid development and innovation, on particularly fast-paced sectors like space;
- F. Knowing that research and development collaboration is essential to the progression of new and innovative space technologies and services;
- G. Recognising the significant opportunities in sharing policy and regulatory expertise (in accordance with this arrangement) to address emerging space issues, and ensuring that competition and innovation in the sector are not unnecessarily restricted;

- H. Noting increased collaboration will enhance trade and investment flows between the two markets, and this will in turn contribute to the development of the international space economy;
- I. Recognising that this arrangement aligns with the intentions of the UK and Australian Governments to support recovery strategies following the impacts of COVID-19 and working to understand the role of the UK and Australian space sectors in disease outbreak policy planning and response;
- J. Recognise that a vibrant space sector supports the recovery of both the UK and Australian economies as they work to bounce back from COVID-19 through continued uptake of space technologies and applications.

Have come to the following understandings:

1. Purpose

- 1.1. In the interests of strengthening the relationship between the UK and Australia through space engagement to create a more integrated market spanning the two countries, the Participants establish a UK-Australia Space Bridge (**Space Bridge**) through the signing of this Space Bridge Framework Arrangement (**Arrangement**). The Space Bridge will establish new cooperation mechanisms, increase trade and investment between both countries, recognising the breadth of the relationship, and accounting for existing arrangements such as the Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) signed in on July 2 October 2018 between the UK Space Agency and Australian Space Agency (the '**UKSA-ASA MoU**').
- 1.2. This Space Bridge establishes a framework for individual arrangements between relevant government and private sector actors from the UK and Australia to support further cooperation on space activities (these are described in this Space Bridge as '**Pillars**'). The Space Bridge will be supported by dedicated work programmes with funding to be determined by individual Participants.
- 1.3. This Space Bridge will:
 - 1.3.1. Enable closer and stronger policy alignment on space between the governments, including through enhanced information sharing and exchange of views (in accordance with this Arrangement) on emerging trends and issues, and the adoption of a whole of government approach to space science and research, trade, and security;
 - 1.3.2. Facilitate greater regulatory policy dialogue, and the exploration of further industry regulatory compatibility, as well as the sharing of best practice;
 - 1.3.3. Unlock more trade opportunities through the encouragement of space firms to use the facilities and assistance available in each jurisdiction and working towards the reduction of barriers to entry; and
 - 1.3.4. Increase opportunities for deeper research and development collaboration and educational/outreach activities through scientific and academic programmes.
- 1.4. This Space Bridge sets out the framework for ongoing cooperation between the UK and Australia on space issues, covering four interrelated Pillars:
 - 1.4.1. Government-to-Government
 - 1.4.2. Regulation
 - 1.4.3. Trade, Investment, & Business
 - 1.4.4. Research & Education

2. Status of Arrangement

- 2.1. This Arrangement is not intended to create any binding legal relationship between the Participants, nor are its provisions intended to give rise to legal rights, obligations or liabilities on the part of any of the four Participants.

3. Implementation

- 3.1. In line with the Arrangement's lead departments and signatories, the lead officials designated as Senior Responsible Owner (**SRO**) for implementation of this Space Bridge are:
 - 3.1.1. UK Space Agency International Director;
 - 3.1.2. Austrade General Manager for Europe
- 3.2. Within 90 days of the signing of this Arrangement, the implementing authorities will establish a joint Working Group comprising representatives from each of their respective organisations: the UK Space Agency, DIT, Austrade and the Australian Space Agency. The role of this Working Group will be to convene on joint projects or issues of relevance under each of the four Pillars of the Space Bridge, as required by the respective implementing authorities of each Pillar.

4. Government-to-Government

- 4.1. The UK Space Agency and Australian Space Agency (the **Government-to-Government Implementing Authorities**) will hold ongoing working level discussions on a quarterly basis or as appropriate, attended by relevant officials, to discuss space policy development in each jurisdiction and identify emerging space trends. This will include timely notification of relevant space-related announcements during their preparation.
- 4.2. Exploring perceived challenges faced by UK and Australian space organisations looking to scale up in each other's markets will form a key part of these discussions, using information made available, where appropriate, to both Participants through stakeholder discussions and statistics from the relevant governments departments.
- 4.3. The Government-to-Government Implementing Authorities will explore with industry bodies innovative avenues for incorporating the views and experiences of space organisations into policymaking.
- 4.4. Other relevant bodies from each jurisdiction may be invited to participate in discussions where particular value may be added, with consent of the Government-to-Government Implementing Authorities.
- 4.5. The Government-to-Government Implementing Authorities will work together to identify and share best practice in developing space projects within government, and in managing the policy and regulatory issues presented by the growing presence of private sector actors in developing space technologies and applications.
- 4.6. The Government-to-Government Implementing Authorities will work together to understand how space can support our policy planning and response to disease outbreaks following the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- 4.7. The Participants acknowledge that space technologies and cross-cutting space applications support broad national interests and our space sectors and ambitions will benefit from greater policy coordination and a 'whole of government' approach.
- 4.8. The Government-to-Government Implementing Authorities will work with the necessary UK and Australian Government leads and stakeholders:

- 4.8.1. Through multilateral fora that address the peaceful and responsible uses of space, such as the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (**UNCOPUOS**);
- 4.8.2. Through the relevant national space committees such as the UK's National Space Council and the Australian Space Coordination Committee.

5. Regulation

- 5.1. The Participants will support collaboration between UK and Australian government authorities to explore complementary beneficial approaches including but not limited to:
 - 5.1.1. Building on the current work exploring appropriate areas where licences and permits for businesses seeking to operate in each other's jurisdiction can be mutually recognised.
 - 5.1.2. Exploring the alignment of standards and approaches towards technologies that require research and testing.
 - 5.1.3. Identifying the specific regulatory requirements relating to space technologies and trade between the UK and Australian space sectors which may need to be considered by related government authorities where such regulation may impact on space trade.
 - 5.1.4. Encouraging both governments' regulatory authorities to share knowledge, best practice and learning to support the further development of appropriate regulatory systems.

6. Trade, Investment, & Business

- 6.1. The Participants will work to raise the profile of the Space Bridge, as well as its benefits to UK and Australian industry.
- 6.2. The DIT and Austrade (collectively, the **Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities**) will support the success of this Space Bridge through:
 - 6.2.1. Providing a point of contact within the Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities for industry in each market, to offer assistance on queries and support the identification of opportunities.
 - 6.2.2. Facilitating jointly approved matchmaking events, meetings, and networking opportunities for the UK and Australian space industry with potential partnership prospects.
 - 6.2.3. Developing and leading work programmes to progress this Space Bridge in a staged approach of business-to-business support and engagement, scoping of collaborative and commercial opportunities.
- 6.3. Support for space firms entering Australia
 - 6.3.1. DIT will promote Australian export opportunities to the UK space industry. Austrade will provide support for UK industry using the Space Bridge to access opportunities in the Australian market.
 - 6.3.2. Additionally, the Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities will provide opportunities for UK space industry to utilise the Space Bridge including access to the high-profile Australian space events to promote market opportunities, support business development, and encourage overseas investment.
- 6.4. The Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities will support UK space industry to access and/or collaborate with:
 - 6.4.1. Australian incubators/accelerators and innovation programmes; and
 - 6.4.2. Investors that meet the client qualification requirements of the individual Trade, Investment and Business Implementing Authorities.
- 6.5. Support for space firms entering the UK
 - 6.5.1. Austrade will promote UK export opportunities to the Australian space industry. DIT will, where appropriate, provide support for Australian industry using the Space Bridge to access opportunities in the UK market.
 - 6.5.2. Events promoting Space Bridge activities and UK opportunities will be showcased across the key hubs of Australia, led in partnership by the Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities.
 - 6.5.3. The Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities will provide opportunities for Australian space industry to utilise this Space Bridge including promotion of high-profile UK space events to promote market opportunities, support business development, and encourage overseas investment.
- 6.6. Support for space firms entering either market

6.6.1. Assistance will be provided by the Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities for space industry to set up or expand through market introduction, support and advice mechanisms as identified by the participants:

6.6.1.1. The Working Group will determine the joint industry support functions, events and activities to be conducted and promoted by DIT and Austrade to enable expansion of two-way trade and investment in space between the UK and Australia, and to promote this Space Bridge.

6.6.1.2. Those events and activities will include those mentioned above, and others determined by the Working Group.

6.7. Business-to-Business Activities and Engagement

6.7.1. The Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities will facilitate and support active engagement between the space industry bodies, such as the Space Industry Association of Australia and UKSpace. This will include the industry bodies to help curate and lead business-to-business summit discussions involving industry representative groups, co-chaired by nominated representatives from each industry body.

6.7.2. The Participants will support the introduction of a fixed-term reciprocal industry body membership for UK and Australian industry establishing in each market subject to the industry bodies coming to suitable arrangements.

6.7.3. To enhance the ability of targeted and high-value industry to provide input and recommendations ahead of government decisions, activities, or announcements, the Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities will aim to build on existing and create new avenues of engagement between the governments and industry.

6.8. Opportunities and Challenges of Dual-use Space Technologies

6.8.1. The Participants acknowledge the difficulty in overcoming the challenges and embracing the benefits of space technologies' dual-use nature, particularly for industry and academia working and trading across two markets.

6.8.2. The Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities will work with the Government-to-Government Implementing Authorities to encourage a coherent approach nationally and bilaterally between the UK and Australia in maximising opportunities and minimising risks in space technology development that has dual-use applications.

6.8.3. The Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities will encourage the alignment of government approaches to the development, trade, and use of space technologies between the UK and Australia that may be dual-use in nature.

6.8.4. To support this, the Trade, Investment, & Business Implementing Authorities will seek and share feedback from the two space sectors with the relevant authorities to identify the challenges faced by stakeholders when developing, trading, and using space technologies of dual use nature.

7. Research & Education

- 7.1. The UK Space Agency and Australian Space Agency will nominate relevant Research & Education Implementing Authorities to encourage enhanced research and academic collaboration in the interests of developing shared expertise, understanding, and capabilities.
- 7.2. The Research & Education Implementing Authorities will support space industry to access and/or collaborate with Australian and UK space research and development institutions and relevant innovation centres.
- 7.3. In addition, the Research & Education Implementing Authorities will support outreach and education initiatives between the UK and Australia to promote the importance and opportunities of space to everyday life and foster the next space generation.
- 7.4. The Research & Education Implementing Authorities will therefore provide support for the initiation of collaborative education and outreach projects or programmes to develop human capital and facilitate the exchange of expertise, knowledge, and experiences.
 - 7.4.1. In particular, further understanding and supporting the role of space enabled technologies and applications in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic will be a priority for the Research & Education Implementing Authorities, with the intention of embedding space as an important factor in future public health research and emergency response.
- 7.5. The Research & Education Implementing Authorities will share best practice in promoting uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (**STEM**) subjects for the benefit of space-related activities.
- 7.6. Additionally, the Research & Education Implementing Authorities will decide upon specific exchange and educational activities to highlight the benefit of cross-jurisdiction collaboration and engagement, helping familiarise the future space generation with each country's requirements and opportunities.

8. Duration, Effect & Amendment

- 8.1. This Arrangement will come into effect on the date of its last signature (**commencement**).
- 8.2. The Participants will carry out the objectives, aims, and activities of this Arrangement within 4 years of its commencement (**duration**).
- 8.3. This Arrangement will remain in effect for the duration unless terminated earlier in accordance with paragraph 10.
- 8.4. The Participants recognise that this Arrangement will be reviewed regularly to ensure its maximum impact and efficiency in a fast-paced and rapidly developing industry/sector and will discuss additional proposed amendments in good faith. This Arrangement may be amended at any time as mutually determined by the Participants in writing.

9. Monitoring & Evaluation

- 9.1. The success of the Space Bridge will be measured against key metrics aligned with the purpose of the Arrangement in paragraph 1 to be jointly determined by the Participants within 90 days of commencement of the Space Bridge.
- 9.2. The SROs and the designated leads for each Pillar will continually monitor, as appropriate, the progression of the Space Bridge throughout its lifetime against the mutually determined metrics. The SROs will additionally convene annually to review the progress of the Space Bridge and authorise for either the continuation or adaption of the Space Bridge and/or work programmes.
- 9.3. Any disputes will be resolved by the SROs and Implementing Authorities through convened review boards as required.

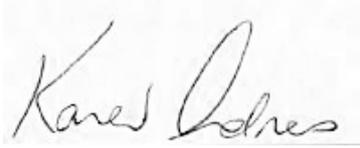
10. Termination

- 10.1. Any Participant may terminate this Arrangement by giving the other Participants at least nine months' notice in writing.

11. Disputes

- 11.1. Any disputes about the interpretation or application of this Arrangement will be resolved by consultations between the Participants, and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Government of Australia as represented by the Australian Space Agency, part of the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, and the Australian Trade and Investment Commission:



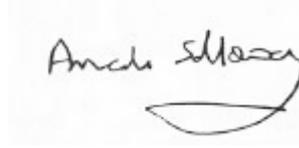
The Hon. Karen Andrews MP

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology



Australian Government

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Government of the UK as represented by the UK Space Agency, an Executive Agency within the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the UK Department for International Trade:



Amanda Solloway MP

Minister for Science, Research and Innovation



HM Government