

Cross-Party Group on Space

Wednesday 17 September 2025, 12:15 – 13:45,
online

Minutes

Present

MSPs

- Colin Beattie MSP
- Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP
- Carol Mochan MSP
- *Jenny Gray - Office of Colin Beattie MSP*
- *Scott Steele - Office of Colin Beattie MSP*

Non-MSP Group Members

- Alan Thompson
- Andy Nolan
- Anthony Williams (Cdre)
- Calum McCallum
- Craig Clark
- Cyrille Mathis
- David Sandy
- David Shaw
- Derek Harris
- Julian Dines
- Andrew Fournet
- Kelly Hardman
- Jane Grant
- John Bone
- John Edward
- Keith Robson
- Malachy Devlin
- Matthew Revett
- Naomi Pryde
- Pamela Smith
- Peter Guthrie
- Ramsay Jones
- Sandra Craig
- Sharon Lemac-Vincere
- Sharon Parker-Lines
- Victoria Mills

Apologies

- Angela Mathis
- Grant Lewis
- Jenni Doonan
- Neil Laird
- Stephanie Ayres

Agenda item 1

Opening remarks and approval of previous minutes

Minutes approved from meeting held 29 April 2025.

Agenda item 2

Guest speaker: Commodore Tony Williams, Head of Capability, UK Space Command

‘Latest developments in UK defence in space’

The group held a discussion under Chatham House Rule. No formal minutes were recorded for this section.

Agenda item 3

Guest speaker: David Sandy, Managing Director, The Aerospace Corporation UK Ltd

‘UK opportunities with allies’

David provided an overview of the Aerospace Corporation, its US government-funded, non-profit status, and its UK presence established five years ago, outlining core competencies relevant to the UK, including force design, systems engineering, acquisition, and mission readiness, and noted recent transfers of proprietary technologies from NASA and Space Force programmes.

Aerospace Corporation welcome partnerships with SMEs, universities, investors, and organisations such as the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, while providing pre-cleared pathways. He stressed the importance of recognising existing opportunities in ISAM, and noted that while some question whether a market exists, ISAM has been active since the Hubble and ISS programmes, though often misunderstood as limited to robotics or ADR missions. David encouraged the UK to build steadily on current contracts rather than chasing new, uncertain ones. He invited members to share priorities so he can help elevate them to wider importance.

Agenda item 4

- Relevant updates on outstanding actions:
 - **Graeme Dey, the Scottish Government Minister for Higher and Further Education, will be invited to the next meeting to discuss skills and education.**
 - Senior rep will be invited in his place.
 - **Connected working - APPG and CPG to explore ways of working together.**
 - Victoria actioning.
 - **Arrange MSP Site visit to AAC Clyde Space (Fridays or Mondays).**
 - After recess, Victoria to connect with Pamela Smith to host, and Jenni Doonan to support with the 'ask' for support for further education, innovation centres, or national program. Ed Fyfe has offered to support with messaging and potential flyers.
- Proposed new members.
 - All approved.
- Gauge interest in shifting the December meeting start time from 10:00 to 12:15.
 - If MSPs available, agree to move meeting.
- Suggestions for speakers / topics for Dec meeting.
 - Minister Dey's office has been approached

Agenda item 5

AOB

The Group formally noted the passing of Frank Strang and recorded its appreciation of his significant contribution to the space industry.

Next meeting Tuesday 02 Dec, 10:00 – 12:15, online AGM.