



PRESS RELEASE

Ref: SEAPR430
Date: 10 Feb 2010

Space IGS launch from a South Western Industrial Perspective

The SEA Aero-Space Division Business Director, Ben Olivier, welcomed the UK Space Innovation and Growth Team Report. Attending the launch of the UK Space Innovation and Growth Strategy on 10 February, Ben commented: "A National Space Strategy which concentrates on providing the services from space that the UK needs, encourages collaboration with academic excellence and helps industry prepare the development of the technologies needed for future missions. It is exactly what companies like SEA need to continue to grow and contribute to employment in the South West.

Space projects are complex and may take 10 years from initiation to launch and spend another 20 years operating in Space. It is important that the UK has a joined up approach to ensure that the money we invest is used effectively to deliver the communications, navigation and Earth observations that users need but also to increase our abilities in the design and implementation of the key satellite sub-systems and instruments that deliver those services. The UK needs to get better at developing the right technologies up front so that we can benefit from the wealth generating opportunities of programmes such as Galileo, GMES and Meteosat, as well as being at the heart of exciting European collaborative projects to explore our solar system, like ExoMars."

SEA is a company that exemplifies the industry, innovation and resilience of the West of England. It has firmly established the space industry in Bristol, winning several large contracts in international competition including the Broad Band Radiometer to fly on the European Space Agency EarthCARE mission. BBR is a sophisticated instrument to monitor climate change from space. The data will help scientists understand the impacts of clouds on processes such as global warming.

To achieve this, SEA has worked with other smaller businesses, Government laboratories and universities to harness a range of skills in the South West of England.

The company has also designed other sophisticated equipment for space flight:

- using micro electro-mechanical technology to help satellites navigate in space, a technology that will be reusable across many spacecraft;
- demonstrating state of the art 'SpaceWire' electronics to provide fast and reliable data processing for satellites;
- designing control electronics for systems such as the complex cooling systems flying on the Planck Telescope;
- the remote interface to acquire the critical sensor data and telemetry for the BepiColombo spacecraft mission which will explore the Planet Mercury.

As one of Britain's foremost independent space companies, SEA works to make sure that space technology can be spun out for use in aircraft, land vehicles and even submarines. SEA employs 270 staff most of whom are engineers and scientists, having grown steadily over its 22 years of existence. SEA joined the Cohort Group of companies in 2007, a development that lends it additional financial and technical resources.

-Ends-