Harwell Oxford and Space: an engine for broad-based economic growth

Barbara Ghinelli
STFC Director of Harwell Oxford Space Cluster
UK has ambitious target to grow its space economy by a factor of four by 2030: to £40bn per annum
Harwell Oxford

- Science & Innovation Campus of international significance adjacent to one of the World’s premier Universities
  - A major axis of the Oxfordshire High-tech cluster
  - Unique mix of big science, academic excellence and commercialisation of innovative ideas
    - powerful driver of economic growth
    - based around substantial public sector investment in large scientific facilities
  - Influx of companies from UK and abroad attracted to an innovation hothouse
- Focus for UK’s ambitious £40bn target for the rapidly growing market of space applications
  - Space is intrinsically multidisciplinary and is attracting companies that thrive in the Campus ecosystem
- Forward-looking investments leveraging private funding and finance networks
  - Development of the new Incubator/Innovation Centre.
  - Satellite Applications Catapult, ESA Centre etc.
New Applications & Services

Examples: ESA Integrated Application Programme

- FishSat
- Amazon
Example: iGeolise: Time-based search engine
Technology Transfer Example: KEIT Spectrometers (developed for Mars) are compact and lightweight. They use light to analyse the chemical make-up of solids, liquids, or gases.

Applications include:

- Emissions monitoring
- Remote Sensing
- Process monitoring
The Space Cluster at Harwell Oxford

Built around a core of organisations located on the Harwell Oxford Science & Innovation Campus, with developing links to other UK centres of excellence

An environment where entrepreneurs and innovators are encouraged to create new products, services and business opportunities using space data and technologies

A platform to accelerate the growth of businesses through support for commercialisation and links to the research base, LEPs, private finance, ESA and other programmes

The focus for an integrated approach for growth in the space sector, helping SMEs & others to reach their maximum potential
Collaborative Business Support Activities

• Collaborative Business Support modules include:
  – Building a successful team
  – Building your Business Case
  – R&D planning
  – Understanding Finance
  – Bringing a new product to Market
  – Legal – IP Protection: What you need to know
  – Stage Gate Panel Pitching preparation
  – TSB Investor Event

• Other activities include:
  – Technology Entrepreneurs Breakfast - peer supported and running every other month
  – The Harwell Oxford Breakfast - monthly general campus networking event
  – At least one investment event a year on the Campus
Moving Forward - Education & Training Hub

• Create a coherent skills and training hub at Harwell Oxford to support the growth of the satellite applications downstream sector:
  – Providing focused demand-led modules for addressing SME’s business/technical needs with low overheads, high flexibility and rapid response times.
  – Combining access to a wide range of provision including distance and work-based learning and training.
  – Providing career change accelerators to access different market sectors, e.g. transport, security, healthcare, insurance, environment.
  – Creating a physical hub at Harwell to act as focal point within a front-line Space environment.
  – Providing a one stop shop for training in the Space sector and related markets
Conclusions

• The Harwell Oxford Science and Innovation Campus is a gateway for developments in the UK Space Sector
  — a lynchpin in the UK strategy for Space growth
• Already a dynamic and stimulating environment within which to grow new business
  — Targeted support from cluster members
  — Property and other services from Harwell Oxford Campus and Regional Network
  — Nexus of national and international networks
  — Continued investment and expansion
• New initiatives will provide missing pieces of the support jigsaw
  — Extended Business Support Programme
  — Harwell Education & Training Hub
  — Finance Network