

# News Release

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## **The Air & Space Power Association and UK Space Command announce Defence Space Conference dates and long-term partnership**

**London, UK: UK Space Command and The Air & Space Power Association (ASPA) today announce the next dates for the Defence Space Conference (DSC) series and a partnership aimed at ensuring continuity of the event annually to support the UK's military space strategic objectives.**

The date set for the next Defence Space Conference (DSC) is Tuesday 12 December, a one-day event to be held at The Institution of Engineering & Technology, London. The next two-day conference will be held 24-25 September 2024 at the same venue.

Defence Space is aimed at driving engagement with the development of the UK's capabilities and operations in Space. First launched in 2018 as a Ministry of Defence (MOD) event with the ASPA as its delivery partner, Defence Space is aimed at exploring the MOD's ambitions in space and strategic intent and examining the latest disruptive technologies needed to protect and defend vital space assets that underpin critical national infrastructure, enable military effectiveness and drive economic growth. With the publication of the National Space Strategy in 2019 and subsequent [Defence Space Strategy](#) (DSS) in 2020 and stand-up of UK Space Command in 2021, the focus of the conference has expanded from policy and strategy to include implementation and delivery of the DSS including engagement with the wider commercial space sector to address technical challenges for UK space operations to strengthening engagement with international allies.

The last iteration was held in 2022 with the ASPA delivering the conference on behalf of UK Space Command and the Ministry of Defence. In six years, the conference has become the primary forum for the underpinning of cross-government collaboration and multinational space partnerships with allies as well as the launch-pad for intergovernmental and MoD partnerships with industry and the space technology sector.

Importantly, the pace of technological change in the space sector and geopolitical events such as the war in Ukraine, which highlighted the importance of Space as a game-changer for the delivery of open-source imagery and information services for homeland defence, prompted a review of the DSS and recognition of the need to regularly assess new capabilities. The DSC partnership and scheduling of an annual event is designed to accommodate this need.

The conference provides a platform for Space Command and UK Defence to share operational planning and delivery milestones while also facilitating dialogue with the space sector, including space start-ups and commercial space enterprises in the UK and overseas. Outputs from the Conference are intended to help steer discussions and guide strategies for new technologies and capabilities to help transform UK operations in Space and develop the skills needed in the UK.

Air Vice-Marshal Paul Godfrey, Commander, UK Space Command, said:

"Space is fundamental to our security and our way of life and I am delighted to be once again partnered with the ASPA to help us drive forward our conversation and collaboration with the space technology community and international partners. The Defence Space Conference series presents

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a unique opportunity to bring together all the critical stakeholders across the space community to share ideas and new initiatives to protect and defend the UK and harness the technology pipeline we need to deliver leading capabilities and generate the necessary skills to conduct space operations. I look forward to working together with the ASPA and the wider space community through this excellent forum to drive a step-change in our space operations and help us to build a space skills talent hub in the years to come."

Air Commodore (Ret'd) Mark Roberts, Chairman of the Air & Space Power Association, said:

"I am delighted that we are once again working with UK Space Command and at such a crucial time for the next phase of development of the UK's space operational capability. I am greatly looking forward to delivering the next Defence Space Conference and building on our well-established framework for generating constructive dialogue for the operationalisation of the UK's Space domain. Defence Space is the leading platform for the UK's Defence leadership, policymakers, the space technology, industry and academic community to come together to share ideas for shaping the UK's Space domain. This partnership will provide both continuity and an ongoing momentum for all stakeholders to work together to help deliver the Defence Space Strategy."

Space Command and the ASPA wish to ensure Defence Space complements other space-based events such as DSEI and UK Space Conference and maximise the synergies with these events for the benefit of all. As such, Space Command will lead the content and planning for Defence Space in even years and the ASPA will collaborate with government and other partners to deliver the conference in odd years. Dates in 2025 and beyond will be announced soon.

## Notes:

### About Defence Space

Defence Space Conference, delivered in partnership with UK Space Command, is the leading platform for all those who seek to influence emerging thinking on the UK's military space capability, planning, and development. The conference programme coheres military space strategy and operations with space technology and innovation and is the UK's primary platform for sharing and shaping future UK Space Domain strategic thinking and operational delivery.

### UK Space Command

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### ASPA

The Air & Space Power Association is an authoritative independent voice and platform for discussion and debate on how air and space power influences today's world and its relevance to the future. Our mission is to promote the advancement and understanding of military air and space power in the UK and beyond. <https://airpower.org.uk/>

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