

## **G7 Legacy funding for Cornwall Community Satellite: Kernow Sat 1**

- The UK Government has announced plans to fund the design and build of Kernow Sat 1.
- Kernow Sat 1 aims to bring the value of space close to home by engaging audiences across Cornwall - from academia to local businesses to charities and school children.
- Cornwall's intention is that this G7 legacy project become a historic payload - the first satellite designed, manufactured and launched in Cornwall - with the intention of it forming part of Virgin Orbit's first UK launch next year from Spaceport Cornwall.
- In line with the Spaceport's missions of democratising space and championing the use of satellites for environmental monitoring, the satellite will bring together the community to problem solve issues around Cornwall's marine health and its Blue Economy.

The Government funding will be used for the research, design and build of CubeSat: Kernow Sat 1. The research will be undertaken by the University of Exeter who will be running a Think Tank with experts in the marine field to establish the exact data requirements to effectively research and implement activities surrounding the health of Cornwall's coasts and associated economy.

To engage and inspire the next generation Spaceport Cornwall's SPINTERN (Space Intern) recently awarded by the UK Space Agency, will be working alongside consultancy KISPE Space on the design of the specific optical payload. The build will be undertaken in collaboration with Oregon State University's Open Source CubeSat and KISPE Space, who will share expertise and knowledge with Spaceport Cornwall's Outreach Team. The team will work alongside Truro and Penwith College, using their new Space Technology Training programme to build the Kernow Sat 1 in Cornwall.

Once complete, Cornwall's intention is that this payload will be one of the first payloads to be processed at Cornwall Airport Newquay.

This innovative community approach to space will set a precedent for future missions, fostering collaboration across industry and bringing space closer to local communities - all while collecting key data to inform local environmental policies.

**Melissa Thorpe, Head of Spaceport Cornwall:** "We are thrilled that this payload will be part of the first launch from Spaceport Cornwall. Engaging with the community and protecting the environment through Earth Observation are an integral part of Spaceport's purpose and we hope it is just the start of a series of community launches that will help influence local policy decisions and bring Space down to Cornwall."

**Will Pomerantz, Vice President of Special Projects, Virgin Orbit:** "Virgin Orbit exists to make space for everyone from everywhere. We're very excited about the potential opportunity to carry Kernow Sat 1 as part of our first launch from Spaceport Cornwall, and we hope that this is the first of many payloads designed and built here in Cornwall. When innovators have the power to launch their own satellites close to home, there's a clear pathway to harnessing the ideas and applications that will have the most impact for the local community."

**Glenn Caplin-Grey, Chief Executive of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership**, said: “Kernow Sat 1 will be a real team effort, designed, built and launched right here in Cornwall, with its data used to inform decision-making on the ground. It’s a hugely exciting project that will inspire a new generation about the importance of space and the environment, while bolstering our space economy.”

**Ian Annett, Deputy CEO, UK Space Agency** said:

“Space-based technology is at the heart of national and global efforts to understand and minimise the effects of climate change. From next year small satellites such as Kernow Sat 1 will launch from UK spaceports and play a vital role in driving forward the UK’s efforts to protect our environment and build back greener from the pandemic.

“Kernow Sat 1 is a hugely exciting project. It will not only help improve the environment but also inspire communities about the importance of space, demonstrate the strong UK academic interest and is an exemplar of how space is becoming increasingly accessible to help shape a better future for everyone.”

## **ABOUT SPACEPORT CORNWALL**

For video and other media content: [www.spaceportcornwall.com/media](http://www.spaceportcornwall.com/media)

Spaceport Cornwall is the horizontal space launch site at Cornwall Airport Newquay, in South West England. Spaceport Cornwall is a partnership between Cornwall Council, commercial launch operator Virgin Orbit and Goonhilly Earth Station. The consortium will deliver small satellite launch into lower Earth Orbit, for the first time ever from the UK by 2022. The project is funded by the UK Space Agency, Cornwall Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership and Virgin Orbit.

## **SOCIAL HANDLES**

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## **ABOUT VIRGIN ORBIT**

Virgin Orbit builds and operates the most flexible and responsive satellite launcher ever invented: LauncherOne, a dedicated launch service for commercial and government-built small satellites. LauncherOne rockets are designed and manufactured in Long Beach, California, and will be air-launched from our modified 747-400 carrier aircraft – allowing us to operate from locations all over the world in order to best serve each customer’s needs. Virgin Orbit’s systems are currently in an advanced stage of testing, with initial orbital launches expected soon. To learn more or to apply to join Virgin Orbit’s talented and growing team, visit [virginorbit.com](http://virginorbit.com)

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The UK Space Agency inspires and leads the UK in space, to benefit our planet and its people.

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- Supports the work of the UK space sector at home and abroad, maximising its benefit to the UK's growing economy.
- Invests in science and exploration to increase our understanding of the universe and deliver practical and sustainable benefits such as new technologies to improve life on Earth.
- Inspires the next generation of UK scientists and engineers.
- Promotes global co-operation in space, through the UK's membership of the European Space Agency and international partnerships.

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