

Onward and upward!

Peter Fitzgibbon, Editor



With job losses, recession and Covid-related gloom hogging the headlines, causes for optimism seem strictly limited. All the more reason, then, to take heart from the findings of a survey, unveiled at the end of July during a webinar co-chaired by the Department for International Trade (DIT) and the UK Space Agency, which suggests the UK space sector is weathering the storm better than most.

Although the survey represents feedback from just 44 companies, 80% of them expect to be up to pre-Covid capacity within six months. And with the right adaptation, 75% of them expect the sector to make a full recovery. Much of this will be contingent on government support and direction and, here, last year's announcement of a National Space Council to join-up departmental activities and formulate a national strategy², as well as the

new National Space Innovation Programme³ are expected to help the sector grow out of the pandemic, said Neil Evans, Investment Manager for the Space Sector at the DIT.

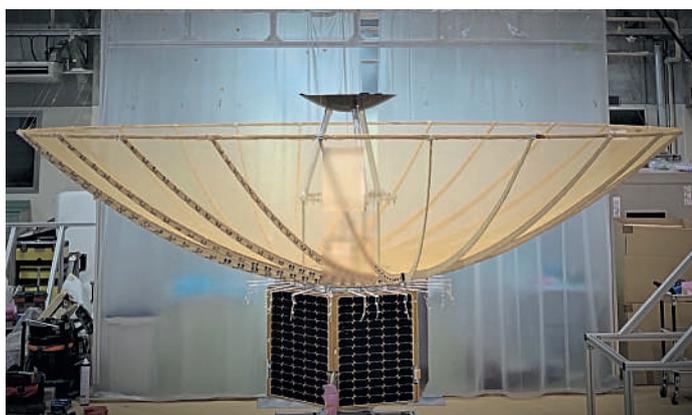
Although Covid had impacted customer demand at home, he noted that demand from overseas had held up somewhat better. In summary, around 50% of respondents had experienced the same or increased demand over pre-pandemic levels. On the supply side, 50% of respondents again reported little or no change. Reason for optimism is also to be found in the survey's finding that expansion plans remained intact for many respondents. The survey also gives a clear indication that while the remainder of this Financial Year will prove challenging for exporters, a recovery during the next FY is widely expected. A strengthened DIT presence in Indonesia and

Australia, as well as an anticipated relaxation of Covid-related import controls elsewhere should all help boost confidence.

The survey finds that many companies are beginning to revisit previously-identified trade and investment opportunities. "Our teams are seeing this at first hand," says Evans, who adds that while the small sample of companies represented may not represent the whole picture, it nevertheless gives reason for optimism.

1. Those wishing to participate in the monthly survey can make their views known by logging-on to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XZV6NSW>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/leading-the-new-space-age-government-backs-ambitious-plans-for-the-uk-in-space>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/call-for-applications-national-space-innovation-programme-nsip>

NEWS EXTRA



Silicon Sensing's inertial measurement technology to equip first small SAR satellite from iQPS

Silicon Sensing Systems' high performance DMU30 micro electro-mechanical systems (MEMS) inertial measurement unit (IMU) has been selected by the Institute for Q-shu Pioneers of Space (iQPS) of Fukuoka, Japan, for the control system of Japan's first X-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) small satellite. This is a 1m resolution, high-performance, X-band SAR-satellite weighing only 100Kg. Ultimately, iQPS plans to deploy 36 of these satellites, offering an earth observation data service to support tasks such as disaster management as well as land and infrastructure surveying. In this environment the advantages of Silicon Sensing's MEMS technology over traditional high-performance options, such as fibre optic and ring laser gyro devices, are clear. The DMU30, Silicon Sensing's highest performing IMU, is an ITAR (International Traffic in Arms Regulations)-free product that matches the performance of a FOG unit but is far more rugged, ideal for operating over extended periods in the harsh space environment. www.siliconsensing.com

Airbus Partnership Supports 4 Earth Intelligence Vision for Satellite Services

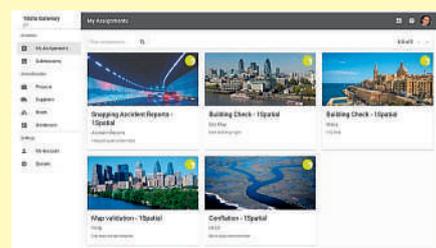
Earth observation company 4 Earth Intelligence (4EI) is partnering with Airbus Defence and Space to release the power of Airbus very high resolution satellite imagery for applications such as climate resilience, air quality monitoring and environmental mapping. As a Diamond Reseller, 4EI has privileged access to the Airbus OneAtlas Platform, which gathers multi-source, multi-resolution data and value-added layers. Under the partnership, 4EI will derive a series of earth observation products and services using a wide range of satellite data including the daily updated multi-resolution and premium optical satellite data (Living Library), the curated global imagery layer updated annually (Basemap) and the WorldDEM dataset, for 3D analytics and rendering. www.4earthintelligence.com



1Spatial announce the release of 1Data Gateway v2.1

1Spatial, a global provider of Location Master Data Management (LMDM) software and solutions, announced the general release of 1Data Gateway v2.1. 1Data Gateway is a web-based portal for spatial data validation, processing and analytics. It provides a simple and controlled way to deliver validation rules, corrections and data enhancement processes

for users with no training required and can be deployed on the cloud or on-premise. It offers internal, external and supply chain users a secure, fully scalable and customisable product to handle both spatial and non-spatial data files. This release includes several powerful new features, including the introduction of conformance thresholds which enable the



automatic rejection of submissions, giving customers more control over validation of their data. www.1spatial.com

Cityscape and Bluesky MetroVista 3D Models Bring Virtual Reality to the Property Sector

Cityscape Digital is using photorealistic 3D mesh models from aerial mapping company Bluesky to create live, interactive 3D environments to illustrate proposed city developments. A specialist in computer-generated imagery (CGI) solutions for the **property sector**, Cityscape has already created a number of **Virtual Reality (VR) experiences** using Bluesky MetroVista models, for clients including **Canary Wharf Group** and **Greycoat Real Estate**. Cityscape was one of the first to embrace CGI for the property sector producing multi-media experiences using **gaming technology**. Cityscape created its first marketing animation based on the Bluesky data creating a virtual tour and film of the Vinters Place landmark central London office development. Using the **Unreal Engine** gaming platform, Cityscape has also utilised the Bluesky MetroVista data to support a bid by Canary Wharf Group to develop a prime real estate location in central London. www.bluesky-world.com



4 Earth Intelligence Heat Hazard Data Supports Resilience Planning across UK

The UK's first street level map of areas potentially at risk from extreme weather conditions has been warmly received since its launch. Created by earth observation company 4 Earth Intelligence (4EI), with support from the **Ordnance Survey** through its **Covid-19 Response licencing**, the free at point of use Heat Hazard Postcode data is already being used to plan the provision of urban green spaces, assess vulnerable populations and inform climate change strategy. Early adopters of the data include the **Greater London Authority (GLA)**, numerous local authorities and several central government departments. Derived from satellite imagery and created using automated algorithms, the 4EI data identifies hot spots, usually within urban areas, where temperatures can be up to 3-4 degrees higher forming what is known as an Urban Heat Island (UHI). www.4earthintelligence.com

Central government and the NHS must now use UPRNs and USRNs to unlock the power of place

From 1st July, Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRN) and Unique Street Reference Numbers (USRN), which are the unique numerical identifiers for UK property and street locations, will be the standard for **central government** and **NHS organisations** for referencing and sharing **property** and **street information**. These unique identifiers are now openly available and royalty free for use on **Open Government Licence (OGL)** terms. Mandating the use of UPRN and USRN location data in this way is set to revolutionise the way that organisations use and connect data across all service areas, within and between organisations. Each identifier is a golden thread that leads to **greater accuracy, cost savings and increased productivity**. All applications that use data sets containing properties and streets must use the correct identifiers and should be verified via a trusted source, such as GeoPlace. www.geoplace.co.uk

Microsoft Bing Maps adds TomTom data to its maps

The Microsoft Bing Maps Platform is powered by multiple data providers and, to ensure it is using the best data, that mix of providers evolves and improves over time. In February last year, Microsoft and TomTom announced TomTom's map and traffic data would be incorporated into mapping scenarios across **Microsoft Azure** and **Bing**, in addition to powering **Azure Maps**. Microsoft says the partnership with TomTom will enhance their mapping portfolio, helping to deliver the best mapping experience across multiple platforms. As a result, Bing Maps is **switching to TomTom** for base map data for all regions outside of China, Japan, and South Korea. The process of rolling out the new TomTom base map data to Bing.com users and Microsoft first party products began in March 2020. www.greymatter.com

