

UK Space Agency in Swindon extends funding opportunities for scientific research projects

Description

By Clara Bullock & Ben PraterBBC News, Wiltshire

Getty Images The International Space Station in orbit over planet Earth

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The funding is to support ideas from all research areas in the UK

The UK Space Agency is offering £15m of funding to groups who want to do science experiments in space.

The Swindon-based agency is planning a mission to the International Space Station (ISS) [made of an all-UK astronaut team](#).

The funding is for science experiments and technology demonstrators that will fly on the mission, should it go ahead.

"There would be so many exciting areas that would be welcomed," Dr Natalya Zavina-James told BBC Radio Wiltshire.

"We think experiments could range from biological science, medical science, to engineering, pharmaceutical development and communications.

"We are really excited to see what might come through."

NASA SpaceX capsule attached to the ISS

NASA

The UK Space Agency is working with Axiom Space on plans for a commercial mission to the ISS

While the mission is not yet fully confirmed, Dr Zavina-James said they are "fairly confident" of the progress they are making with American company Axiom.

"Although the funding is dependent on the mission proceeding, we're hoping to give scientists and innovators, businesses, the opportunity to put in proposals now," she said.

She added that this would "maximise the benefit" of a potential mission in the future.

Minister for space at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, Andrew Griffith, said: "There is huge potential for UK businesses to play an increasingly important role in space exploration and the development of new technologies.

"The £15m funding calls mark a significant stride in our collaborative mission with Axiom Space, and I urge the UK science and technology community to use this opportunity to drive forwards discovery and unleash innovation in critical technologies."

The UK Space Agency is working with Axiom Space on plans for a commercial mission to the ISS, with the support of the European Space Agency.

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The UK Space Agency, based in Swindon, offers an exhilarating opportunity for research groups interested in conducting scientific experiments in space. They are earmarking a whopping £15m of funding for such ventures. The agency is in its advanced stages of planning for a mission to the International Space Station (ISS), with the team completely composed of British astronauts ("all-UK astronaut team").

The funding is aimed at scientific experiments and technology demonstrators that will be part of the mission, provided it is given a green light. "There would be so many exciting areas that would be welcomed," exclaimed Dr Natalya Zavina-James during an interview on BBC Radio Wiltshire. Their enthusiasm, it seems, is rooted in the potential diversity of experiments that might come from this initiative. They envisage a range of experiments, spanning from biological and medical sciences, through to engineering, pharmaceutical development, and even communications.

Although the mission is not fully confirmed yet, they are "fairly confident" of the progress with American company Axiom. Speaking about the funding, Dr Zavina-James explained that although it is dependent on the mission's approval, they are hoping to give scientists, innovators, and businesses the opportunity to submit their proposals now, as this would "maximise the benefit" of a potential mission in the future.

The Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology's Minister for Space, Andrew Griffith, highlighted the significant stride in their collaborative mission with Axiom Space. "There is huge potential for UK



businesses to play an increasingly important role in space exploration and the development of new technologies," he said, urging the United Kingdom's science and technology communities to capitalize on this opportunity which could drive forwards discovery and unleash innovation in critical technologies.

The UK Space Agency, in conjunction with Axiom Space, is working on the plans for a commercial mission to the ISS. They are also receiving support from the European Space Agency in this venture. Given the astounding pace of technological advancement and growing interest in space exploration, this potential mission certainly promises to be a momentous step forward for the UK's involvement in space sciences. The anticipation for innovative experiments from varying research areas in the UK is nothing short of sky-high.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Earmarking** // (verb): Setting aside or allocating funds or resources for a specific purpose.
2. **Composed** // (adjective): Made up or formed from different parts or elements.
3. **Enthusiasm** // (noun): A strong excitement or feeling of eagerness.
4. **Diversity** // (noun): The condition of having different elements, especially cultures or viewpoints.
5. **Fairly confident** // (phrase): Reasonably sure or convinced to a certain degree.
6. **Capitalizing** // (verb): Taking advantage of an opportunity or situation for personal gain or benefit.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which word means having a good reputation or worthy of respect?
Option: Scrutinizing
Option: Auction
Option: Poised
Option: Esteemed
2. What word describes a person who is highly interested and passionate about something?
Option: Convoy
Option: Sojourn
Option: Earmarking
Option: Enthusiast
3. Which word means extremely exciting beautiful or surprising?
Option: Splashed down
Option: Majestically
Option: Odyssey
Option: Breathtaking
4. Which word describes a range of different things or the quality of being diverse?
Option: Fairly confident
Option: Capitalizing
Option: Diversity
Option: Disconcert
5. Which word means the quality of being faulty or lacking completeness?



- Option: Modification
- Option: Immutable
- Option: Accruals
- Option: Imperfection

6. Which word means the action of making new or secret information known?

- Option: Indelible
- Option: Perennial
- Option: Disclosure
- Option: Antenna

7. Which word refers to a group of items viewed as a whole rather than individually?

- Option: Intricately
- Option: Ensemble
- Option: Illustrious
- Option: Earmarking

8. Which phrase means having a moderate level of certainty or belief?

- Option: Splashed down
- Option: Sojourn
- Option: Fairly confident
- Option: Poised

9. Which word means setting aside funds or resources for a specific purpose?

- Option: Earmarking
- Option: Antenna
- Option: Indelible
- Option: Convoy

10. Which word means examining or inspecting closely and thoroughly?

- Option: Odyssey
- Option: Scrutinizing
- Option: Convoy
- Option: Majestically

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The astronauts _____ into the ocean after a successful space mission.

12. The university has a long history of producing _____ alumni who have excelled in



various fields.

13. The military vehicles traveled in a _____ to ensure safety and coordination.
14. Despite the pressure she remained calm and _____ during the important presentation.
15. Some traditions are considered _____ and are passed down unchanged through generations.
16. The accountant reviewed the company's _____ to ensure accurate financial reporting.
17. The performance left an _____ mark on the audience making it unforgettable.
18. The garden was full of _____ flowers that bloomed year after year.
19. The insect uses its _____ to sense its surroundings and communicate with others.
20. The royal procession moved _____ through the streets capturing the attention of onlookers.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The children greeted the magician with cheers and bright smiles showing their excitement.
22. The company has a long history of providing quality services and is well-respected in the industry.
23. The government has allocated specific funds for the construction of new schools in the region.
24. Despite the chaos around her she remained calm and collected handling the situation with poise.
25. The view from the mountaintop was absolutely stunning leaving everyone in awe of its beauty.
26. The journalist carefully examined the documents looking for any inconsistencies in the information.
27. He believed that the beauty of art lies in its imperfection as it reflects the human experience.



28. The city prides itself on its cultural with people from various backgrounds living harmoniously together.

29. After thorough preparation and practice she felt that she would ace the exam.

30. The company saw an opportunity in the market and wasted no time on it to increase their profits.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Esteemed 2. Enthusiast 3. Breathtaking 4. Diversity 5. Imperfection 6. Disclosure
7. Ensemble 8. Fairly confident 9. Earmarking 10. Scrutinizing

Gap-Fill: 11. splashed down 12. illustrious 13. convoy 14. poised 15. immutable 16. accruals 17. indelible
18. perennial 19. antenna 20. majestically

Matching sentence: 1. Enthusiasm 2. Reputable 3. Earmarking 4. Composed 5. Breathtaking 6. Scrutinizing
7. Imperfection 8. Diversity 9. Fairly confident 10. Capitalizing

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL6

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