

DEFENCE AND SPACE

# Airbus Launchpad

Stevenage

# Contents

Click on Number to go to page

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Innovations hub</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Dynamic Hub for Innovation and Collaboration</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Opportunities We Provide</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Open Reconfigurable Workspace</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Digital and Simulations Lab</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Military Space Digital Lab</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Rapid Prototyping Lab</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Robotics Lab</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Fast-Fail Lab</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>AR/VR Lab</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<b>14</b>

# Welcome to the Airbus Launchpad

A groundbreaking innovation space facility supported by the UK Space Agency. The Airbus Launchpad will launch ideas and land growth to bolster the UK's space supply chain and ecosystem. With a vibrant environment for collaborative research and development, SMEs, startups and non-traditional suppliers will be hosted at the Stevenage site. Airbus Launchpad supports new entrants into the space economy by providing areas for collaboration, open conference spaces, IT infrastructure and lab access. A cornerstone of the Airbus Community for Space Prosperity (CUSP) Programme to inspire, connect and grow an inclusive UK space industry. Airbus Launchpad will help companies mature and explore their innovations at pace by reducing capital barriers to entry.

Beyond hosting short and long term residents, our site is aiming to evolve into a dynamic hub for innovation, hosting regular accelerators, workshops, events, and conferences to foster knowledge exchange and collaboration. By supporting a steady flow of SMEs and cutting-edge technologies, we aim to elevate Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) and connect SMEs with potential customers to accelerate commercialisation through not only technical sessions but broader industry essentials. Our state-of-the-art functional labs may support testing, prototyping, and validation, allowing for constructive iterations of ideas. Additionally, we will seek to establish an alumni community for peer-to-peer support, ensuring sustained growth and success within our ecosystem.



# Innovation Hub

**Engage with Airbus professionals and utilise the multifunctional labs to accelerate your ideas through the technology readiness levels. Our new facility offers the following enablers for your success.**

- Access to a range of advanced engineering simulation tools from companies such as Ansys and Mathworks
- Co-location and easy access to Airbus technical experts

**Get in touch and see how our Innovations Hub can get you closer to space under the professional guidance of Airbus.**



## Five multifunctional laboratories for:



Rapid Prototyping



Fast Fail/ Testing Equipment



Digital Capabilities



Assembly & Integration



Robotics

## Access to range of equipment including but not limited to:

- Virtual Reality Suite
- Electrical engineering tools
- Mechanical engineering tools
- Analytical instruments
- Metrology equipment
- Engineering software access
- General lab equipment/tooling
- Thermal vacuum chamber

## Open collaborative work spaces

- Meeting rooms
- Reconfigurable desk spaces
- Office spaces
- Focused working areas

# Dynamic Hub for Innovation and Collaboration

**4** Resident SMEs at a time

**6** Months SME residency packages



Airbus is providing access to a wealth of resources and opportunities. SMEs can benefit from ad hoc Subject Matter Experts packages, gaining insights and expertise from Airbus's seasoned professionals. The program offers access to state-of-the-art facilities, pushing innovation and collaboration. Additionally, Airbus will host regular accelerators, hackathons, workshops, events and conferences, creating a dynamic environment for learning and networking. SMEs will have the chance to showcase their products and services through customer demos, gaining valuable exposure. Furthermore, Airbus is committed to building an alumni community, ensuring that participants continue to benefit from the program long after their initial involvement.



## Working with other organisations to provide:

- Investor opportunities
- Business growth workshops
- Access to industry leading resources

## Our Resident SMEs

To maximise this experience, participants are encouraged to be present at the Stevenage site for at least a few days each week. All participants will undergo standard basic security checks (not including SC clearance) and a streamlined on-boarding process, ensuring a smooth and efficient start. Once on-boarded, SMEs will have free access to the facility with their own pass and can enjoy the use of the onsite canteen.

## Residency in the Airbus Launchpad guarantees access to:

- Open office/ collaborative work space
- Supervised lab access
- Expert support from Airbus

The Launchpad serves as a dedicated home for SMEs to base their business operations, providing incubation-style support customised to their requirements.

# Opportunities We Provide

## Supporting Organisations

At the Airbus Launchpad, our primary mission is to support the growth and success of small and medium-sized enterprises. Support can include areas such as technical development, market readiness, investor preparedness, and intellectual property (IP) management. Our goal is to empower SMEs with the resources and expertise they need to thrive in today's competitive landscape. Let us help you to achieve sustainable growth and success.



- Expand network with our SMEs
- Support our incubation model running in the Airbus Launchpad
- Join the Airbus Launchpad community of SMEs, organisations and non-traditional suppliers
- Opportunity to run and support workshops/ accelerator programmes we aim to host

## Ad Hoc Collaboration

Our approach involves short-term collaborative work, allowing us to quickly accelerate business growth and TRLs. Through rapid iterations, we continuously refine our strategies and tactics to ensure optimal outcomes.

Each collaboration is driven by a dedicated purpose, ensuring that our efforts are aligned with your specific goals and objectives. We set clear elevation and collaborative aims from the outset, providing a roadmap for success and ensuring that every step we take is purposeful and impactful.



- Work collaboratively with Airbus on specific projects in the Launchpad
- Work on an ad hoc basis in the space
- Take current Airbus collaborative projects into the space
- Join Airbus Launchpad community to stay connected for future events, projects and possible residencies

# Open Reconfigurable Workspace



Our open reconfigurable workspace is designed to create collaboration and innovation. With a capacity to host collaborative working for up to 50 people, this flexible space can be adapted to suit a variety of needs, from brainstorming sessions to workshops and conferences accommodating up to 150 attendees.

Equipped with state-of-the-art IT infrastructure and comfortable seating arrangements, it provides an ideal environment for networking, idea sharing, and collaborative problem-solving. Whether you are a startup, SME, or established enterprise, this space offers the versatility and resources needed to bring your ideas to life and connect with like-minded professionals in the space industry.



## What does our work space offer?

- Flexible layout for collaboration and events
- Capacity for up to 50 people (events up to 150)
- State-of-the-art IT infrastructure
- Comfortable seating and networking areas
- Adaptable for various activities (workshops, conferences, brainstorming)

# Digital and Simulations Lab



The Simulations Lab is dedicated to digital development of platform infrastructure, providing a cutting-edge environment for creating, testing, and refining digital models and simulations. Equipped with advanced software and hardware, this lab supports a wide range of simulation activities, from satellite trajectory analysis to spacecraft system modeling. By leveraging high-performance computing and data visualisation tools, users can gain valuable insights and optimise their designs. This lab is instrumental in elevating Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) and accelerating the development of innovative space technologies.

## What does our Digital Lab offer?

- Advanced digital development platform infrastructure
- High-performance computing and data visualisation tools
- Satellite trajectory analysis and spacecraft system modeling
- Support for a wide range of simulation activities
- Elevates Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)



# Military Space Digital Lab

The MilSpace Digital Lab is designed to support agile project development with a focus on military space applications. Equipped with essential test benches and equipment, this reconfigurable space facilitates the rapid prototyping and testing of digital solutions for defence and security in space.

From software development to cybersecurity testing, this lab provides the tools and environment needed to address the unique challenges of military space operations. By fostering collaboration between SMEs, startups, and Airbus experts, the MilSpace Digital Lab aims to drive innovation and enhance the UK's capabilities in military space technologies.



## What does our MilSpace Digital Lab offer?

- Agile project support for military space and communications applications
- Software development and cybersecurity testing
- Addresses unique challenges of military space operations
- Fosters collaboration between SMEs, startups, and Airbus experts

# Rapid Prototyping Lab

Whether you are developing new spacecraft components or innovative ground support equipment, the Rapid Prototyping Lab provides the resources needed to bring your ideas to life. By reducing the time and cost associated with traditional prototyping methods, this lab accelerates the development process and helps SMEs and startups bring their products to market faster.

The Rapid Prototyping Lab is equipped with advanced tools and technologies to support the quick and efficient development of physical prototypes. Featuring AIT (Assembly, Integration, and Test) training areas, machine shop tooling, and 3D printing capabilities, this lab enables users to iterate and refine their designs rapidly.



## What does Rapid Prototyping Lab offer?

- AIT (Assembly, Integration, and Test) training areas
- MS tooling and 3D printing capabilities
- Quick and efficient development of physical prototypes
- Iterative design and refinement
- Accelerates development process and reduces time-to-market.



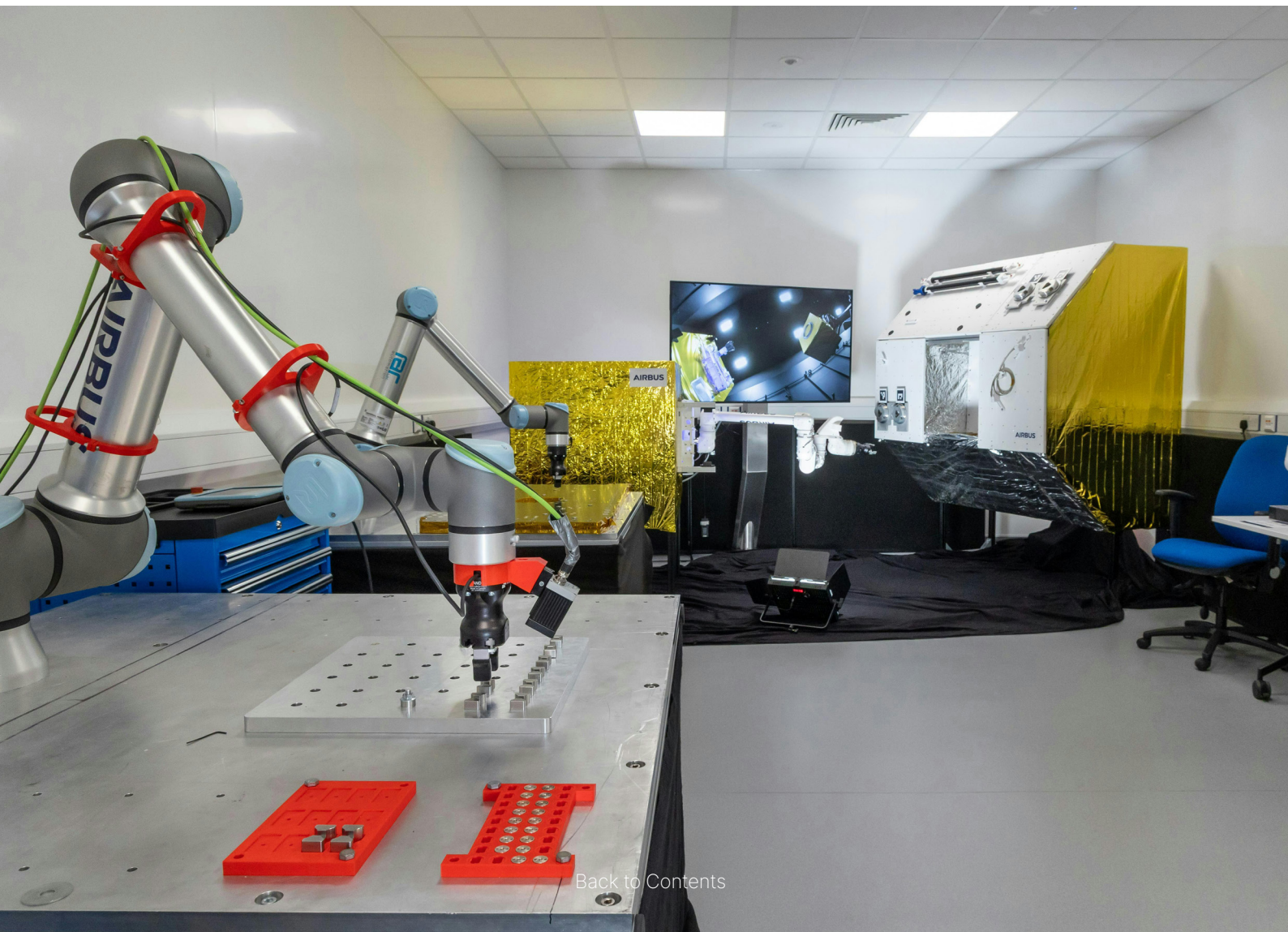
# Robotics Lab

The Robotics Lab is dedicated to advancing the field of robotics in space applications. Equipped with state-of-the-art robotics systems and seeking to expand to VR 3D live twin capabilities, this lab provides a dynamic environment for developing and testing robotic solutions. From autonomous exploration rovers to robotic arms for satellite servicing, the Robotics Lab supports a wide range of research and development activities. By fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and Airbus experts, this lab aims to push the boundaries of robotic technology and drive innovation in the space sector.



## What does the Robotics Lab offer?

- Advanced robotics systems for space applications
- VR 3D live twin capabilities (expanding).
- Development and testing of robotic solutions
- Supports a wide range of research and development activities
- Fosters collaboration between academia, industry, and Airbus experts



# Fast-Fail Lab

The Fast-Fail Lab is designed to encourage a culture of rapid experimentation and iterative development. Equipped with mechanical testing equipment, ovens, hotplates, water baths, microscopes, and metrology tools, this lab provides the resources needed to quickly test and validate new ideas.

By embracing the philosophy of “fail fast, learn faster,” users can accelerate the development process and bring their innovations to market more quickly. Whether you are testing new materials, components, or systems, the Fast-Fail Lab offers a supportive environment for exploring and refining your concepts.



## What does the Fast-Fail Lab offer?

- Mechanical testing equipment (ovens, hotplates, water baths)
- Microscopes and metrology tools
- Rapid experimentation and iterative development
- Encourages “fail fast, learn faster” philosophy
- Supports testing of new materials, components, and systems



# AR/VR Lab



The AR/VR Lab is fitted with advanced headsets and aims to expand to digital twin capabilities, providing an immersive environment for developing and testing augmented and virtual reality applications. This lab serves as a secondary meeting area and conference room, accommodating up to 20 people. From training simulations to virtual prototyping, the AR/VR Lab supports a wide range of use cases in the space industry.

By leveraging the latest AR/VR technologies, users can enhance their design and development processes, improve training programs, and create more engaging and effective communication tools. This lab is instrumental in driving innovation and advancing the UK's capabilities in AR/VR technologies for space applications, refining your concepts.



## What does the AR/VR lab offer?

- Advanced AR/VR headsets
- Digital twin capabilities (expanding)
- Immersive environment for AR/VR applications
- Supports training simulations and virtual prototyping
- Enhances design, development, and communication processes

# Additional Information

In addition to our Airbus Launchpad facilities, our Stevenage site offers a wide range of larger scale test facilities and capabilities, including project management competencies, expert consultants, and inspiring STEM and outreach activities designed to educate and spark curiosity in future generations!

We also offer a range of industry leading facilities and cleanrooms.

Please get in touch if you have any queries or require further information on how a collaboration could progress your projects - we will be happy to help!

## Contact Information



**Vanessa Viney,**

Innovations and Airbus Launchpad Manager

**[Airbus.Launchpad@airbus.com](mailto:Airbus.Launchpad@airbus.com)** (click here)



**Gunnels Wood Road,  
Stevenage,  
SG1 2AS**

**© Airbus Defence and Space Limited 2026**

Airbus Defence and Space Limited owns the copyright of this document which is supplied in confidence and which shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which it is supplied and shall not in whole or in part be reproduced, copied or communicated to any person without written permission from the owners.

Airbus Defence and Space Limited, Registered in England and Wales No. 2449259

Registered Office:  
Gunnels Wood Road,  
Stevenage, Hertfordshire,  
SG1 2AS, England

Ref 14432PC / Mar 26.