

Press Release

Wednesday 10th February 2010

Lord Drayson spells growth for SSTL

Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) believes that the publication of the Space “Innovation and Growth Strategy” document announced today by Lord Drayson is a welcomed initiative that will act as a catalyst to generating much needed additional business for the UK space industry and stimulate the expansion of the small satellite sector.

The global space sector has grown at about 9% per year during the last decade. However, in the UK SSTL has reported a growth rate of 20%, almost all of which are export earnings. This is a reflection of Britain’s vibrant and innovative space industry and highlights the huge growth potential of the sector for the UK.

Sir Martin Sweeting, SSTL’s founder and Chairman stated, “The Innovation and Growth Strategy identifies Space as a major business opportunity for the UK. We must ensure that the UK does not miss out on the stellar growth that this sector is likely to achieve over the next 20 years. The UK economy must continue to grow and space is an industry where we can demonstrate our successful high-tech track record.”

SSTL fully supports the report’s recommendations and is, above all, pleased to see the well-defined proposals for a national programme of technology development and demonstration missions, as well as the procurement of a UK Earth Observation system.

The UK government initiatives in the early part of the decade certainly helped SSTL transform into the global leader in small satellites. Thanks to a government initiative known as MOSAIC, the UK small satellite industry was able to develop and demonstrate the technologies which led to the creation of the international Disaster Monitoring Constellation and the development of RapidEye, the world’s first commercial small

satellite Earth observation system. The MOSAIC investment in SSTL has already directly led to over £100 million of export orders – a return of 10:1 for the UK.

About SSTL

Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) is the world's leading small satellite company, delivering operational space missions for a range of applications including Earth observation, science and communications. The Company designs, manufactures and operates high performance satellites and ground systems for a fraction of the price normally associated with space missions, with 300 staff working on turnkey satellite platforms, space-proven satellite subsystems and optical instruments.

Since 1981 SSTL has launched 34 satellites as well as providing training and development programmes, consultancy services, and mission studies for ESA, NASA and commercial customers, with its innovative approach that is changing the economics of space.

Based in Guildford, UK, SSTL is owned by EADS Astrium NV.

www.sstl.co.uk

Notes to editor:

This press release can be downloaded as a Word or Pdf document at the following url:

http://www.sstl.co.uk/News_and_events/Latest_News

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