# UK invests £1.5m in AI-satellite projects tackling climate and transport



The UK Space Agency has awarded £1.5 million to six projects combining satellite technology with artificial intelligence to address challenges in climate and transport. Delivered under the Unlocking Space for Business programme, the funding aims to create scalable solutions that reduce emissions, improve accessibility and foster economic growth.

The move supports the Government’s Industrial Strategy to accelerate innovation and strengthen Britain’s role in space-enabled technologies. The UK space sector already employs 56,000 people and has generated more than £2.2 billion in investment and revenue in 2024–25 through the wider Unlocking Space Programme.

“These projects show how satellite data and AI can be applied in sectors far removed from traditional space activity, unlocking new opportunities while supporting sustainability and inclusivity,” said Dr Craig Brown, Investment Director at the UK Space Agency. DSIT Minister Ian Murray added that they demonstrate the ability of Britain’s space sector to deliver real-world benefits in daily life.

The projects target areas where terrestrial data has been insufficient or costly, developing solutions for deployment across the UK and export to global markets. They build on parallel investments including £9 million for satellite instruments to monitor carbon dioxide and methane emissions, and £2.5 million for trials integrating satellite data with AI to improve travel demand management.

The Space Agency has also funded over £2.5 million in projects using satellite data for public services, from biodiversity monitoring to agricultural support. These initiatives underline a broader government commitment to Earth observation, environmental monitoring and space-enabled innovation.

By linking space companies with industries traditionally outside the sector, the UK is working to embed AI and satellite data into mainstream services. The approach reflects a vision of responsible innovation that strengthens economic competitiveness while addressing climate change and transport challenges.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.digit.fyi/1-5m-for-uk-space-projects-in-climate-and-transport/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/9-million-funding-for-satellite-instruments-to-monitor-climate> - The UK Space Agency has announced a £9 million investment into early-stage technology programmes to enhance the UK's Earth observation capabilities. Delivered by the Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation (CEOI), this funding supports 12 projects aimed at improving the monitoring of Earth's atmosphere and measuring critical emissions such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrogen dioxide. The initiative seeks to provide a clearer understanding of emission sources, enabling more effective responses to environmental challenges. The funding is bolstered by over £2 million from the academic and private sectors, demonstrating a collaborative effort to advance climate monitoring technologies.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-space-agency-annual-report-and-accounts-2024-2025/uk-space-agency-annual-report-2024-2025> - The UK Space Agency's Annual Report for 2024-2025 highlights significant advancements in space technology and applications. Notably, the successful launch of EarthCARE, a joint European-Japanese mission, aims to explore the role of clouds and aerosols in regulating Earth's climate. The report also details £9 million in funding for early-stage technology, including £1 million granted to the Cold Atom Interferometry Thermosphere Drag Measurement (CAITDM) project, which seeks to enhance understanding of the upper atmosphere. Additionally, the report mentions a £75,000 investment in an AI-based project by Surrey AI Imaging Limited and Blue Sky Imaging, focusing on real-time, multi-spectral imaging data processing on satellites and unmanned aerial vehicles.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/25-million-for-satellite-data-pilots-to-benefit-citizens-and-businesses> - The UK Space Agency has awarded £2.5 million to ten projects as part of its Unlocking Space for Business programme. These pilot projects, each receiving grants of up to £400,000, aim to trial new solutions that utilise satellite data and services to support sectors such as transport, logistics, and financial services. The trials will integrate terrestrial data and technologies, including AI, quantum computing, machine learning, and geospatial data, with satellite data to develop innovative solutions for UK customers. For instance, a project with Sports City Management Company aims to enhance visitor travel to Manchester's Etihad Campus by reducing congestion and increasing sustainability through an AI-enabled travel demand solution.
5. <https://space.blog.gov.uk/2025/06/02/2-million-funding-available-for-satellite-enabled-business-solutions/> - The UK Space Agency's Unlocking Space for Business programme is offering up to £2 million in funding for pilot projects that commercialise space solutions in the Financial Services or Transport & Logistics sectors. Each project can receive up to £400,000 in grant funding. The programme aims to help UK businesses harness satellite data and services to drive innovation, improve operations, and deliver environmental and customer benefits. Since its inception, the programme has engaged more than 350 organisations and supported a range of impactful pilot projects, demonstrating the potential of satellite-derived solutions across diverse industries.
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-projects-use-satellite-data-to-drive-public-service-innovation> - The UK Space Agency has announced over £2.5 million in funding for five projects that will use satellite data to transform the delivery of public services. These projects bring together innovative space companies with public sector partners, including local councils and government agencies, to monitor building safety, track biodiversity, identify methane leaks, and support farmers in accessing government schemes. The funding reflects the UK's commitment to establishing itself as a global leader in space-enabled public services, addressing societal challenges through the practical application of satellite technology.
7. <https://space.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/29/contracts-awarded-in-uk-space-agency-unlocking-space-for-business-project/> - The UK Space Agency's Unlocking Space for Business programme has awarded contracts to twelve applicants for feasibility study projects. Each contract, up to £200,000, aims to develop innovative and commercially viable studies that combine ground-based and satellite services for the transport, logistics, and finance sectors. The projects will run for six months, concluding in July 2024. This initiative seeks to foster innovation by integrating satellite data and services with other technologies to drive business benefits for organisations outside the space industry.