

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Unique Perspectives of Space Entrepreneurship and Investment (3)

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CATAPULT - A UK INITIATIVE FOR STIMULATING TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION IN THE
COMMERCIAL SPACE SECTOR

Abstract

In 2011 the UK launched a government funded-initiative, designated Catapult, to stimulate and support innovation across specific UK industry sectors. The UK commercial space sector has been selected to be one of the key strategic industry sectors to benefit from this initiative and a cross-industry consortium has been established to develop a business plan in support of the Satellite Applications Catapult Centre.

This paper will describe the motives behind the Catapult initiative, the structured process by which the UK space industry consortium has selected the key applications and underpinning technologies that will be the focus of the Catapult centre, the operating principles of the centre and the aspirations of the UK space industry for the future of the centre.