



DAP1916 - Statement of Need

Tracking Code: **WXBD9G**

CHANGE

1. Category of Airspace Change

Does your proposal concern Changes to Notified Airspace Design or Planned and Permanent Redistribution of Air Traffic? *

- ☒ Changes to Notified Airspace Design ☐ Planned and Permanent Redistribution of Air Traffic

2. Title of proposal

Please enter a title for this intended change, (max 80 characters): *

Spaceport1 Scolpaig TDA

☐ Have you previously submitted a Statement of Need ?

SPONSOR

3. Change Sponsor Details

Please select the appropriate category and complete. *

- ☒ A Company
☐ An Unincorporated Association or other body
☐ Individual (including sole traders and partnerships)

3a. A Company

Registered Company name (in full) *

QinetiQ Ltd

Registered Company Number

03796233

Country of Company Registration

United Kingdom

Registered Office Address

Cody technology Park, Ively Road, Farnborough, Hampshire.

Postcode

GU14 0LX

E-mail

[REDACTED]

Trading name (if applicable)

Trading Address (primary site)

Country

Postcode

Website address

Primary Point of Contact Name *

[REDACTED]

☒ Requires Airspace Portal Access ?

Telephone *

Mobile Number (for Airspace Portal) *

Email *

Additional Contacts

You can add up to 4 additional contacts

Contact 1

Contact Name *

☒ Requires Airspace Portal Access ?

Telephone *

Mobile Number (for Airspace Portal) *

Email *

STATEMENT OF NEED

4. Independent Aviation/Airspace Consultancy

☐ Is an Independent Aviation/Airspace Consultancy involved in this proposal?

5. Statement of Need

Please provide a brief 'Statement of Need' clearly explaining what issue or opportunity this proposal is seeking to address.

*Further information can be found in CAP1616 **

This ACP request is directly linked to ACP-2021-12 Spaceport 1 Scolpaig North Uist and therefore the existing statement of need is applicable to both.

A consortium led by the local council (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar), comprising Highlands & Islands Enterprise, private investors and QinetiQ, are developing a vertical launch spaceport site, herein known as 'Spaceport 1', at Scolpaig, North Uist on the Western Isles. This site is being developed as an opportunity in support of the UK government's spaceflight programme, 'LaunchUK', which aspires to grow the UK's global market share of the space sector to 10% by 2030 and be at the forefront of small satellite launch.

Spaceport 1 has been the recipient of local government investment to construct a vertical launch spaceport that will enable, subject to planning consent, suborbital launch. Development of the site and future use by operators will generate much needed revenue for local communities. It is envisaged that significant economic return will result from the creation of high quality job opportunities for local residents, direct and indirect financial income and an increase in personnel residing and visiting the area.

The Spaceport 1 site at Scolpaig currently lies beneath Class G unregulated airspace but is only a few miles from the EG D701 complex. As sounding rocket launch will pose a risk to other airspace users, there is a requirement to safely segregate such activity to minimise risk. Segregation can be achieved by establishing a small fillet of airspace between the existing EG D701 and EG D704 Danger Areas; ACP-2021-12 seeks to address a permanent solution circa early 2023. There is a commercial demand to launch sounding rockets this year (September 2021) from the Spaceport 1 site at Scolpaig. However ACP-2021-12 processes will not be completed in the timeframe required to meet this requirement therefore, there is a requisite to provide a temporary airspace solution to segregate sounding rocket activity from other airspace users. This ACP is proposing a temporary airspace change over the Scolpaig launch site in the form of a Temporary Danger Area (TDA). This area would only be activated when required to facilitate the safe operation of sounding rockets; activation would be through extant Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) procedures used at the Hebrides Range.

Discussions with several Spaceport customers are advanced with one client demonstrating they will be ready to launch their first rocket by September 2021, with a second and third launch in November 2021. It is then planned to recommence a launch sequence in March 2022 with two to three launches occurring every other month. A TDA extending 90 days would accommodate the launches for 2021 but not for 2022 where it is envisaged a further two TDAs would be required, one of which would have to extend the 90 day period by approximately one month. Launches in 2022 are likely to cease by late October with the intention of recommencement in March 2023 by which time it is anticipated a permanent airspace solution will be in place.

The location has been carefully selected in order to minimise disruption to the public and airspace users, the latter through the exploitation of the existing Ministry of Defence (MOD) QinetiQ managed Danger Areas known as the Hebrides Range; the EG D701 complex. Using irreducible spare capacity of the existing Danger Area complex will enable safe testing of suborbital 'sounding rockets'. The existing Danger Areas are fully integrated into systems and processes employed by the UK Airspace Management Cell (AMC) and the Eurocontrol Network Manager enabling harmonised and dynamic planning of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) network. Moreover, it is envisaged that QinetiQ will manage the TDA and adjacent D701 Danger Areas in exactly the same fashion as the Hebrides Range airspace is managed, thereby utilising existing airspace management processes and procedures. This will enable efficient use of airspace under the Flexible Use of Airspace (FUA) concept. Furthermore, this will facilitate expedient transfer of airspace use from MOD activity to Spaceport operations (the former retaining priority) as well as accommodating short notice changes and, where appropriate and safe, coincident operations. It is considered that the infrequent activation of the TDA and subsequent activation of a limited number of the D701 danger Areas, will have little impact on other airspace users.

6. Administrative Changes

☐ Does your proposal represent an administrative change to the Aeronautical Information Publication (Proposed Level 0 change)?

7. Instrument Flight Procedures

☐ Does your proposal have the potential to include a change to and/or new IFPs?

8. Five-Letter Name Codes (5LNC)

☐ Does this request solely concern the reservation of new Five-Letter Name Codes (5LNC) in advance of a future proposal?

9. Additional Information

Please use the box below to add any further information which the CAA should be aware of when considering this submission (for example dependencies on other airspace change proposals and/or funding deadlines):

This ACP request is directly linked to ACP-2021-12 Spaceport 1 Scolpaig North Uist and therefore the existing statement of need is applicable to both.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submission

Your form has been successfully submitted. Please keep a copy of this acknowledgement for your records.

Date and Time: **15 Apr 2021 3:47:53 PM**

Application
Submission
Number: **DAP1916V2-229**

Please note that the Airspace Regulation team will contact you to acknowledge receipt of your Statement of Need and to confirm the unique ACP reference number (ACP-YYYY-NNN) allocated to this submission. Following receipt of your unique ACP reference number, you will be required to create an associated airspace change proposal on the [CAA's Airspace Change Portal](#). Please refer to CAP 1706: CAA Airspace Change Portal Sponsor Training Manual provides for further information/guidance on how to use the Airspace Change Portal.

Once your submission has been assigned, arrangements will be made for you to attend an Assessment Meeting. One of the key outputs from this meeting will be an indicative timeline for the proposed airspace change. To enable the CAA to consider your proposed timescales, you will be expected to present dates for the following milestones at the Assessment Meeting:

- DEFINE Gateway
- DEVELOP & ASSESS Gateway
- CONSULT Gateway
- Formal Airspace Change Proposal Submission
- Target AIRAC

The CAA holds Gateway Assessment Meetings on a monthly basis and the annual schedule is published on the [CAA website](#).

Finally, you should also note that from September 2018 any amendments submitted by a Data Originator or ANSP for onward promulgation in the UK IAIP will be subject to the Aeronautical Data Quality Requirements. See [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 73/2010](#) (updated by 1029/2014) and [CAP 1054: Aeronautical Information Management](#) guidance material for further information. These requirements will be discussed in greater detail during the course of your initial meeting with the CAA.

When you have completed this form, click this button to submit the form for processing. Do not click this button more than once. You will then be provided with further instructions.