



SP-1 Airspace Change Manager
Room 113 AT Building
QinetiQ Malvern technology Centre
St Andrews Road
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 3PS

26 July 2023

CAA Account Manager for ACP-2021-12

ACP-2021-12 Spaceport-1 Scolpaig North Uist – Restart Proposal Submission

Introduction

QinetiQ as Sponsor for Spaceport-1 (SP-1) Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) 2020-12, formally requests resumption of ACP-2020-12 with immediate effect.

Background

QinetiQ has acted as the airspace change Sponsor on behalf of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) – lead agency for the spaceport development - since 2021. Stage 2 of the 7 Stage process was recently completed, with CAA approval to proceed to Stage 3 granted on 10 May 2023. On 4 July 2023 the decision was taken by the SP1 Project Board to pause work on the remaining stages of the ACP until such time that the outcome of the planning process was known, and the timeline for delivery of the project was better understood.

Planning Permission for the SP1 development was granted on Thursday 27 July. As such, the Sponsor requests that ACP-2020-12 resumes as soon as possible. A new proposed timeline will be submitted once approval to resume the ACP is received.

Update

The Sponsor can confirm that during the 22 day period that the ACP has been paused there are no contextual changes that may affect CAP1616 material already developed; these include the following considerations that:

- there is no change to the issue/requirement or opportunity in the Statement of Need (SoN); noting that the requirement for orbital launch was removed at the beginning of Stage 2 and all stakeholders (including the regulator) were informed accordingly and the airspace options and design principle evaluation considered only sub-orbital launch;
- there is no change to the operating environment or geographical area in which the ACP is being developed;
- there have not been any new ACPs submitted (that have been brought to the attention of the Sponsor) that could affect the SP-1 ACP;
- there have not been any changes to the law, government policy or CAA requirements that would affect the development of the ACP, or parts of the ACP; and,
- there has been no change to the list of identified stakeholders.



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Summary

The decision to pause ACP-2020-12 was taken due to the uncertainty of the outcome of the planning process and it was unclear what the timeline should be for project delivery. Now planning permission for the SP-1 site has been granted (and one of the main risks to the programme being removed), it is intended to restart the ACP process as soon as possible in order to meet a 2024 implementation deadline. Due to the very short period that the ACP was paused (22 days), the Sponsor is confident that there have been no contextual changes that may affect CAP1616 material already developed to the end of Stage 2. It is therefore requested that the CAA approve recommencement of ACP-2020-12 with immediate effect.

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Spaceport-1 Airspace Change Sponsor

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