

UK Invests £40 Million in New Satellite Project

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The UK Ministry of Defence has announced a £40 million investment in a new satellite, named Juno, to enhance the country's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.

The satellite, developed by Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd., is expected to launch in 2027 and will provide high-resolution imagery of the Earth's surface. This advanced technology will support a range of military operations, including monitoring adversary activities and contributing to global security efforts.

Juno will join Tyche, the UK Space Command's first satellite, which successfully launched in August 2023. Together, these satellites will form part of a constellation that will deliver critical information to support UK defense and security interests.

The investment in Juno is expected to create around 200 skilled jobs in the UK space sector, boosting the nation's economy and strengthening its position as a global leader in space technology.

Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry **Maria Eagle** said:

"The contract for Juno shows the UK's commitment to grow one of the most innovative and attractive space economies in the world and keep our competitive edge in space science and technology. Juno will not only support Armed Forces personnel deployed globally, but also support highly skilled jobs, delivering on the government's growth mission."

Air Chief Marshal **Sir Rich Knighton** said:

"With Tyche in space, and Juno now on contract, UK Space Command's ISTARI programme is making great strides, showcasing innovation and collaboration across government and industry. With these Earth Observation satellites on orbit, UK Space Command and defence will be better equipped to conduct all-domain military operations and deliver assured space-based intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to the joint force and our allies."

The contract for Juno was awarded via competitive procurement to Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL), the same company that manufactured Tyche.

SSTL employs around 400 engineers, technicians and support staff across its two sites in Guildford, Surrey, and Bordon, Hampshire. With around half of these employees expected to work on the project, Juno will play a key part in securing critical UK skills in the growing global space sector. The project will also help inform the procurement strategy for future space capability requirements.

Andrew Cawthorne, Managing Director, SSTL, said:

“We’re incredibly proud that the Ministry of Defence has again placed its trust in SSTL to deliver the UK’s next sovereign intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance spacecraft. Juno will offer a step change in imaging capability over Tyche, SSTL’s demonstrator spacecraft which launched in August and is now being operated for UK Space Command. We look forward to continuing our successful relationship with UK Space Command, DE&S, and Dstl, and playing a leading role in delivering the UK Defence Space Strategy.”

Paul Russell, Space team leader at DE&S said:

“Placing contracts and managing delivery of a new generation of UK military capabilities for use in a complex and critical environment takes incredible focus and collaborative working with our defence and industry partners. These efforts are key in ensuring the UK Armed Forces have access to the surveillance and intelligence information they need to maintain a competitive edge.”