

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA THE SPACE TO BE

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S SPACE ECOSYSTEM

South Australia, proudly known as the Space and Defence State, has a strong track record in building a resilient and capable space ecosystem that supports national priorities. Its geographic location, government support and investment, access to launch and test facilities, world-class research, and highly skilled workforce make it a natural hub for space innovation.

With origins dating back to the nation's first rocket launches in the 1950s, South Australia boasts a rich history at the forefront of Australia's national and international space efforts.

Australia has surged into the global space economy in recent years, with South Australia taking the lead. It is now home to the Australian Space Agency, Australian Space Discovery Centre, Responsive Space Operations Centre, a forthcoming assembly, integration and test facility, and a full space flight ecosystem welcoming launch and returns.

A network of connected innovation places – including Lot Fourteen, Tonsley Innovation District and Technology Park – facilitates dynamic collaboration and new ideas priming our state as Australia's space pioneer and economic driver.

South Australia maintains strong ties with Defence Space Command and hosts a significant and diverse range of Australian Defence facilities, including the Woomera Range Complex and RAAF Base Edinburgh – housing the Defence Science and Technology Group's largest Australian presence.

The state's vibrant network of companies, startups and research institutions is delivering cutting-edge space technologies that are capturing global attention.

The Kanyini Mission – Australia's first state-funded satellite – represents South Australia's leadership in space innovation. Developed and built in South Australia, Kanyini is a strategic partnership between the South Australian Government, Smart Sat CRC, Inovor Technologies and Myriota that demonstrates the power of collaboration in driving significant advancements in space technology.



Government of  
South Australia



## GOVERNMENT FOCUS AND INVESTMENT

The South Australian Space Industry Centre's (SASIC) mission is to lead the state's space industry development efforts and offer focused and responsive support to drive the growth of South Australia's space sector.

It provides a prominent national platform for the Government of South Australia to promote and attract investment in the state's space industry and works closely with the Australian Space Agency to align with national space priorities.

The South Australian Government's funding and support for the space industry is steadfast, providing \$33 million over four years to support and expand the local space industry, helping to attract, grow and retain space companies in the state.

Key initiatives include: the SA Space Collaboration and Innovation Fund, supporting R&D and international partnerships; the Venture Catalyst Space Program, supporting space start-up development; a new \$20 million common user facility for assembly, integration and testing of small satellites; and the Kanyini state-owned satellite mission.

## ACCESS TO LAUNCH CORRIDORS AND TEST FACILITIES

With a strong foundation in advanced technologies and strategic geographic advantages for space flight, including returns, South Australia's space industry boasts a dynamic and comprehensive full-service ecosystem supported by leading research institutions and a thriving startup culture.



HyImpulse SR75 rocket lifts off from Southern Launch's Koonibba Test Range.

### WHALERS WAY ORBITAL LAUNCH COMPLEX

A commercial launch complex, operated by Southern Launch, approved for key orbital corridors including polar and sun synchronous orbit.

### KOONIBBA TEST RANGE

Jointly operated by Southern Launch and the Koonibba Community Aboriginal Corporation, offering up to 41,000 square km of range area, accommodating suborbital launches, returns from space and hypersonic vehicle testing.

### WOOMERA RANGE COMPLEX

Operated by the Department of Defence, encompassing 122,000 square km, supporting whole-of-Defence activities for the testing of war material and other activities in the national interest.

## ACCESS TO SKILLED AND EXPERIENCED WORKFORCE

South Australia's defence industry currently supports around 5,500 jobs, including 3,500 direct roles and another 2,000 across supply chains. By the 2040s, this is expected to grow to over 11,000 jobs, with 8,500 direct positions and 2,900 in supply chain and support activities. This highly skilled and experienced workforce provides a strong foundation that can be leveraged to support the growing space sector.



## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Underpinning South Australia's space industry is a robust research and innovation sector that is ready to collaborate in the pursuit of advancing space technologies.

The state's world-renowned universities excel in conducting high-quality research and education that significantly influence political, regulatory, and legal frameworks related to defence, security, and our engagement with outer space. This influence is underscored by remarkable results emerging from university led programs and facilities including:

- Australian Institute for Machine Learning
- Australian Research Council Centre for Excellence in Plants For Space (P4S)

- Executive space courses
- EXTERRES Analogue Facility
- iLaunch and Defence Trailblazer programs
- The Andy Thomas Centre for Space Resources
- The Jeff Bleich Centre for Democracy and Disruptive Technologies

Adelaide is also home to a wide range of internationally esteemed research consortia, including the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre, Australia's premier space research initiative, future-focused startups and companies that are exploring advancements in space biotechnology and other adjacent fields including mining, energy and agriculture.

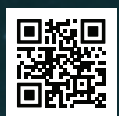


The SmartSat CRC team inspecting the Kanyini satellite





Render of Australia's first state-funded satellite, Kanyini.



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