

Sandra Archer

Subject: Shetland Space Centre - advice

From: Ratcliffe, Andrew (UKSA) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 22 December 2021 16:40
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Subject: RE: Shetland Space Centre - advice

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: COMMERCIAL

Hi Victoria,

In response to the bulleted question, see below.

Can you confirm whether there is no applicable UK specific guidance and, if that is the case, whether the use of proven US methodologies is appropriate for the sort of operations that are proposed at this location?

- The US methodologies implemented and the parameters selected by Saxavord for a launch site location review are appropriate for the type/size of launch vehicle that is intended for operation at the spaceport/launch site.
- The methodologies identified and the outputs produced are likely to feature as part of the siting assessment that is requested by the CAA as part of the spaceport licensing process. The US methodologies are likely to be used because there is an absence of known UK specific guidance for launch activities and there is heritage/precedent for US commercial launch activities and their associated regulations.
- It should be noted that in the UK, there are regulations for storing or handling large quantities of industrial chemicals of a hazardous nature called COMAH which is regulated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). However, given launch vehicle operations involve the use of hazardous substances which are intentionally brought into close proximity and ignited, their applicability may be limited to part of the ground operations only. The CAA, as UK Spaceflight Regulator, will likely engage with the experts at HSE and industry to devise guidance specific for launch activities in the future. Hence in answering the questions posed, I've specifically referred to the current absence of UK guidance specific for launch activities in particular and, in light of this, the appropriateness of using the US methodologies for the launch site location review.
- To reiterate an important point from the below and the technical note, the information provided is only intended to inform the understanding of HES on launch site selection and is not intended to be used for any safety determinations as part of the licensing activity

I hope the above serves as a useful clarification/answer to your question.

Best wishes,

Andrew