



Higgs Centre for Innovation

Science & Technology Facilities Council

A new business incubation centre and specialist laboratories at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh supported by the expertise of the STFC's UK Astronomy Technology Centre



Higgs Centre for Innovation

Business Incubation Centre and Specialist Lab Facilities

Business Incubation

This ground-breaking new facility, created by the STFC and in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, will apply business incubation best practice to big data, astronomy, particle physics and space technology, enabling start-ups to translate fundamental research into wider commercial impact. It will also support SMEs with access to a state-of-the-art NanoSat test facility.

The Business Incubation Centre will include a comprehensive support package for successful applicant companies to develop new products and services in areas related to space, big data and high precision engineering.

The BIC can accommodate 12 start-ups at any one time with companies staying for 2 years each. It will offer:

- Business support services for companies to help them to grow and solidify their offering and business planning
- Access to technical expertise from STFC
- Access to test and development facilities

Specialist Labs & Space Testing

The Facilities at the Higgs Centre, designed for collaborative use by Industry, Academia and Research Institutions, will include a comprehensive suite of space test facilities for micro/nano-satellites and components, as well as other specialist facilities.

- Dedicated secure labs with ISO 5-7 clean rooms
- Optical metrology and calibration facilities
- Thermal and cryo-vacuum chambers
- Vibration testing
- FlatSat nanobed for integration testing

The centre will offer full technician support and assistance to our partners in their technology development programmes.

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