

# HyImpulse and SaxaVord fired up for sub-orbital launch

**April 2023, Shetland Islands**

On the 26th of April, start-up rocket company, HyImpulse, completed their 8th campaign of motor testing in the Shetland Isles. The high-level event was joined by representatives of the UK Space Agency, European Space Agency ESA, Scottish Development International, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Shetland Islands Council and local constituency members for the Scottish Parliament and UK Parliament.

The two-day tour included a visit to the HyImpulse UK motor test facility and to SaxaVord Spaceport. The representatives were able to experience, first-hand, the excitement of a hybrid rocket motor hot fire test and stand at the very edge of the United Kingdom where the new frontier with space is being drawn.



Following this successful round of testing HyImpulse will prepare for its first sub-orbital launch of their sounding rocket technology demonstrator in the latter half of 2023. This will be a huge milestone for HyImpulse and also for UK, as it will be the largest rocket launched vertically from the UK and from SaxaVord Spaceport.

Hybrid motors use solid fuel and liquid oxidiser which offers numerous advantages in cost, manufacturability, and safety. Specifically, recent breakthroughs in this technology from HyImpulse enable equal performance to commercial liquid motors while significantly reducing costs. HyImpulse are on course to develop a commercial, orbital launch service based on hybrid propulsion that will significantly reduce the cost of access to space for small satellites.

**Ian Annett, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, UK Space Agency,** said: "Today's successful engine test marks a huge milestone for HyImpulse as we look ahead to their suborbital launch from SaxaVord later this year.

"HyImpulse and companies from across the globe are attracted to the UK's thriving space sector which already supports nearly 49,000 jobs across the country and generates an income of £17.5 billion for our economy."

**Christian Schmierer, co-CEO of HyImpulse** said: "With this latest round of testing, we are another step closer to achieving our demonstrator launch. We are delighted to host the UK Space Agency so that they can see our technology in action. This hybrid system, demonstrated today, will be a game changer for reducing the cost of access to space, getting small satellites where they need to go safely and on-demand."

**Frank Strang, SaxaVord CEO** said: "We have been engaged with HyImpulse for almost four years and our team has successfully been supporting their engine testing programme for more than two years. We continue to enjoy a strong and positive relationship with Christian and Mario and their excellent team. We look forward to supporting the next steps in their development later this year, which will be the first suborbital launch from SaxaVord Spaceport. I am sure this will generate huge excitement and interest and be a significant landmark both for HyImpulse and our Spaceport in Shetland."

**Alistair Carmichael, MP for Orkney and Shetland** said: "I was glad to join HyImpulse and SaxaVord for the motor test this week and to see the impressive progress being made towards a first successful UK vertical space launch. This new milestone is another sign of the confidence put in Shetland as a hub and launch point for the UK space industry. This progress is a vital part of establishing quality, durable jobs in the Northern Isles in the industries of the future. The partnership between SaxaVord and HyImpulse is a promising sign of the sorts of development we can see here in the years to come. It reinforces just how important the Northern Isles remain for the UK economically and strategically. Now is the time for our governments to come together to back the Shetland site fully."

### About HyImpulse

HyImpulse is a launch services provider pioneering advanced hybrid propulsion technology to serve the growing small satellite market. Founded with the goal to revolutionize access to space, HyImpulse's Small Launcher, SL1, is powered by unique and proprietary hybrid propulsion systems. This disruptive technology enables HyImpulse to offer affordable, frequent, responsive, and safe access to space for small satellites and spacecrafts with a lower carbon footprint.

For more information, please visit [hyimpulse.de](https://hyimpulse.de).

### About SaxaVord Spaceport

SaxaVord Spaceport (SaxaVord) is the UK's first vertical satellite launch facility and ground station located at Lamba Ness in Unst, Shetland. Given Unst is the UK's highest point of latitude, SaxaVord offers customers a geographic competitive advantage enabling unrivalled payloads per satellite, launch site operations, a network of ground stations, as well as in-orbit data collection and analysis. SaxaVord has received endorsement from the UK Space Agency's (UKSA) SCEPTRE Report and formed industry-leading partnerships. It has also been chosen to host the UKSA's UK Pathfinder launch, which will be delivered by Lockheed Martin and ABL Systems.

Integral to the UK's space economy ambitions, SaxaVord is building a highly skilled workforce, championing STEM education and supporting the economic regeneration of Shetland. Follow the journey of SaxaVord, from ground preparation to launch, [here](#).