

Autumn/Winter 2023



# ODYSSSEY

The official newsletter of the Space Science  
Environmental & Engineering Foundation

COMING UP IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

**The UK Space Agency sign with Axiom Space to send UK astronauts to the stars;**

**NEWS FROM THE SSEF for EU, UK and EnviroDC;**

**TIPS and RESOURCES;**

**STUDENT STORIES: Anastasia Paraschiv- My experience at the ISSDC**

**How to register for volunteering with us:**

**LATEST SPACE NEWS FROM AROUND THE WEB; #space and #enviro on social:**

Our wonderful sponsors and supporters, past and present

Upcoming UK Space events- [Click Here](#)

Upcoming UK Eco events- [Click Here](#)

**FEATURE**



ESA/NASA

## UK Space Agency & Axiom Space sign agreement on plans for historic human spaceflight mission

October's thrilling announcement of the new joint venture between the UK Space Agency and Axiom Space has created a buzz throughout the space community in the UK and the team here at SSEF are no exception.

To read our full report, [CLICK HERE](#)

To read more details about the mission itself, [CLICK HERE](#)

## NEWS FROM THE SSE<sup>2</sup>F

THANK YOU FOR TAKING  
PART IN REGIONALS 2023!



WE HOPE YOU  
ENJOYED IT AS MUCH  
AS WE DID!

WELL DONE TO  
THOSE JOINING US  
AT NATIONALS.

FIND OUT MORE



### Another successful regional season for UKSDC and SSEF

This last term has seen another fantastic season of UKSDC regionals take place around the country. We saw around 1000 students enter into our competitions at 10 different heats.

To read more [CLICK HERE](#)

We will soon be announcing our dates for 2024.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to our dates and registration page.



This October saw the first Cluj regional of the Romanian Space Design Competition take place at “Avram Iancu” Theoretical High School. The day saw over 80 students create designs for a lunar based settlement and present their designs to a panel of judges including: SSEF Junior Programmes Director Corinne Barker, Salad Box CEO Alina Covșă, software engineer Alexandru-Mihail Crăciun, and UBB lecturer Ioan-Gabriel Mircea. For the full details [CLICK HERE](#)

The SPSDC and PTSDC are open for registration. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to our dates and registration page.



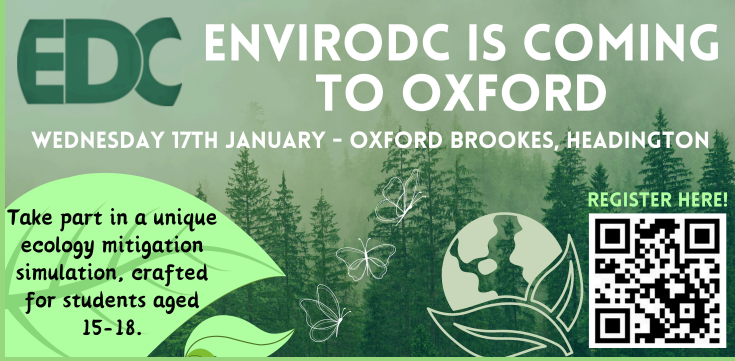
**EUSDC 2023/24 IS UNDERWAY...**

✔ ITSDC  
✔ ROSDC

**COMING SOON** SPSDC  
**COMING SOON** PTSDC

DIGITAL COMPETITIONS

FIND OUT MORE




**EDC ENVIRODC IS COMING TO OXFORD**

WEDNESDAY 17TH JANUARY - OXFORD BROOKES, HEADINGTON

Take part in a unique ecology mitigation simulation, crafted for students aged 15-18.

REGISTER HERE!



Our latest EnviroDC event took place at the University of Liverpool at the start of October. Students from Gateacre School formed the Green Horizons Design Company and developed plans for the redevelopment of the Kroo Bay shantytown in Freetown, Sierra Leone. They pitched their designs to the client, the Environmental Foundation Society, showcasing their work from the day in an engaging, professional presentation. For the full report, [CLICK HERE](#)

The regional events are open for registration. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to our dates and registration page.

## TOP TIPS:

### TOP TIP-

#### Making use of Subcontractors

Our SSEF Top Tip of the season is: ‘Make effective use of subcontractors.’ You will find an extensive list of subcontractors on the competition resources page.

Judges often feel that these subcontractors are underused in the company designs. Subcontractors are an extremely useful resource, and can make your life so much easier by helping to address various aspects of the RFP, and providing services for your company.

*Read through the list of Subcontractors before the event, and don't hesitate to use their services throughout your presentation.*

## TOP RESOURCE:

### TOP RESOURCE-

#### Utilising collaborative platforms

Our Top Tool of the season is the use of collaborative platforms. A key to success at our team events is being able to work together effectively, and the most efficient way to achieve this is to keep track of your company's work through an online collaborative platform. Google Drive, Canva or One Drive will all give members of your company access to a shared drive, and encourage them to keep all their work there throughout the challenge. This ensures that everyone is able to keep track of what decisions are being made, and management can keep up to date on the overall company progress. By creating multiple folders in the drive, work is organised and will direct each department to the relevant files.

Shared drives can be useful for tasks such as:

- Creating presentations
- Using spreadsheets to keep track of progress (compliance matrices)
- Highlighting key design decisions keep the company up to date

*Keep on top of your company's progress by uploading work onto a collaborative platform.*

## STUDENT STORIES

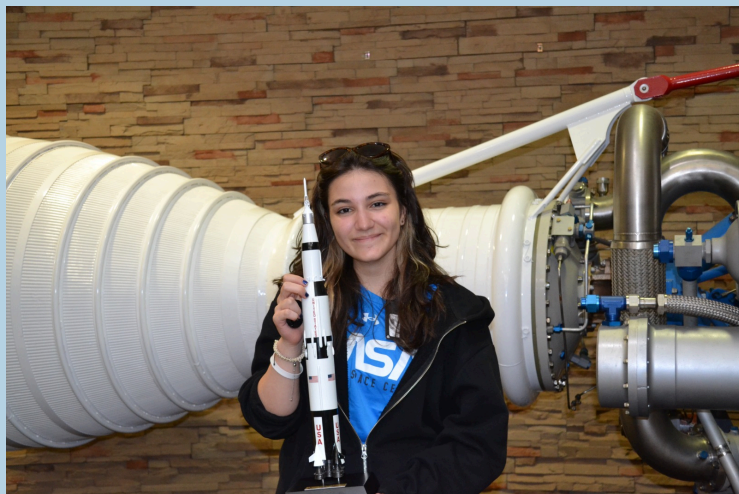
Anastasia Paraschiv

ISSDC 2023

What the ISSDC meant for me is honestly hard to put into words. It was like a door being opened to a new wide world.

For the full experience [CLICK HERE](#)

If you want your experiences to be featured in our Newsletter, then let us know by contacting us at [b.mann@ssef.org.uk](mailto:b.mann@ssef.org.uk)



## VOLUNTEER STORIES

### James Hayes - Level 1 Rocketry Certification

This summer I was lucky enough to build and fly my own high-powered rocket at International Rocket Week (IRW). IRW is a yearly meeting of rocketeers held at the historic Fairlie Moor Rocket Site in August, where enthusiasts and students from all over the world gather to fly and watch rockets. I'd been working on my rocket, "This Way Up", on and off for about a year and finally had the opportunity to launch.

"This Way Up" is a Darkstar 2.6" fibreglass airframe that can fly on 38mm rocket motors, and I decided to attempt my UK Rocketry Association Level 1 Flight Certification using an I370 "Classic" motor. Solid rocket motors are categorised according to their impulse, in ascending alphabetical order. For motors bigger than a H-class, you have to pass certification flights to make sure that you're flying safely. Since this would be my first flight on an I-class, I had to be closely examined by the Range Safety Officer (RSO) to make sure the rocket was fit to fly. Having passed the checks, we loaded "This Way Up" onto the launch rail, retreated to a safe distance, and began the countdown.



T-0! Everything looked good, the rocket made a lovely straight line up into the Scottish sky, and nearly disappeared out of view. Of course, when flying rockets we have to make sure that we recover them safely. This typically involves parachutes, and there's a characteristic "pop" noise when they deploy. The rocket should then float gently down to a soft landing, however that wasn't quite the case. We heard the pop, saw the parachute deploy... and then saw the parachute tear off and the rocket fall back to Earth. Thankfully, I was able to recover the airframe in one piece, and I decided to try again the next day.

The following day saw better conditions, and armed with a new motor (this time an I180 "Skidmark") and a new quality parachute, we repeated the checks, got the rocket on the rail, and up it went. This was a much better flight, with the characteristic "pop" and the sight of parachutes remaining attached (this time!). After a little hike to find the landing spot, I'm pleased to say I was able to recover "This Way Up" and gain my UKRA L1 certification.

I'd encourage everyone to give rocketry a go, and I'd also like to thank John Bonsor of the Scottish Aeronautics & Rocketry Association and Richard Newlands for being my RSO.



- James Hayes  
30/10/23

If you want your experiences to be featured in our Newsletter, then let us know by contacting us at [b.mann@ssef.org.uk](mailto:b.mann@ssef.org.uk)

## VOLUNTEERING

Gain work experience, have fun, and support the Space Science and Engineering Foundation, (SSEF), by becoming a volunteer. We need help with both our senior and junior Space and Environmental challenges. Modes are online or in person, weekends or in the summer.

**Volunteers are essential to the SSEF to enable us to run our free to enter events in the UK and EU .**

To read more about the benefits of volunteering, the modes of volunteering, what you do/do not do as a volunteer, and how you can have impact, fun and learn, [CLICK HERE](#).



## NEWS

**We look at the latest space and environmental news from around the world.**



Inside Science

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Space News

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UN Environmental news

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## #SPACE & #ENVIRO ON SOCIAL



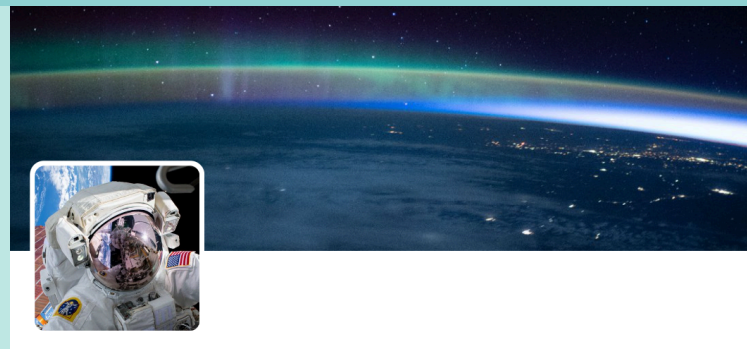
If you're interested in learning more about space then there is so much information out there on social media. Below is a selection of some recent #space tweets and videos! Why not follow some of the sites to keep up to date with all the latest news.



@Spacegovuk

We inspire and lead the UK in space to benefit our planet and it's people.

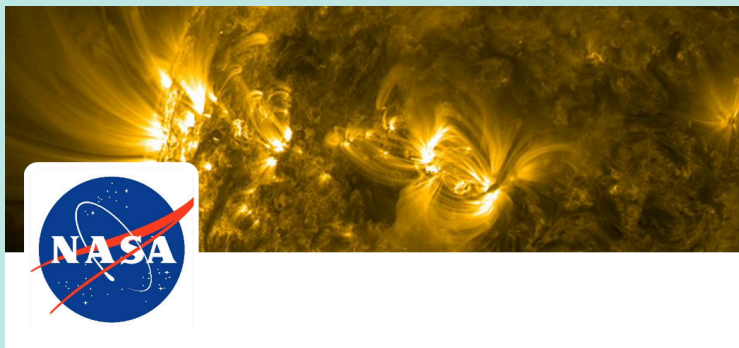
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@Space\_Station

NASA's page for the latest updates from the International Space Station.

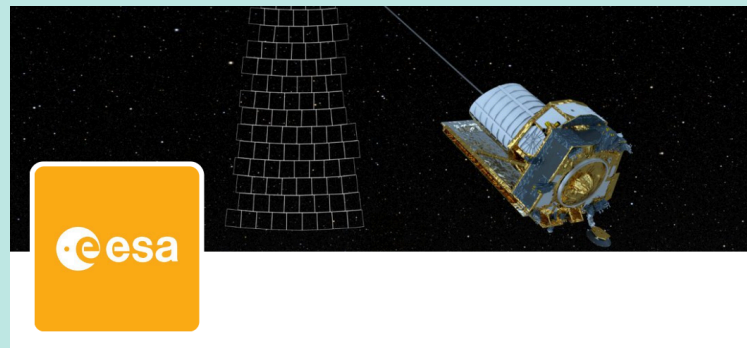
[Click Here](#)



@NASA

There's space for everybody. ✨

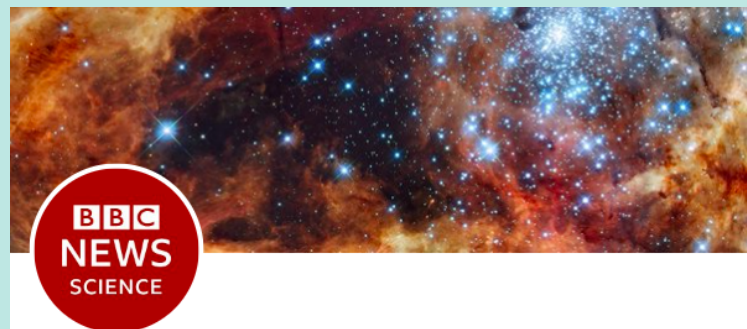
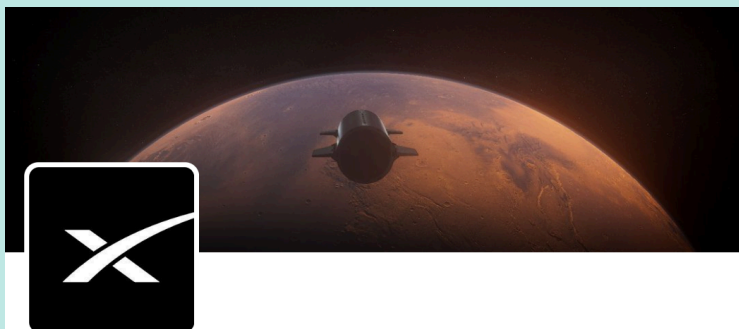
[Click Here](#)



@esa

From Earth orbit to deep space

[Click Here](#)





### @SpaceX

SpaceX designs, manufactures and launches some of the world's most advanced rockets and spacecraft.

[Click Here](#)



### @EnvAgency

It's our job to look after your environment and create better places for people and wildlife.

[Click Here](#)

### @BBCScienceNews

News, features and analysis from the BBC Science & Environment news desk.

[Click Here](#)



### @UNEP

Official account of @UN Environment Programme. Updates on triple planetary crisis.

[Click Here](#)

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

If your school would like more information on any of SSEF's programmes, please contact Jenny Lyons at [j.lyons@ssef.org.uk](mailto:j.lyons@ssef.org.uk) or Sam Hession at [s.hession@ssef.org.uk](mailto:s.hession@ssef.org.uk)

Other ways to get involved with the SSEF

Become a Sponsor

Volunteer

## SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Students will never forget the people they meet, the friends they make, or the supporters who help them. Backing the SSEF is not a one-way street. Sponsorship is as advantageous for you and your future as for the young designers and explorers of tomorrow.



**Thanks for reading.**  
**Please consider a [donation to SSEF.](#)**

**Space Science Environmental & Engineering Foundation**

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