



UK Space Agency

Harshbir Sangha & Nichola Bolton

Satellite Earth Observation: How the landscape is changing

Friday 12:00 – 12:10

This is a key moment for EO in the UK. Our successes over the last decade have given us strong national capability and one of the most vibrant downstream sectors in the world. We face a range of new opportunities that require us to redefine what our role is globally. How do we shape that new role? What are the strategic drivers that will shape our approach?

— Future Horizons for Earth Observation



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Harshbir Sangha, Director of Growth

Friday 12:00 – 12:10

Harshbir joined the UK Space Agency in December 2018 to lead the Copernicus Earth Observation Programme. He was appointed as the Director of Growth in June 2021 and leads the development of new uses/users/applications/technologies and a new attitude to the use of space in order to grow the space sector. Harshbir and his team are responsible for delivering and coordinating the government input to the development of Earth observation, telecommunications and standards working through ESA, nationally and internationally.

Harshbir is also responsible for providing the conditions to enable the development of regional / local clusters including the UK Space Gateway at Harwell Oxford, and incubation and technology transfer opportunities for new companies.

Prior to joining the UK Space Agency, Harshbir was Head of the International Research and Innovation Strategy at BEIS. Over his career, Harshbir has worked across Whitehall leading a range of social, science, research and innovation policies and programmes. For his services to promoting diversity and inclusion in the Civil Service, Harshbir was honoured with an MBE in 2016 and won the British Community Honours Award in 2017. He is also a fellow of the Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA).

Bio: Nichola Bolton



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Nichola Bolton, Head of Earth Intelligence,

Friday 12:00 – 12:10

Nichola joined the UK Space Agency in March 2018 in the International Policy team. In July 2021 she was appointed as the Head of Earth Intelligence team, working closely alongside the EO & Climate team. She is responsible for developing a plan for future EO capabilities and technology to ensure the UK remains a global leader, including close working with the European Space Agency and other HMG departments.

Nichola has a Master's degree in Physics with Astrophysics from Manchester University, where she specialised in developing the use of lasers for medical treatments. After university, she joined the Royal Air Force as a Weapons System Officer on Tornado F3 fast-jets. Nichola is a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

