



Stuart Ayres

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW AND LUXEMBOURG SIGN MOU ON SPACE

NSW and Luxembourg have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on future space activities signifying a giant leap forward for space research in NSW and the beginning of a strong relationship.

NSW and Luxembourg both have strong space industries and research communities. NSW is home to over 40 per cent of Australia's space industry and has the broadest range of space capabilities. The contribution made by the space sector in Luxembourg to the nation's GDP is among the highest in Europe. This agreement will enable a mutually beneficial exchange of ideas and personnel as well as the exploration of commercial possibilities.

The MoU puts in place a framework for cooperation on space-related activities including:

- Space science, technology and applications, including high-tech instrumentation, ground communications and services, smart payloads development, space and intra-space communications and commercialisation of space data;
- Space policy and law; and
- The exploration and sustainable utilisation of space resources.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said, "NSW already excels in mining technology and services, including smart sensor systems, robotics and automation and this MoU will help the State build and deliver on its world-leading research in such areas as space resource utilisation".

The MoU is an outcome of a space industry meeting between Mr Ayres and Luxembourg's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy Etienne Schneider's during Mr Schneider's visit to Sydney in November 2019.

Mr Schneider said, "The cooperation with NSW is yet another driver behind Luxembourg's ambition to become a European hub for the exploration and use of space resources. We are focused on supporting a sustainable ecosystem for the space industry and offering a platform in Europe for commercial space development."

Over the past four decades, the Luxembourg space industry has grown significantly.

Luxembourg hosts world leaders of satellite-based communications and is the home to other highly-advanced technology companies.

Luxembourg is strongly engaged in research, development activities and support industry providing products and services in areas such as telecommunications, earth observation, navigation and security.

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