

# THE SAXAVOICE

Newsletter 10 April 2026

Welcome to SaxaVoice, the official newsletter of SaxaVord Spaceport. April has been a busy and exciting month across the space industry, with plenty happening both here at SaxaVord and beyond. Let's dive into the highlights.

## RFA Update

In last month's issue of the SaxaVoice, we shared our collaboration with Dark Star Labs.

We are very excited to share that the Lamba Ness Launch Site is officially open for virtual exploration! Step inside SaxaVord Spaceport from your mobile or desktop and discover everything happening across our site!

Working with Dark Star Labs, we've built an accessible 'Digital Twin' of SaxaVord. From our geography to our launch infrastructure and rich heritage, you can now explore the UK's gateway to space from any browser, anywhere in the world.



This is a living project. As our site evolves, so will the experience. We're incredibly excited to finally share more of what's been developing on site.

Explore now - <https://saxavord.darkstarlabs.io/>



*(From left) Ally Donaldson, Head of Engineering.  
Scott Hammond, CEO. Robin Huber, Head of  
Europe.*

## **New Staff Join the SaxaVord Team**

We're delighted to welcome Ally Donaldson as our new Head of Engineering. Ally brings extensive experience as a mechanical engineer and engineering leader, with a career built in highly technical, safety-critical environments. Most recently, Ally has been working in the space sector, playing a key role in launch vehicle development and spaceport engineering. His blend of hands-on technical expertise, leadership experience, and focus on quality and safety makes him an excellent fit as we continue to grow and innovate.

Welcome to the team Ally!

## **Earth Day 2026 – “Our Power, Our Planet”**

This year's Earth Day theme, “Our Power, Our Planet,” highlights the collective role we all play in protecting the environment and shaping a more sustainable future. Marked annually on 22 April, Earth Day is a reminder that meaningful change comes from informed choices, responsible action, and long-term commitment to the places we live and work.

At SaxaVord, sustainability is built into everything we do, from protecting local habitats and wildlife to carefully managing land and water as we prepare for launches. We're also passionate about inspiring the next generation, which is why our child-friendly Fredo's SaxaVord Adventures Sustainability episode is a great watch for young explorers. In this fun and educational episode, Fredo chats with our Environmental Officers to learn how the spaceport looks after the environment, before trying out a hands-on activity kids can do at home.



It's a brilliant way to introduce sustainability, spark curiosity, and show how space can be a force for good on Earth and beyond.

[Click here](#) to watch now!

## The Artemis II Mission

We couldn't write this month's newsletter without mentioning the incredible Artemis II mission. Artemis II marked a historic milestone for human spaceflight, successfully returning astronauts to the Moon's vicinity for the first time in more than 50 years.



*NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, commander; left, Christina Koch, mission specialist; CSA (Canadian Space Agency) astronaut Jeremy Hansen, mission specialist; and NASA astronaut Victor Glover, Artemis II pilot, right.*

*Image Credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls*

Launched in early April 2026, the mission sent four astronauts aboard NASA's Orion spacecraft, powered by the Space Launch System (SLS), on a crewed journey around the Moon before safely splashing down back on Earth after nine days in space. Artemis II tested Orion's life-support, navigation, and re-entry systems with astronauts on board, proving the spacecraft is ready for future missions and paving the way for the next phase of sustained lunar exploration.

From everyone at SaxaVord Spaceport, we send a huge congratulations to the crew and everyone behind this milestone for humanity.

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