

# CASE STUDY

## ATTRACTING A EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

The BNSC is negotiating with the European Space Agency (ESA) on the establishment of a UK-based ESA Research and Applications Facility. Negotiations are at an advanced and promising stage, but they rely on the UK being seen to play a significant role in key ESA programmes such as GMES (Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security), Aurora (Exploration) and ARTES (Advanced Research into Telecommunications Satellites).

If approved, it is intended that the facility will be hosted by the Harwell Science & Innovation (S&I) campus and will comprise three complementary

areas of activity, all of which play to UK expertise and aspirations. These are:

- Global/climate change
- Integrated applications
- Exploration, including science and technology aspects

The facility will place an emphasis on exploiting the benefits of space for terrestrial users, along with knowledge exchange and development to support the future ESA programme. It will bring a steady inflow of ESA investment (around €30 million per annum) and world-class skills.