

# Space: Exploration and exploitation in a modern society



Invitation to attend a seminar organised by the Institute of Physics, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Parliamentary Space Committee

## Directions to Portcullis House

Given the restricted availability of parking in Westminster, we advise that attendees use public transportation. The entrance to Portcullis House is located on Victoria Embankment.

### By tube

Take the Jubilee, Circle or District lines to Westminster Station, which is located directly under Portcullis House. Exit to Bridge Street and turn left immediately on leaving the station. Walk towards the river and take the first left onto Victoria Embankment. The entrance to Portcullis House will be on your left.

### By bus

Both Parliament Street and Parliament Square are easily accessible by bus. Several bus routes (3, 11, 12, 24, 53, 77A, 88, 109, 159, 453 and X53) serve Parliament Square and Parliament Street.

### By train

The nearest mainline railway stations are Charing Cross (approximately a 10-minute walk), Waterloo (approximately a 15-minute walk) and Victoria (approximately a 20-minute walk).

## For further information please contact

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## Space: Exploration and exploitation in a modern society

Curiosity about the Earth and the surrounding Universe, has been the driving force behind human progress since prehistoric times. Today, the exploration of space remains one of the most stimulating and exciting areas of scientific research. Space exploration has involved the investigation of the physical conditions in space and on stars, planets and other celestial bodies, through the use of satellites, space probes, and spacecraft with human crews, all of which have been developed through research into science and technology.

Increasingly, space exploration has come to the fore as governments and space agencies plan even more ambitious missions to survey the depths of our galaxy, search for signs of life, and to ascertain whether the natural resources we take for granted on Earth, such as water and raw fuels, could be found and subsequently mined from other planetary bodies, as our supplies continue to dwindle.

This seminar will highlight the grand challenges that lie ahead for space exploration and how science can play a key part in future discoveries. The application of space research in everyday life will also be discussed, in particular the role of space technology in solving global challenges such as climate change and its other societal and economic benefits.

This seminar is the latest in a series demonstrating key routes by which contemporary physics and chemistry will affect life in the 21st century.

The Institute of Physics is a scientific charity devoted to increasing the practice, understanding and application of physics. It has a worldwide membership of over 36,000 and is a leading communicator of physics-related science to all audiences, from specialists through to government and the general public. Its publishing company, IOP Publishing, is a world leader in scientific publishing and the electronic dissemination of physics.

The Royal Society of Chemistry is the largest organisation in Europe for advancing the chemical sciences. Supported by a worldwide network of members and an international publishing business, our activities span education, conferences, science policy and the promotion of chemistry to the public.

The Parliamentary Space Committee (PSC) exists to raise awareness in Parliament of the benefits to Britain of its world-class space industry. Recent PSC events have covered themes as varied as Africa, space finance, the Olympics, Astronauts and promoting women into science, engineering and technology. The PSC is one of the oldest and most established all-party groups in Parliament with over 100 members in both houses.

**The Institute of Physics, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Parliamentary Space Committee invite you to attend a seminar entitled:**

## Space: Exploration and exploitation in a modern society

To be held at the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, the House of Commons.

**20 May 2009**

Tea and coffee at 10.00am

The seminar will commence at 10.30am and will be followed by lunch at 12.00pm

### The speakers at the seminar will be:

**Prof. David Southwood, European Space Agency**  
Space discovery and exploration.

**Mr David Williams, Chief Executive, Avanti**  
The economic impact of funding space research.

**Dr Maggie Aderin, Astrium Ltd and University College London**  
Space in our lives.

### Chair

**Mr Ian Taylor MP, the House of Commons**

Please confirm your attendance at the earliest possible opportunity by returning the attached slip or by e-mailing [sciencepolicy@rsc.org](mailto:sciencepolicy@rsc.org). Invites should be presented to security at the House of Commons, supplementary invites for colleagues can also be requested by sending an e-mail to this address.

As you will appreciate security at the House of Commons has been stepped up in recent years so please allow sufficient time for security clearance. We advise that you attempt to arrive at least 30–45 minutes before the start of the event.

**IOP** Institute of Physics | **RSC** Advancing the Chemical Sciences

Parliamentary Space Committee

**Space:  
Exploration and exploitation  
in a modern society**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I am able to attend Space: Exploration and exploitation in a modern society seminar on 20 May 2009
- Yes, I am staying for lunch after the seminar
- I would like a copy of the seminar report when published (please supply address)

Please enter your name, tick the appropriate boxes and return this card.