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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Space for Growth event highlights stellar development opportunities

Sir John Peace, Chair of the Midlands Engine, revealed how investment opportunities will support our local and regional economy to thrive at the Leicester: Space for Growth event earlier this week.

Speaking at the event, held at the National Space Centre, Sir John took part in a panel discussion highlighting how Leicester and Leicestershire's future growth opportunities can only be realised through the public and private sectors working together to promote our strengths and ambitions on both a national and international stage.

Sir John was joined by Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor, Leicester City Council, Councillor Blake Pain, Leicestershire County Council and Professor Paul Boyle, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Leicester.

The audience heard how one of our key local developments, Space Park Leicester, will play a major role in boosting growth and how the Midlands UK and Team Leicester are promoting Leicester and Leicestershire on the world stage at MIPIM 2019, which will take place at Cannes in France on 12-15 March.

Sir John Peace, Chair of the Midlands Engine, said: "The Leicester and Leicestershire region is a huge asset to the Midlands Engine. With a solid manufacturing base, and exciting new developments in fields such as life sciences and engineering, the region is an attractive prospect

for businesses at home and abroad.

"There are opportunities for business in the region across all sectors, and by working together we can secure prosperity in the Midlands for years to come."

The panel discussion was followed by presentations about the opportunities in the Space sector and at MIPIM 2019.

Professor Paul Monks from the University of Leicester said: "Growth in the space sector is predicted to grow by 80% to £400m by 2030. The UK is planning to capture 10% of the market.

"In Leicester we are developing Space Park Leicester to become a global hub and collaborative community for business, researchers and academia based on space and space enabled technologies.

"The University of Leicester is building on nearly 60 years of sending instrumentation in to space and we already host the biggest group of space scientists in Europe that will move to Space Park Leicester in the future.

"There are developing new markets for high volume, low cost satellite systems so we are also planning a factory to enhance our capacity to make, launch and collect data from these satellite systems. In addition we will build small business incubator space for 40 companies, business grow on space for 100 companies and the facilities to train future generations in the skills needed for the space sector."

The event concluded with an overview of how businesses can get involved with MIPIM 2019 to promote themselves internationally and meet with potential investors.

Richard Osborn, Midlands Regional Office Head for law firm Weightmans LLP and Director of Team Leicester, the private/public partnership leading local representation in Cannes, hosted the event. Richard commented: "MIPIM is a unique annual opportunity for the public and private sector to work together on a global stage, showcasing the very best of what Leicester and Leicestershire and its businesses have to offer."

"Leicester Business Festival is the perfect platform to launch Team Leicester's 2019 MIPIM campaign, Space for Growth, which will promote our local development opportunities including work space, office space and living space through involvement with both the Midlands UK and our own events in Cannes."

Any business that would like to find out how they can benefit from being part of Team Leicester should contact Rob McGuinn, Chair of Team Leicester on 0116 2548951 or email rmcguinn@mdaconsulting.co.uk

The Leicester: Space for Growth event was organised by the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP), on behalf of Team Leicester, as part of Leicester Business Festival. The LLEP has allocated £7.88 million from the Local Growth Fund to support the development of Space Park Leicester.



Pictured: Host - Richard Osborn, Midlands Regional Office Head for law firm Weightmans LLP and Director of Team Leicester. Panel - (left to right) Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor, Leicester City Council, Professor Paul Boyle, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Leicester. Sir John Peace, Chair of the Midlands Engine and Councillor Blake Pain, Leicestershire County Council.



Pictured: Sir John Peace, Chair of the Midlands Engine

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Notes to Editors

For more information, contact: Jackie Ledger, Communications Manager, Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership | 0116 454 2924 | 07808 735317 | jackie.ledger@llep.org.uk | www.llep.org.uk | Follow the LLEP on Twitter and Instagram: @llepnews and on [LinkedIn](#)

About the LLEP

The LLEP is a strategic body established to drive forward regeneration and growth of the local economy. The LLEP works with partners and Government to set out key investment priorities for Leicester & Leicestershire. It also invests funding and aligns partner resources and through its investments and it influences and drives activities that ensure positive outcomes for the local economy.

To find out more, visit www.llep.org.uk

Local Growth Fund

Local Enterprise Partnerships are playing a vital role in driving forward economic growth across the country, helping to build a country that works for everyone.

That's why by 2021 Government will have invested over £12bn through the Local Growth Fund, allowing LEPs to use their local knowledge to get all areas of the country firing on all cylinders. Analysis has shown that every £1 of Local Growth Fund invested could generate £4.81 in benefits.

Further information

If you would like some further facts about the Fund, or the wider regeneration work going on across the country, please contact DCLG press office by emailing NewsDesk@communities.gsi.gov.uk in the first instance to request any additional information you might need.

Some additional key facts:

- There are 38 LEPs covering the whole of England
- The government has awarded £9.1bn in three rounds of Growth Deals to local areas to drive economic growth.
- LEPs are investing in a wide range of projects informed by detailed analysis of the most pressing economic needs in each of their areas, including transport, skills, business support, broadband, innovation and flood defences.

Midlands Engine

Some Midlands Engine key facts:

- The government is committed to making the Midlands an Engine for Growth in the UK, increasing economic growth and improving the quality of life for everyone. The Midlands is home to over 10 million people and over 780,000 businesses. Its economy is worth £217.7 billion.
- So far the government has awarded £1.9 billion in three rounds of Growth Deals across the Midlands.
- 8 Enterprise Zones have been established in the Midlands Engine since 2012, and 3 zones have been extended. By March 2016 these had attracted almost £1 billion of private investment, and created 85 new businesses and 7,291 jobs.

About the University of Leicester

The University of Leicester is led by discovery and innovation – an international centre for

excellence renowned for research, teaching and broadening access to higher education. It is among the top 25 universities in the Times Higher Education REF Research Power rankings with 75% of research adjudged to be internationally excellent with wide-ranging impacts on society, health, culture, and the environment

Space Park Leicester

Space Park Leicester is a partnership between the University of Leicester, Leicester City Council, the National Space Centre and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP).

It is an ambitious initiative that will develop a global hub and collaborative community for businesses, researchers and academia based on space and space-enabled technologies. Visit www.le.ac.uk/spacepark @SpaceParkLeic #SpaceParkLeicester

Team Leicester and MIPIM

Leicester is one of the fastest growing cities in the country and its economy is thriving.

Team Leicester is a public-private sector partnership of organisations which support the city and county at MIPIM, the world's largest property market event.

They are part of the Midlands Pavilion where the Midlands-wide delegation – featuring ten Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas and more than 50 private and public sector partners – exhibit together as Midlands UK. www.leicesteratmipim.co.uk

LLEP, City Hall 115 Charles Street, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE1 1FZ, United Kingdom

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