

UK Space Challenge 2009 - Official Press Release

Cambridge University Spaceflight

- Cambridge University Spaceflight is a student-run team dedicated to developing the technology needed to reduce the cost of sub-orbital access to space for scientific experiments.
- We are currently in the process of designing a system to launch a rocket from a helium balloon platform. This small rocket will be launched on a parabolic flight path past 100km, the official boundary of space, for a fraction of the cost of any other space launch.
- The team has already launched several payloads to the edge of space on high-altitude helium balloons and are current holders of the UK Amateur Altitude Record with a balloon payload that reached 33.29km (109,200ft).
- For further information on the competition or the team please view our website www.cuspaceflight.co.uk or email enquiries to cuspaceflight-competition@srcf.ucam.org.



UK Space Challenge 2009

The CU Spaceflight team is also committed to fostering interest in science in the next generation of scientists and engineers. As part of the University of Cambridge's 800th anniversary celebrations CU Spaceflight is delighted to announce the UK Space Challenge 2009.

- It is a national competition aimed at 14-18 year old science students.
- The competition is for students to design, test and build a scientific experiment that can withstand the cold and vacuum of a space environment.
- The winning 5 experiments will be taken onboard a CU Spaceflight balloon to roughly 25km altitude (~82,000ft) and recovered afterwards. At this altitude the payloads will be above most of the Earth's atmosphere as air pressure is only around 2.5% of that at ground level.
- Teams can register their interest in the competition via our website with no obligation to enter at this stage, and must then formally enter the competition before December 1st 2008.

“This project is a wonderful celebration of science and engineering in the University's 800th anniversary year. The technical brilliance of the Cambridge student team is eclipsed only by their open-hearted wish to excite and engage students in schools throughout the country”

Philip Guildford, Director of Research, Cambridge University Engineering Department

“We want to offer young people the opportunity to get involved in the space industry whilst still at school, and show that real-life science is something that is open to everybody”

Iain Waugh, CU Spaceflight member

Photographs may be found at: <http://www.cuspaceflight.co.uk/media.php> .