

[Newsletters](#) [Reader Rewards](#) [Jobs](#) [Homes](#) [Motoring](#) [Book an ad](#)

The Herald

[Subscribe](#)

[Digital Edition](#)



[News](#) [Politics](#) [Sport](#) [Voices](#) [Business HQ](#) [Features](#)

[More](#)



[Business HQ](#) [Companies](#) [Business](#) [Markets](#) [Climate](#) [People](#) [STEM](#) [Entrepreneur](#) [1](#)

Paul Sheerin: Space can be new frontier for our engineering sector

16 hrs ago



Share

**1 Comments**

At the end of 2019, in an attempt to conjure an upbeat welcome to the new decade arriving, I made reference to the ‘roaring twenties’ of one hundred years earlier, and how that name had been based on the economic and cultural optimism at the end of the ten years that saw the conclusion of both Word War One and the Spanish flu pandemic.

Given how 2020 started our decade, a cynic might ask me if I meant a roaring bin fire, as in broad terms so far it's been one to forget.

So we started the decade with a global pandemic, never the easiest of introductions, and it seems hard to believe that only a year ago our primary focus was concern for the further mutation of the **Covid 19** virus into potentially more harmful variants like Omicron.

Recommended by  **Outbrain**

**Do This To Fight Your
Toenail Fungus (Try**



**If you hate the cold but
don't want to increase your**



**How to compare care home
costs and quality ratings**

Before you leave, look at these selected top stories

an almost non-topic.

Instead of the calmer times that we would have welcomed with open arms, 2022 had other ideas, the most devastating being Russia's invasion of Ukraine at huge human cost to both defender and aggressor, whilst underlining a few geopolitical uncomfortable truths in the security of global energy supply.

These traumatic events have only served to underline how critically important manufacturers are to **Scotland** and the UK.

In the early days of the pandemic we learned just how complex product supply chains were, and how much of that industry was in fact essential to society, pressing them to engineer safe ways to operate and keep production going.

The events in Ukraine have reminded us of the importance of excellence in defence infrastructure,

a real strength for Scotland, and one where we are the essential supplier for a number of critical projects here and around the **world**. For energy security, a switch away from Russian output has seen a surge in manufacturing demand supporting oil and gas projects, whilst the future balance from renewables can be well served by offshore wind investment which is an opportunity only to be seized.

These examples help us to understand why our most recent survey was out of step with the wider concerns for the **economy**, reporting an overall positive order, output and even optimism outlook. That's not the case for every manufacturing company in Scotland unfortunately, but to even be in

highlighted that is our space industry, with the announcement of Mangata Network's plan to build its research and development, manufacturing and core network operations hub at Prestwick International Aerospace Park, Ayrshire. The operation will create over 500 jobs in its aim to produce and test satellites delivering affordable, reliable, secure high-speed 5G connectivity over satellite, on a global basis.

If your next question is why Scotland, the answer lies in the overview of the space sector today. Glasgow builds more small satellites and hosts more informatics companies - essential to turn satellite data into usefulness - than any other location in Europe, and Scotland has a disproportionate one fifth of the UK's space sector jobs, and the value continues to flow down to local supply chains in high tech, high value precision engineered components.

Achieving that success comes with a depth of great examples, but to pick just three to be proud of, let's start with the UK Astronomy Technology Centre in Edinburgh, whose engineers led the proposal, design and build of one of the four science instruments on nothing less than the James Webb Space Telescope.

Contrasting long established with the very newest, AAC Clyde Space chart a path from being one of Scotland's first commercial space sector companies formed in 2005, and are now an award-winning SME specialising in small satellite technologies and services that enable applications from weather forecasting to precision farming and environmental monitoring.

And my final example of excellence is Celestia UK whose offices on the Heriot-Watt campus are one of two in the UK, working on exciting innovative technology that is creating new options for the satcom marketplace. Celestia was boosted this year by the addition of Dr Carol Marsh as head of digital systems, bringing not only her wealth of relevant technical expertise, but also her broader contribution to industry. Carol is well known and respected in our engineering

all would tell us that top of their priorities right now is ensuring a pipeline of skills to fuel their growth, and they would be honest to tell us that's a significant challenge.

If the space sector in Scotland can achieve such stellar growth in less than two decades, it can't be beyond us to help them by collectively finding a way to deliver those skills? A high value career designing, manufacturing and building satellites, launch vehicles and the digital systems that enable them doesn't sound like the toughest sell.

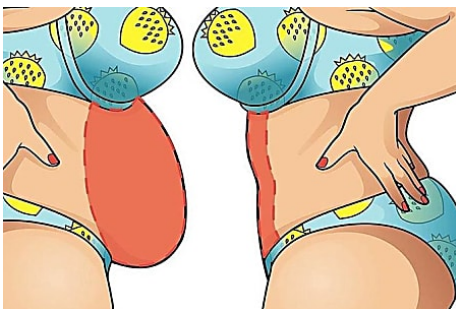
Paul Sheerin is the chief executive of Scottish Engineering.

Share



1 Comments

More Stories



1/2 Cup Of This (Before Bed) Can Melt Your Belly Fat Like Never Before!



Forget About Expensive Stair Lifts: Prices in 2022 Might Surprise You



The waterproof and non-slip boots that you won't want to take off all winter...



Turn Off Your Central Heating & Plug New Mini Heater In - Is it Really...

gadgets4-you.com | Sponsored



Is a petrol car a better buy than a diesel?

If you're buying a car we'll help you decide which fuel type is...
Cazoo | Sponsored



Pensioners born before 1962 are now eligible for new hearing aids

Best Hearing Aids | Sponsored



Say Goodbye to Long Hospital Queues with This £28 P/M Health Insurance

Save Money Market | Insurance Quot...



All On 4 Dental Implants in Turkey: Brits Might Be Surprised By The Prices

Dental Implants | Search Ads | Spons...



Inside BBC weather presenter Carol Kirkwood's huge salary

See and so | Sponsored



What is the Market Value of Your House? Check Estimate

Real Estate | Search Ads | Sponsored



How Much Does A Modern Garden Room Cost (Take A Look At Prices)

Garden Office | Search Ads | Sponsored



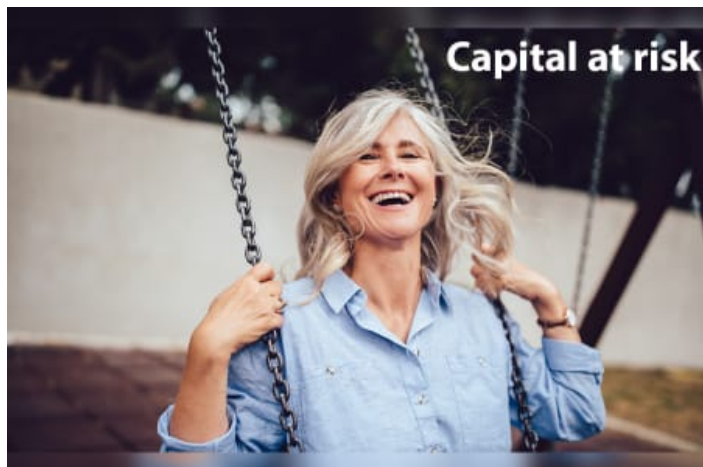
If you own a mouse, you will never turn off your computer again.

Modern chess: Combat Siege | Sponsored



See and so | Sponsored

Conservatory Roof | Search ads | Spon...



Pension drawdown: What happens to my pension when I die?

Thinking about retirement? Fidelity has you covered on everything you need to know.

Fidelity (Capital at Risk) | Sponsored



Winter Is Approaching, Keep Your Car Protected With These Car Covers!

Car Covers | Sponsored Listings | Sponsored



Michael Schumacher's wife



Forget About Expensive



[Pics] Here's What 30



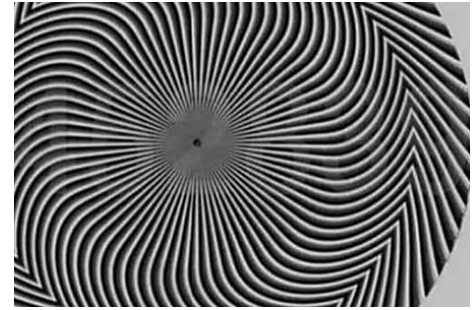
Top Gear's Freddie Flintoff 'lucky to be alive' following unexpected car shooting

See and so | Sponsored



Prince Harry is returning to the UK

Oh!MyMag | Sponsored



The number you see in this optical illusion can say a lot about your eyesight

ohmymag.co.uk | Sponsored



The inside gossip on why the SNP is falling apart in London

Herald Scotland



Historic Scottish family ice cream firm leaves Lanarkshire town after 100 years

Herald Scotland



18 Celeb Wedding Dresses That Made Guests Uncomfortable

Investing.com | Sponsored



Houses For Sale In Dubai Might Be Cheaper Than You Think! See Prices

Luxury Villas In Dubai | Sponsored Listings | Sponsored



New Shaftless Stair Lifts take Only Hours to Install - See How Much They Cost

Stair Lifts | Search Ads | Sponsored



How Much Does it Cost to Renovate a Bathroom in UK? Prices Might Surpris...

Bathroom Remodeling | Search Ads | ...



2022 Unsold Phones Are Almost Being Given Away

Cell Phone Deals | Search Ads | Spons...

[Pics] This Is Why Meghan Markle Had To Leave UK

BuzzFond | Sponsored

[Photos] Older Celebrities You Probably Forgot Are Still Alive

Older Celebrities You Probably Forgot Are Still Alive

Mighty Scoops | Sponsored

Large fire breaks out at Glasgow city centre car park

Herald Scotland

Meghan's lawyer says William's aide could not have spoken 'without authority'

Herald Scotland

Gary Glitter to be released from prison early next year – report

Herald Scotland

Have To Be Expensive (Take a look)

Garden Office Designs | Sponsored | S...

Captured These Hilarious Photos

Vitaminews | Sponsored

parliament for major shake-up involving Princ...

See and so | Sponsored

Get involved
with the news

Send your news & photos

Most Read Commented

1 Three Scot Gov-controlled airports shut due to pay dispute

2 Jeremy Clarkson: Meghan Markle misogyny proves he's the one who deserves shamed

3 Large fire breaks out at Glasgow city centre car park

4 Equi's leaves Hamilton for larger HQ facility

5 Minister claims Scotland 'refusing' to take asylum seekers arriving on small

6 'Distorted by hate': Sturgeon condemns Jeremy Clarkson over

dozens of school visits in Scotland

World Cup win and the Rangers move
that never was

9 Scotland's most notorious road in
sudden pre-Xmas closure over
landslip fear

10 Catriona Stewart: Pity Jeremy
Clarkson, struggling with Sturgeon
and Markle's success

Show more articles

Contact us

Manage Consent

Announcements

Leap

Cookie Policy

Terms & Conditions

Contributor Terms

Newsquest printing

Advertise

Newsletters

Reader Rewards

Site Map

Exchange and Mart

Terms of Advertising

Privacy Policy

Diversity Statement

Photo Sales

Our Publications

Archive

Promote Your Event

FOLLOW US

Like us Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Follow us on Instagram

This website and associated newspapers adhere to the Independent Press Standards Organisation's Editors' Code of Practice. If you have a complaint about the editorial content which relates to inaccuracy or intrusion, then please **contact the editor here**. If you are dissatisfied with the response provided you can **contact IPSO here**

© 2001-2022. This site is part of Newsquest's audited local newspaper network. A Gannett Company. **Newsquest**