

PRESS RELEASE June 2020 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tech start-up creates the first DIY Space Satellite Kit

AmbaSat Ltd, based in North Yorkshire, was founded in 2019 by Martin Platt & Marcel Houtveen who boast 30 years' experience in the environmental and IT industries. The AmbaSat brand was created to encapsulate their satellite work and apply their business and technology knowledge to this new space venture.

The company design and manufacture Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Space satellite kits which contain all the components needed to build a miniature space satellite. Having developed their first kit, the AmbaSat-1, the team are now working on AmbaSat-2, a more advanced spacecraft with enhanced functionality and offering a broader educational and entertainment experience. AmbaSat-2 comes with a full HD on-board camera, capable of transmitting near real-time pictures to Earth from Space. It will also be capable of spaceflight control and deploy with a range of 4 onboard sensors enabling significant environmental research data gathering and study. AmbaSat-2 will also have the ability to be deployed beyond Earth's orbit with planned missions to orbit the moon and beyond.

The AmbaSat-2 kit will be offered to the market in two versions: a) as a DIY kit, with self-assembly and coding and b) in a fully assembled product which is ready to launch. Once the kit is assembled and programmed, it will be launched on board a commercial rocket which will deploy the satellite in to Earth Orbit and beyond. Data will be transmitted back to earth, where it can be viewed on AmbaSat's 'mission control' Dashboard.

AmbaSat-2 is designed to promote science, technology, mathematics, engineering and environmental studies amongst school pupils, university students and other aspiring scientists. The data enables users to study the environmental impact of gases, radiation, carbon emissions, global warming, UV exposure, volatile organic exposure, humidity and temperature etc. In building the kit, users will also develop knowledge and skills in electronics, mathematics, IT, problem solving, engineering, communications and technology.

The PAPI project provided AmbaSat with a 40% grant to purchase machinery in order to build the new spacecraft. This new machinery allows AmbaSat to bring more of the production process in-house, rapidly create and build prototype parts and deliver opportunities to grow revenues, improve profitability and create a new engineering Apprenticeship job within the company.

Martin Platt, co-founder and CEO says ***"The PAPI grant enables us to rapidly accelerate our growth and deliver an innovative new spacecraft product combined with an affordable entry into Space. STEM students, scientists and individuals now have the opportunity to build their very own spacecraft, at a cost of less than £500 for the complete package, including rocket launch."***

PAPI can support SME (Small Medium Enterprise) businesses located in the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding regions with 40% grants of up to £20k. This covers the districts of York, Harrogate, Selby, Craven, Hambleton, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and East Riding. A separate project also runs in the Leeds City Region. The project is open for applications and businesses can quickly check their eligibility and apply on the website at papi.org.uk or by calling the PAPI team on 01904 32 8076.

The Product and Process Innovation project is part-funded by the European Union Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and delivered by the University of York.



AmbaSat

Space Satellites

<https://ambasat.com>

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Further information and case studies:

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Notes to editors:

- PAPI is a grants scheme managed by the University of York and is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund. It encourages innovation by awarding capital grants to small businesses to support the development of new products or services. 40% grants are available between £8,000 and £20,000. The scheme is open to Small or Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).
- Companies must be located in York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (**YNYER**) Local Enterprise Partnership area. This covers the districts of York, Harrogate, Selby, Craven, Hambleton, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and East Riding.
- PAPI also operates in the Leeds City Region (**LCR**) which covers the districts of York, Harrogate, Selby, Craven, Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield. For a map of the eligible regions covered by this funding, visit: www.papi.org.uk"
- The PAPI **YNYER** project is **receiving up to £734.8k** of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund. Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding."