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# GULF NEWS

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Kashvi Majmundar, 7, shared  
the stage with Nora Fatehi at  
the IIFA night in Abu Dhabi



## Dh3 billion boost for UAE's space sector

New project will see  
launch of satellites  
with unparalleled  
imaging capabilities

### DUBAI

BY TAWFIQ NASRALLAH  
Senior News Editor

Giving a massive thrust to the nation's space aspirations, the UAE Space Agency yesterday announced a Dh3 billion national investment and development fund for the space sector.

Called the National Space Fund, it will support groundbreaking new programmes launched to support international and Emirati companies cooperating in leading edge space sector engineering, sciences and research applications.

The fund's first project to be launched to space will be a constellation of advanced remote sensing satellites using radar technologies to provide unparalleled imaging capabilities.

### First of its kind

Tweeting on the occasion, His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said: "The UAE today launched Sirb project, the first of its kind to develop a constellation of advanced remote sensing satellites using radar technologies in all weather conditions and can operate around the clock with an accuracy of one metre."

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### Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

He added: "The new project aims to develop the UAE's competitive edge in the space sector and preserve the environment from climate change."

### Global partnerships

The fund will actively encourage partnerships between international and local enterprises, providing them with incentives as a part of the UAE Space Agency's Space Economic Zones Programme.

Salem Al Qubaisi, Director General of the UAE Space Agency, said: "The fund will encourage global partnerships to establish themselves here in the UAE, providing new and vital technology platforms and development to answer the needs of the UAE Space Programme and other global customers for vital innovation and technologies that answer the needs and possibilities of today's world."

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# UAE launches new space project, Dh3b fund

FUND WILL SUPPORT GROUNDBREAKING NEW PROGRAMMES LAUNCHED TO ASSIST INTERNATIONAL, EMIRATI COMPANIES

DUBAI

BY TAWFIQ NASRALLAH  
Senior News Editor

The UAE Space Agency yesterday announced a new Dh3 billion national investment and development fund for the space sector, The National Space Fund.

The Fund will support groundbreaking new programmes launched to support international and Emirati companies co-operating in leading edge space sector engineering, sciences and research applications.

The Fund's first project to be launched to space will be a constellation of advanced remote sensing satellites using radar technologies to provide unparalleled imaging capabilities.

Tweeting on the occasion, His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said: "The UAE today launched the Sirb project, the first of its kind to develop a constellation of advanced remote sensing satellites using radar technologies in all weather conditions and can operate around the clock with an accuracy of one metre."

"The new project aims to develop the UAE's competitive edge in the space sector and preserve the environment from climate change," Shaikh Mohammad added.

The UAE Vice-President also announced the launch of the Dh3 billion space fund to support the establishment of national companies in the space sector. The fund will also support new national and research strategic



**The new project aims to develop the UAE's competitive edge in the space sector and preserve the environment from climate change."**

**Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**



**Watch:** Shaikh Mohammad launches new space project

projects, and help develop the capabilities of Emirati engineering cadres in space technology.

"We can only contribute to human development by adopting state-of-the-art sciences," Shaikh Mohammad said.

## President's tweet

UAE President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, lauded the launch of the project and the fund, saying they will help expand the UAE's growing capabilities in this vital sector.

"The establishment of a dedicated fund to support the

## UAE TO DEVELOP AND LAUNCH ADVANCED RADAR SATELLITE CONSTELLATION

### Technical features

- Sirb constellation of SAR satellites to support advanced imaging applications, including environmental monitoring and analysis
- Ability to capture images day and night
- Unaffected by clouds or fog
- Images can be processed, examined and combined in unique ways



### Practical application

- Detection of oil spills
- Track and detect ships
- Monitor and detect crop yields
- Mapping and development of



- urban areas
- Border control
- Search and rescue planning and management
- Monitoring road traffic

**The constellation is to be named Sirb after the Arabic term for a flock of birds, and will address the critical need for better environmental and land usage monitoring, data collection and analysis to meet global challenges.**

UAE's burgeoning space programme and the launch of a new initiative to develop radar satellites are expected to expand our growing capabilities in this vital sector while accelerating innovation in environmental sustainability," the UAE President tweeted.

Sarah Bint Yusef Al Amiri, Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency, said: "A long-term plan and programme for the development of the Emirates' space sector is in place to create economic op-

portunities, new jobs and help to fund global partnerships and new leaders in technology, space sciences and engineering here in the UAE. We are planning for a bright future filled with new challenges and openings for our young people – and this fund is precisely targeted at building opportunities for international co-operation in building Emirati enterprises."

## Global partnerships

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incentives as a part of the UAE Space Agency's Space Economic Zones Programme.

Salem Al Qubaisi, Director General of the UAE Space Agency, said: "The National Space Fund will encourage global partnerships to establish themselves here in the Emirates, providing new and vital technology platforms and development to answer the needs of the UAE Space Programme and other global customers for vital innovation and technologies that answer the needs and possibilities of today's world."

The Fund's first investment

will be in the development and launch of a constellation of advanced imaging satellites for the Emirates, using the SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) technology. The constellation is to be named Sirb after the Arabic term for a flock of birds, and will address the critical need for better environmental and land usage monitoring, data collection and analysis.

The satellites will be able to create highly detailed radar 'images' of land use, ice cover, surface changes, with a wide range of scientific, civil and commercial applications.

