



by Tina Rawlinson

**ISU Executive Space Course in 2011  
Director with Cavendish Trust Company Limited, a leading Corporate Service Provider based on the Isle of Man which specialises in assisting space related businesses to establish in the Isle of Man. Tina is also a member of the Isle of Man branch of the SSPI.**

The Isle of Man is a land mass of approximately 300 square miles (765 square km) which is situated in the Irish Sea, almost equidistant between Ireland and Great Britain. Whilst technically the Isle of Man is an island in the middle of the Irish Sea, it has become better known as an 'Island in Space'. This reputation has been built up over a period of 16 years and includes a number of very notable successes along the way.

The birth of the island's space sector is down to one individual, namely ISU Board of Trustees member Chris Stott. Chris was born in [Douglas, Isle of Man](#), and went on to work in some of the biggest space companies in the United States. He was Director of International Commercialisation and Sales with [Lockheed Martin](#) Space Operations. Chris came to Lockheed Martin from the [Boeing](#) Space and Communications Company in [Huntington Beach, California](#), where he worked on international business development for the [Delta Launch Vehicle](#) program. In 1998, Chris formed ManSat Limited on the Isle of Man. ManSat carries out satellite filings for the Isle of Man under contract with the Isle of Man Government's Communications Commission. Isle of Man satellite filings are made to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva via Ofcom, the administration of the United Kingdom. Since that time, Chris has been an ambassador for the Isle of Man and its space industry and with the assistance of other Isle of Man entities such as Cavendish Trust Company Limited, has seen the space industry on the Isle of Man grow from strength to strength.

The space industry has become the Stott family business as Chris is married to [Nicole P. Stott](#), an American astronaut who served as a Flight Engineer on ISS [Expedition 20](#) and [Expedition 21](#)

# The Isle of Man - An Island in Space



Nicole Stott flies the Manx flag on the International Space Station

and was a Mission Specialist on [STS-128](#) and [STS-133](#).

The Isle of Man offers many advantages to resident space industry companies:

- access to orbital filing slots.
- access to launch licences through an agreement that the Isle of Man Government has with the UK Space Agency.
- the UK Outer Space Act 1986 has been extended to the Isle of Man and therefore the Isle of Man is able to benefit from its provisions.
- a corporate tax rate of 0%, which results in satellite and space companies being able to achieve significant savings by structuring the operations of

group holding companies or subsidiaries in the Isle of Man or by establishing R&D or manufacturing centres on the island

- an established base of space, aerospace and high tech industries
- an established captive insurance market
- the island is recognised as being British for the United States' ITAR purposes
- a 'pro-space' Government with a political commitment to develop space commerce
- space friendly legislation
- an established and highly regarded professional services network
- a world class telecommunications infrastructure
- free movement of goods within the EU
- financial incentives and grant aid for businesses which create new jobs on the island

Over the years, the Isle of Man has attracted a wide range of space industry businesses. Well-known companies that have established on the island include the likes of SES, Inmarsat, Telesat, Avanti, Odyssey Moon, and Excalibur Almaz.

The Isle of Man has also attracted a number of global not-for-profit companies including the International Institute of Space Commerce, the Space Data Association and the Satellite Interference Reduction Group.

Furthermore, the island has achieved success in the field of space related manufacturing including Manx Precision Optics (MPO). Isle of Man manufactured optics have been included on the last three Martian rovers and at one point were instrumental in the discovery of high altitude snow on Mars.

One of the largest communication satellites launched in recent years is ViaSat-1. It holds the Guinness World Records title as the world's highest capacity communications satellite, with a total capacity in excess of 140 Gbit/s, more than all the satellites covering North America combined, at the time of its launch. ViaSat-1 operates on Isle of Man registered ITU frequencies.

With the combination of the many corporate benefits, the established space cluster and the proven track record, it is easy to see why the Isle of Man is now well known as the 'Island in Space'.



Curiosity Rover on the surface of Mars