

Highlander Overview and Method Statement

Exotopic intends to conduct a sub-scale rocket test flight from Machrihanish Airbase, Argyll and Bute, Scotland, to support the development and validation of a customer furnished propulsion unit, alongside the associated telemetry and recovery systems.

Highlander Pathfinder is an early-stage test flight managed by Exotopic and is designed to demonstrate launch and recovery systems for future launch vehicles.

For the Highlander mission:

- the launch vehicle is expected to reach an apogee of approximately **16-20 km** above sea level;
- The impact dispersion will be between **~0-10km** down range with a spread of **~5 km** from the intended trajectory under **nominal conditions**
- the vehicle is launched westward from Machrihanish Airbase;
- descent is controlled using a dual deployment parachute system; and
- the vehicle is intended to splash down at sea and be recovered by a vessel shortly afterwards.

The primary objectives of the Highlander launch are to:

- validate **Exotopic's launch rail system** under live launch conditions;
- exercise and de-risk sea recovery procedures at short range;
- demonstrate basic tracking, communications, and coordination arrangements associated with a marine recovery.

The proposed launch is planned to take place within a launch window extending from **November 1st – December 31st**, subject to weather, operational readiness, and regulatory approvals.

The Highlander mission acts as a pathfinder for future launches adopting similar launch and recovery procedures.