Comment on gc-2022-1
Anonymous Referee #2

Referee comment on "GC Insights: Space sector careers resources in the UK need a greater diversity of roles" by Martin O. Archer et al., Geosci. Commun. Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/gc-2022-1-RC2, 2022

The paper is relevant, interesting and well built. I think that addressing the comments by R1 will improve the quality of the paper, therefore I will not address issues that have already been raised. My review will for this reason only consist of a few minor comments.

It is worth noting that the space sector is developing quickly in the UK (see efforts for building spaceports in Scotland and Cornwall) which will drive economic development and create more roles. The economic development can only be fully realised if there is workforce who is trained and willing to undertake those roles (most of which, as the authors note are not currently accurately represented. In this view (appreciating that there is a word limit that must be respected) I suggest the paper would benefit of including a consideration on the fact that a rich representation of space careers will contribute to addressing the UK skills gap. I would also suggest to ask professionals working on the development of new space facilities what they think of the career range proposed and if they have suggestions on other future career paths in the UK that the authors may not have already considered or included.

Another point that validates the need for good space career resources, is that often the existing ones consist of simply signposting to other organisations, instead of actually describing space careers in an age appropriate way for school pupils below A-level (see eg this resource from UKSA https://ukspace.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Careers-in-Space_UKSA.pdf). A clearer explanation of what for the authors constitutes a "space careers resource" would help the reader appreciate this more.

Though not freely available, S Kanani's book "How to be an Astronaut and Other Space Jobs" is a resource that has the target audience identified by this study (young people that are not yet about to decide their future career); it would be interesting to assess it according to the same criteria the authors used with the caveat that it is a book to be purchased, or made available by school libraries/local libraries. Given the current paucity
of space career resources with diverse role models, Kanani's book would be appropriate to mention in this paper.

My last comment concerns one of the careers that would constitute a more representative "career pack". The authors pick "Communications" as one of their 36 categories, but as someone with a background in the space sector, I am not entirely sure of what the word aims to describe - is it telecommunications engineering (e.g. ground segment to satellite communications, but this is maybe covered by the Ground Software role?) or a marketing oriented role? I suggest amending the name would clarify this ambiguity to a reader that hasn't seen the full set of career cards and provide an accurate representation of the language used in the sector.