

# Sector Consortia Case Studies

## Farnborough Aerospace Consortium (FAC)

Aerospace and Defence Sector.

FAC (Farnborough Aerospace Consortium) is a business-winning trade association with international members. It is the largest and most established aerospace and defence trade body in the UK, providing support to the 1,200 related companies located in southern England – the heart of the UK's aerospace industry.

Through its unrivalled expertise, FAC acts as an enabler for business between large primes and the supply chain, particularly Small to Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs). It enables its members to become more competitive through facilitating local and international trading, technology transfer and development, sharing of best practice and training, plus contact with public sector organisations and government.

### **Autonomous Systems Technology Related Airborne Evaluation & Assessment (ASTRAEA)**

ASTRAEA is a national programme focusing on the technologies, systems, facilities and procedures that enable autonomous vehicles to operate safely and routinely in the UK. It is collaboration between industry and government, supported and part funded by the UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) play a key part in providing significant funding alongside the major industry partners.

FAC provides a key resource to the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), ensuring its contribution is used effectively. FAC supports SMEs by ensuring opportunities are identified where they can get a foothold and gain advantage in the autonomous vehicle industry, alongside major industry players and universities that are already engaged.

### **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships**

FAC brings academia and business together through Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP). These partnerships enable businesses to access the expertise in universities, colleges and research organisations and increase profitability by helping to develop new products, services and processes.

The Partnership is designed to benefit all involved, providing businesses with knowledge and expertise, the KTP Associate with business-based experience and the university with enhanced business relevance to its research and teaching. Partnerships are part government funded and set up through a university and a specialist KTP consultant. Projects last between 18 months and three years.

### **FAC Capabilities Database**

FAC has developed a market-leading Capabilities Database bringing together FAC membership's capabilities in a taxonomy. It is formed so that it can be easily accessed by prime organisations looking for new suppliers with core capabilities, specialisations and existing track records of quality supplies direct into the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

The drive to place fewer but larger tenders with a hub of UK Primes means that SMEs must target the primes. FAC is developing a collaborative working environment for its membership, providing a direct channel into the primes and the MoD, ensuring members are prepared for the inevitable changes with the way contracts are submitted and filled.

### **Integrated Wing Aerospace Technology Validation Programme (IWATVP)**

FAC is working closely with IWATVP programme leader, Airbus UK, SEEDA and GinetIQ, to explore the development of new technologies and design methodologies that will improve fuel efficiency, reduce carbon dioxide emissions of new aircraft and reduce external noise.

The South East aerospace industry currently employs 44,000 people in more than 600 companies with a turnover of around £7 billion. Pro rata growth in the region - growth which could potentially be promoted by the region's association with the Integrated Wing Programme – could see something close to 70,000 people employed in the aerospace industry and 920 companies within the next 20 years.



### **SEEDA HealthMaP Programme**

HealthMaP is a SEEDA-funded programme, with industry matching the SEEDA funding of £3 million over three years. The technical objectives of the programme are to research, develop and test the integrity of aircraft structures and systems in-flight. (i.e. the Health Management and Prognostics for key systems on the aircraft). The benefits of such a programme will contribute to lighter and more fuel efficient aircraft, resulting in environmentally cleaner/greener air travel. The regional objectives are to enhance the South East region's capability in the aerospace market, by developing world class technology, enhancing skills

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and jobs in the region and providing opportunities for SMEs to participate and be more competitive in the global aerospace market.

The programme is led by QinetiQ, but seven SMEs are involved, as well as academic institutions where appropriate. The SMEs benefit from access to aerospace networks and potential customers, as well as a wider technology base.

FAC supports this programme by bringing knowledge of the aerospace industry, technology and market and by monitoring, recommending and reporting on the progress towards the regional objectives. FAC was instrumental in bringing QinetiQ and the SMEs together.

## Technology Skills Project

The Technology Skills Project (TSP) has been commissioned by SEEDA, FAC and Marine South East, to assess the implications of the new skills needed in response to current, new and emerging technologies. The project, which will last two years, aims to provide an insight into the priorities of employers and their future action plans to address the technology changes in their businesses. It will also help devise an action plan to help build a skills base for the future of the aerospace and marine industries.

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