

Aerospace: Flying High

Cornwall's Aerospace industry is ready for take off. Whether it's providing a testbed for exciting new technologies such as the Bloodhound rocket car, acting as a launch pad for zero-gravity space tourism, or providing expertise in engineering, now's the time to make the most of what Cornwall has to offer – with a plan for growth that means the sky's the limit.

Over the next 10 to 15 years we want to help Cornwall's businesses connect, collaborate, incubate and excel with access to the skills development they need, when they need it.

And it starts here.

On the Ground

The UK Aerospace sector is flying high. With 20,000 new passenger aircraft set to be manufactured in the next 10 years, it's seeing rapid growth in the civil sector. It employs 100,000 people in the UK and 75% of UK Aerospace output is exported.



Aerospace UK: The Facts

- £32bn global annual turnover
- 100,000 workforce
- 46% higher than average UK salary
- 17% of world market
- 20,000 new passenger aircraft in next 10 years

Aerospace Cornwall: The Facts

- £10bn annual turnover across the South
- 3,700 workforce
- 2% of workforce

In Cornwall and the South too, the Aerospace sector is off to a soaring start. With an estimated annual turnover of £10bn, it provides 400,000 jobs across the South, incl. 3,700 sector and related jobs in Cornwall.

With a significant number of Aerospace assets, Cornwall has the potential to join the high fliers as part of the UK and global Aerospace supply chains. High profile facilities such as the Aerohub Enterprise Zone, Newquay Cornwall Airport, and

Culdrose Naval Air Station Aerospace, teamed with burgeoning involvement in Unmanned Air Systems (in partnership with West Wales NAC), uncrowded airspace, and expanding marine and advanced engineering sectors give wings to Cornwall's ambitions in the industry.

The Aerospace sector depends on advanced engineering and links to high-tech sectors including precision manufacturing, composites and software. Cornwall has a long tradition of engineering and a workforce that is already used to Aerospace and Marine Advanced industries. However, the success of expanding the Aerospace industry in the county depends on fully exploiting the assets represented by Newquay Cornwall Airport, Aerohub Enterprise Zone, EU and UK funding and the current national focus on manufacturing. It all adds up to a short window of opportunity.

Boosting manufacturing and engineering skills is a national priority. Government bodies and representatives like CBI, ADS, and the Royal Academy of Engineering are tackling this on a national basis, and we should follow suit.

By acting now, we can grow Cornwall's advanced engineering capacity and build on its already excellent base of education provision. We can shape a future based on high level skills and the knowledge economy. A future founded on the Aerospace, Advanced Marine and Advanced Engineering sectors.

Setting Our Flight Path

For a future like this we need to build on the engineering skills of our workforce and attract new talent.

“We’ll need to develop aspirational new initiatives to attract young talent to the sector.”

We need to develop skills – from better STEM skills progression in the early stages to flexible delivery of new high level advanced engineering programmes. We need to expand our apprenticeship offer. We need to develop aspirational new initiatives to attract young talent to the sector and build Cornwall’s capacity.

Which is where a Cornwall Institute for Advanced Aerospace Technology and the Advanced Technology Experience Centre come in. By drawing these strands together and providing a focus for Cornwall’s Aerospace activities we can shift things up a gear, harness our potential and start shaping the Aerospace sector Cornwall deserves.

Time for Take Off

Awareness. Skills. Support. The development of our Aerospace industry depends on us raising awareness of the sector and the opportunities it offers.

We should encourage more young women to consider aviation and aerospace as an exciting career. Linking up with the Royal Aeronautical Society’s Women in Aviation and Aerospace Committee is one way to do this.

“The development of our Aerospace industry depends on us raising awareness of the sector and the opportunities it offers as a career path.”

We should reinforce links with South West and UK Aerospace stakeholders and build strong links with the new UK Aerospace Technology Institute.

We should use our links to high quality regional universities through CUC. We should develop closer

involvement with national supply chains. We should pursue new funding sources. We should look into opening a new hotel accommodation at the Aerohub. And we should look to establish a central space, which draws all this together and offers a focus for Cornwall’s Aerospace sector.

To get started, we need to focus on three specific areas:

- **Skills:** by building on our already excellent base of education provision and developing the niche skills identified, we can complement UK Aerospace strategy in software design and development and advanced electronics.
- **Awareness:** by bringing together an SME task group, an Advanced Engineering and Education task group and a STEM task group, through the Cornwall Institute of Advanced Aerospace Technology we can help businesses, schools, colleges and universities understand and recognise and benefit from the opportunities and scope of the sector.
- **Connections:** by enhancing links with national supply chain initiatives, building connections with the UK Aerospace Technology Institute and investigating new funding sources, we can reach out and connect with other bodies in the Aerospace sector.

What’s Next?

By focussing on increasing Cornwall’s advanced engineering capacity, raising awareness, attracting new talent and developing our existing excellent base of education, the sky’s the limit for Cornwall’s potential in the Aerospace sector.

This isn’t about complicated technology, overwhelming resources or impenetrable reports. It’s about bringing businesses together and helping them reach higher by collaborating, building their skills and sharing their insights. Together we can see Cornwall’s Aerospace ambition take flight.

Find out more about the thinking behind this Skills Action Plan and read the full report by visiting <http://www.cornwallandislesofscillylep.com/employment-and-skills.html>