

NEWS RELEASE

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GKN Aerospace announces new £32m Global Technology Centre in Bristol

- **Centre will act as a hub for world-class innovative technology for the next generation of fuel-efficient aircraft**
- **Public-private investment enables world-class centre for 300 highly skilled engineers**
- **GTC will collaborate with UK research community and supply chain to strengthen aerospace technology and support UK Industrial strategy**

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clark, and the Chief Executive of GKN Aerospace, Hans BÜthker today revealed plans for GKN Aerospace's new Global Technology Centre in the UK.

The new centre - funded by a £17m commitment from GKN Aerospace and a £15m commitment from the UK Government, through the Aerospace Technology Institute - is expected to open in 2020. Once open the 10,000 square metre facility will host 300 highly skilled engineers, and will include collaborative space for research and development with universities, the UK's CATAPULT network and GKN Aerospace's UK supply chain.

The centre will focus on additive manufacturing (AM), advanced composites, assembly and industry 4.0 processes to enable the high rate production of aircraft structures. The GTC will maintain GKN Aerospace's position at the forefront of technology development for the next generation of energy efficient aircraft. The facility will serve as a base for GKN Aerospace's technology partnership in the Airbus' "Wing of Tomorrow" technology programme as well as new additive manufacturing programmes.

The Bristol centre joins a growing list of GKN Aerospace Centres of Technical Excellence around the world. Each centre has a unique technology focus - covering AM, thermoplastics and smart aero-engine systems - and is supported and linked by a clear digital strategy.

Commenting Chief Executive of GKN Aerospace, Hans BÜthker said:

"GKN Aerospace can trace its engineering heritage back to the 18th century and we are proud of our role as a leading player in the UK's world leading aerospace sector.

"The GTC will ensure we continue to develop new technologies that deliver for our customers, making aircraft more sustainable and economical. It will also support our 4,000 strong workforce in the UK, ensuring they remain at the cutting edge of the global aerospace industry.

"The GTC is a great example of the UK's industrial strategy at its best: with industry and the Government coming together to invest in the technology of the future. The GTC will continue to foster such collaboration across the entire UK Aerospace ecosystem and we look forward to working with the British Government in the years to come."

Commenting The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clark said:

"GKN Aerospace's new Global Technology Centre further strengthens our aerospace heritage and engineering expertise, and will keep the UK at the forefront of the latest technologies and manufacturing processes for the next-generation of aircraft.

"As the sector moves towards a cleaner, greener and more efficient future, we are partnering with industry through our modern Industrial Strategy and new Aerospace Sector Deal to ensure we have the skills, innovation and supply-chain to continue our world leadership in aviation."

GTC ecosystem

In addition to GKN Aerospace and Aerospace Technology Institute, collaboration partners at the new GTC include: the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), Additive Industries B.V., ANSYS UK Limited, ATS Applied Tech Systems Limited, Centre for Modelling & Simulation, Digital Catapult, KUKA Industries UK Limited, Manufacturing Technology Centre, Materialise UK Limited, National Composites Centre, PXL Realm, Thales UK Limited, University of Bath, University of Bristol and University of Sheffield.

Editor's notes:

GKN Aerospace is the world's leading multi-technology tier 1 aerospace supplier. As a global company serving the world's leading aircraft manufacturers, GKN Aerospace develops, builds and supplies an extensive range of advanced aerospace systems, components and technologies– for use in aircraft ranging from helicopters and business jets to the most used single aisle aircraft and the largest passenger planes in the world. Lightweight composites, additive manufacturing, innovative engine systems and smart transparencies help to reduce emissions and weight on the aircraft and enhance passenger comfort. GKN Aerospace is market leading in aerostructures, engine systems, transparencies and wiring systems and operates in 15 countries at 51 manufacturing locations employing approximately 17,000 people.

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