

Aerospace

January 2007

Sector Profile

Overview

Summary Northern Ireland has had an aerospace industry since Shorts (now Bombardier Aerospace) won the first aerospace manufacturing contract from the pioneers the Wright Brothers. There are now 30-40 companies in the sector with a combined turnover of about £700m. These account for 8.3% of local manufacturing employment, compared with the UK equivalent of 3.8%.

Bombardier and Thales Air Defence dominate the sector, which has precision engineering skills at its core.

The two universities also have a significant impact on this sector with Queens University Belfast Aeronautical Engineering department having a five star RAE rating. Queens has also initiated a Centre of Excellence of Integrated Aircraft Technologies which focused on cost modelling and fully integrated lifetime cost structures. The University of Ulster's Engineering Composite Research Centre has a key knowledge in 3D weaving.

Northern Ireland companies are active in all key UK initiatives such as the National Aerospace Technology Strategy. Invest NI is encouraging NI participation in European R & D Framework Programme 7 aerospace programmes.

Employment Over 7,200.

Key Markets The sector has major linkages to both US and European Aerospace companies such as Boeing, Airbus, Bombardier, Goodrich and their supply chains.

Companies Bombardier, Thales, Langford Lodge, B/E Aerospace, John Huddleston Engineering and Moyola Precision Engineering

The Future The potential development of the C-Series aircraft by Bombardier may provide significant growth opportunities for technology led and innovative companies.

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Our approach to the sector

Invest NI has four key strategic goals for this sector:

- To develop an accurate undertaking of both capability and skills.
- To develop collaborative relationships.
- Focused market strategy on key supply chains - Airbus and Boeing.
- To develop value added to ensure local companies can move up the supply chain.

Business Development Solutions

Invest NI offers an extensive portfolio of advice, assistance and support which can be tailored to meet the needs of companies either in particular sectors, or who are tackling specific challenges within their business. This covers areas such as strategy development, people development, research and development, exporting, energy management and e-business. Full details of our programmes and services are available from the [Business Development Solutions section](#).

Initiatives

- Working with Bombardier Aerospace to secure C-Series Programme.
- Ensuring Northern Ireland is an active participant in the National Aerospace Technology Strategy the 20 year vision for the future of the UK Aerospace sector.
- Build relationship with EU aerospace policy influencers.
- Continue to build linkages with Boeing.

Events

Key events

- Farnborough Airshow
- AIRTEC
- Marketing visits to France and Germany

See [Invest NI's Event Planner](#) for more events, and see also the [Trade Events Programme](#) for trade missions in your sector.

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Industry Links

Society of British Aerospace Companies	www.SBAC.co.uk
Aerospace Innovation & Growth Team	www.aeigt.co.uk
Aerospace & Defence Industries Association of Europe	www.asd-europe.org
Boeing Company	www.boeing.com
AeroSME - participants in EU Framework Programmes	www.aerosme.com

Publications

- Boeing Market Outlook - www.boeing.com/commercial/cmo

Guides to the market research sources which are available from Invest NI's Business Information Services can be downloaded from the Publications A – Z section of the website (under S for Sector Guides).

Contacts

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