



Aerospace



South West England



Photograph courtesy of Airbus

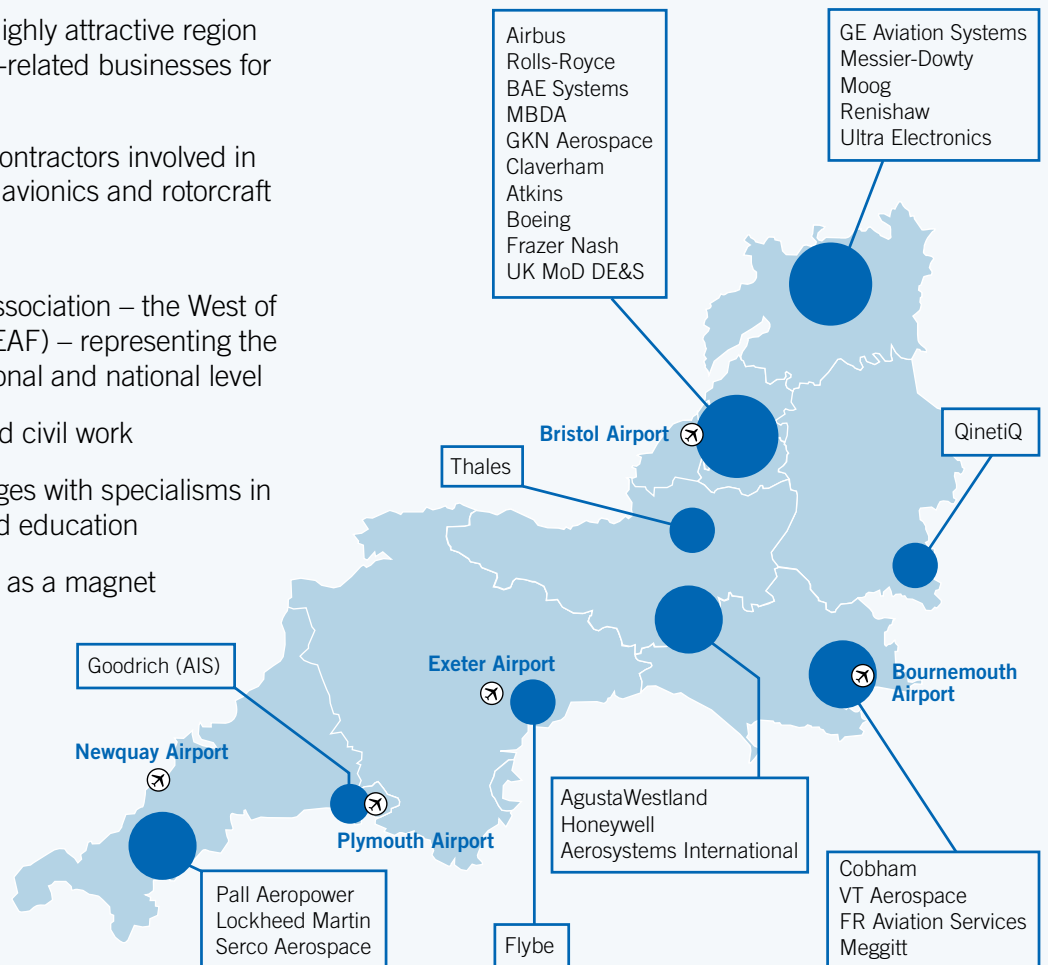
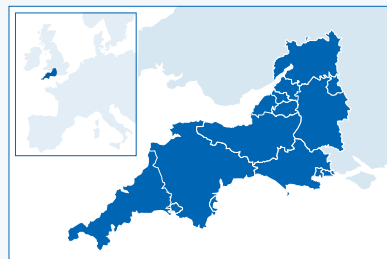
The aerospace industry in the South West of England

The South West of England is one of the most diverse and capable aerospace regions in the world, with a proud aerospace history stretching back over 100 years. The breadth of capability includes aircraft structures, aero-engines, rotorcraft, unmanned air systems, avionics, landing gear and a wide variety of systems and components.

Key strengths of the region

The South West of England is a highly attractive region within which to locate aerospace-related businesses for many reasons, including:

- The presence of major prime contractors involved in airframes, structures, engines, avionics and rotorcraft
- A highly-skilled workforce
- A vibrant and dynamic trade association – the West of England Aerospace Forum (WEAF) – representing the interests of the industry at regional and national level
- 50:50 split between military and civil work
- Excellent universities and colleges with specialisms in aerospace-related research and education
- A superb quality of life – acting as a magnet for skilled people.



Our sectors

Aerospace • Creative industries • Environmental technologies • Food and drink • Information communications technologies • Lifesciences & Healthcare • Manufacturing & advanced engineering (including composite technologies) • Marine industries • Renewable energy

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South West
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Aerospace technology supporting a low carbon agenda

In the South West of England, significant levels of private and public sector investment is ensuring that the industry remains at the forefront of technology and innovation while simultaneously meeting environmental challenges. As part of the UK's National Aerospace Technology Strategy (NATS), the region has invested in large R&D demonstrator programmes such as Environmentally Friendly Engine (EFE), ASTRAEA (civil unmanned air systems) and Next Generation Composite Wing (NGCW).

The world-class universities of Bristol, Bath, Exeter, University of the West of England (UWE) and Plymouth provide leading-edge R&D expertise as well as a highly educated and skilled workforce. Particular specialisms include composite materials, aerodynamics, additive layer manufacturing, advanced machining and systems engineering.

Skills for success

The long-term market opportunities and technological developments foreseen over the next 20 years have prompted the key aerospace stakeholders in the region to work in partnership to ensure skills are developed. Initiatives include:

- **Aerospace Training South West (ATSW)**
ATSW brings together some of the UK's largest aerospace companies, universities and skills providers in the region to identify the future technical and non-technical skills requirements for the industry.
- **Skills Academy at Exeter Airport**
This new academy will provide a wide range of aviation and aerospace related training, ranging from cabin crew and pilot training to maintenance and engineering training, acting as a skills hub in the region.

Dynamic supply chains

Complementing the large aerospace prime contractors based in the region is a supply chain of up to 900 companies, providing a wide range of products and services. The long-term sustainability of the supply chain is enhanced through:

- **West of England Aerospace Forum (WEAF)**
The regional trade organisation which actively facilitates networking and delivers key programmes to improve productivity, competitiveness and innovation throughout the supply chain.
- **Supply chains for the 21st Century (SC21)**
A key programme facilitating the adoption of lean manufacturing and continuous improvement practices, enabling companies to attain the accreditations required for aerospace quality and supply (NADCAP, AS9000, ISO9000), as well as promoting enhanced supply chain relationships.

To find out more about the aerospace capabilities, expertise and experience on offer in the South West of England, please talk to our team

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