

Invest in Dorset Ambassadors Briefing Note

Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing

Dorset is home to a thriving and varied advanced engineering sector with strengths in:

- Aerospace
- Defence
- Marine and Composite technologies

The sector employs around 17,300 people and contributes £803 million to Dorset's economy
Dorset-based companies excelling in advanced engineering sectors include:

- Atlas Elektronik UK
- BAE Systems
- Caterpillar Marine Power
- Cobham
- Honeywell
- Magellan Aerospace
- QinetiQ
- RNLI
- Siemens
- Sunseeker
- Ultra Electronics
- Dorset Engineering & Manufacturing Cluster (Dorset EMC) is a successful network of 300+ businesses across different supply chains. The cluster provides a voice for the sector across Dorset and enables companies to collaborate, increase their sustainability, and help achieve their full potential.

Aerospace

- Dorset is part of the South West Aerospace cluster of the UK, the largest in Europe. The South West hosts one of the largest and most significant aerospace clusters in the world, worth more than £7 billion.

Defence

- Dorset is home to the following Ministry of Defence Centres of Excellence
- The Royal Marines Base Poole – centre for the Royal Marines and Royal Navy amphibious and riverine activities.
- The Royal Corps of Signals, Blandford - centre of excellence and training for information computer technology for the British Army

- The Armour Centre, Bovington – centre of excellence for training in the core skills of armoured warfare
- The Royal Engineers Bridging Camp, Wyke Regis – the only bridging training centre retained by the British Army.

Marine

- Dorset is a member of the South Coast Marine Cluster. A large public/ private sector partnership the cluster works in partnership with the Department of International Trade to encourage inward investment.
- Dorset has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Port of Bremerton in Washington State, USA. Built on shared key sector strengths, the MoU aims to promote cooperation through:
 - Knowledge sharing
 - University pairing programmes
 - Trade missions
 - Linking businesses
- Dorset is also the home to some of the largest players in the field of composite technologies, used in both marine and renewable energy industries.
- Sunseeker International has manufacturing units within Poole and Osprey Quay, Portland
- RNLI has invested in a brand new R&D and manufacturing facility at its HQ and College base in Poole

Key business sites

Aviation Business Park, Bournemouth Airport:

- The largest employment site in Dorset.
- Strong reputation as a key specialist aerospace and manufacturing hub
- High-profile companies such as AIM Altitude, Cobham, Curtiss Wright, Meggitt, Babcock International Group and Honeywell
- Supports over 200 individual businesses in a range of mixed-use accommodation
- Set to further its reputation as an aerospace and aviation cluster by offering over 60 hectares of development land

Dorset Innovation Park Enterprise Zone:

- Aspires to be an advanced engineering cluster of excellence for the South West
- Centrally situated within south Dorset, half way between Poole/Dorchester/Weymouth
- Strengths in marine, defence and energy
- A single site accommodating 56 hectares of land, of which 35 hectares is developable,
- The second largest strategic employment site in the Dorset LEP area
- Enterprise Zone benefits include up to five years of business rate reductions and access to ultrafast broadband
- The site is in public ownership and it is envisioned there will be in the region of £30m of retained business rates to be invested in improving the site and local infrastructure over the next 25 years.

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