

AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE FIRMS AWARDED FOR SUPPLY CHAIN EXCELLENCE

Aerospace and defence companies from Northern Ireland will be among the highest achievers at an awards ceremony in Belfast today for supply chain firms from around the UK and Ireland.

The Achieving Supply Chain Excellence event at the Titanic Centre is sponsored by Invest Northern Ireland and will be attended by more than 250 company representatives. It sees 65 companies recognised with awards for boosting their competitiveness through the 21st Century Supply Chains (SC21) programme.

The programme helps small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the aerospace and defence sectors to make operational improvements, reduce overheads and improve their potential to grow.

Today's Belfast event will see the following awards presented and announced:

- **Silver** awards made for the first time to three companies based in Northern Ireland:
 - Technical Metals Ltd and ThyssenKrupp Aerospace in Newtownards.
 - Springco (NI) Ltd from Craigavon.

- **Bronze** awards to six companies:
 - Two from Northern Ireland – McGreevy Engineering from Belfast, and CCP Gransden from Ballygowan.
 - Righton Ltd from Glasgow.
 - HITEK Electronic Materials Ltd, from Scunthorpe.
 - Swiftool Precision Engineering Ltd, from Nottinghamshire.
 - Wood Group Industrial Services' site at Portsmouth Royal Navy Dockyard

A further 23 companies will be re-awarded with silver award status, and 33 saw their bronze level accreditation re-awarded.

The programme aims to support SMEs who supply major manufacturers such as Bombardier, Airbus, Rockwell Collins, Thales and Rolls Royce, helping the whole of the UK's aerospace and defence industries raise their ability to compete in international markets.

The SC21 programme is coordinated and governed by ADS, the UK trade association for the aerospace, defence, security and space sectors.

ADS Chief Executive Paul Everitt said:

“Today's event is a celebration of the important contribution supply chain companies make to the quality, competitiveness and capability of the global aerospace and defence industry.

“I congratulate all those in Northern Ireland and across the UK whose achievements have been recognised with awards.

“This week we have seen the aerospace sector set a new record for annual aircraft deliveries. Supply chain companies who are committed to continuous improvement and raising their performance are essential to this achievement.

“As our industries get ready for Brexit, investing in competitiveness and taking part in programmes like SC21 is one of the most important steps companies can take to make sure they are well prepared.”

Alastair Hamilton, Chief Executive of Invest Northern Ireland, added:

“Today’s recognition event highlights the commitment of businesses across the UK supply chain to deliver exacting quality standards and world-class performance in a globally challenging cost environment.

“Invest NI will continue to encourage best practice and increased competitiveness among the supply base in Northern Ireland.

“We remain committed to the programme and will continue to support local companies to progress on their SC21 journey. We want Northern Ireland to stay ahead of the curve in the industry and SC21 helps participants to compete in a global market place.”

SC21 Case Study – Denroy, Northern Ireland

This local Northern Ireland based company has already achieved the SC21 silver status and is now preparing to apply for a gold award. If successful the Bangor based plastics manufacturer will become only the second company in the whole of the UK to achieve this prestigious status.

Denroy offers an integrated design, tooling and manufacturing operation providing clients with a single source solution from concept design to full volume production.

The company, which employs more than 160 people, services a broad spectrum of business sectors and is well experienced in the aerospace sector, supplying products to Bombardier, Airbus and a range of other major companies.

Denroy says its commitment to the SC21 process has been hugely worthwhile and is a testament to the company’s desire for constant improvement.

General Manager John Irwin said:

“The company is respected for its expertise and experience in processing a diverse range of polymers, from commonly used commodity grades to high engineering grades of PEEK and PPS used in the aerospace industry.

“We have found the process of going through SC21 has been hugely beneficial and it’s a tribute to the staff and management that we now feel confident enough to apply to become only the second business in the whole of the UK to achieve the Gold standard.”

Notes to Editors

1. ADS Group is the UK trade organisation representing the aerospace, defence, security and space sectors, with more than 1,000 member businesses.
2. For more information on the SC21 programme, visit <http://www.sc21.org.uk/about/>.
3. The following 23 companies were re-awarded their **Silver** level SC21 status:
 - Northern Ireland – Moyola Precision Engineering Ltd, Bradfor Ltd, IPC Mouldings Ltd, JW Kane Precision Engineering Ltd, RTA Ireland LTD, and Dontaur Engineering.
 - East of England – High Tech Engineering Ltd, Axis Electronics Ltd, Nemco Ltd, Trescal Ltd.
 - South East – HSM Aero Ltd, Rebound Electronics UK Ltd, Active Electronics Plc.
 - South West – Bodycote Plc.
 - Scotland – Bovill and Boyd Engineering Ltd, WB Alloy Welding Products Ltd.
 - North East – Aavid Thermacore Europe Ltd, Abbey Forged Products Ltd.
 - Midlands – Fuchs Lubricants UK Plc, Arrowsmith Engineering (Coventry) Ltd.
 - South West and East of England – Hauck Heat Treatment Ltd, Rockford Components Ltd.
4. The following 33 companies were re-awarded with **Bronze** level SC21 status:
 - Northern Ireland – Doran Precision Engineering, Boyce Precision Engineering, Aerospace Metal Finishers and All Metal Services Ltd.
 - Republic of Ireland – Bellurgan Precision Engineering Ltd, T&T Precision Ltd.
 - South West – Electrical Manufacturing Centre (Leonardo Helicopter Division), Keyford Precision Engineering Ltd, Investment Casting Systems Ltd, CT Production LTD, Fabrinet UK, WG Jones Ltd, Anglo Krempel Ltd, Westminster Engineering Co, Rodford Engineering Ltd, Avon Valley Precision Engineering Ltd, Orchard Material Ltd.
 - South East – KPK Sheet Metal Ltd, Hutton Engineering Precision Ltd, Paramount Precision Engineering Ltd, FSL Aerospace Ltd, Aerco Ltd, DCS Sonovision UK Ltd.

- East of England – Elma Electronic UK Ltd, Intelliconnect Europe Ltd, Photofabrication Ltd, JP AEROCOM Engineering Ltd.
- North East – Wallwork Newcastle Ltd, Merlin Flex Ltd, IC Blue Ltd.
- Scotland – Hydro Bond Engineering Ltd, Wood Group Industrial Services (Rosyth).
- North West – Carlisle Interconnect Technologies Ltd.