

# New national enterprise approach for air platform protection

At Farnborough International Airshow, the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), Leonardo UK, Thales UK and Chemring Countermeasures are delighted to announce the formation of Team Pellonia.

A collaborative national enterprise approach to delivering UK next-generation air survivability (NGAS) solutions, the team will ensure that UK armed forces' air platforms have access to the best possible protective equipment while maintaining strategic skills and capabilities onshore.

Named after the Roman goddess who was renowned for protecting people from their enemies, Team Pellonia will see the UK Ministry of Defence, led by the Royal Air Force (RAF), Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) working in a close relationship with a best-of-British industry team comprising:

- Leonardo UK: the UK's onshore provider of integrated air platform protection capabilities, including advanced radio frequency (RF) and infrared (IR) sensors and effectors
- Thales in the UK: the UK's producer of a world-class infra-red based threat warning system and intelligent countermeasures dispensing system
- Chemring Countermeasures: the UK-based global leader in design, development, testing and manufacture of RF and IR countermeasures, including active decoys and threat agnostic countermeasures

Together, the team represents UK onshore knowledge and capability in the field of air platform protection. Team Pellonia will develop integrated self-protection systems for UK armed forces' platforms, with a mission to ensure that aircraft crews can respond to emerging threats with life-saving speed and agility.

Air Vice-Marshal Lincoln Taylor CB OBE, Chief of Staff – Capability, Royal Air Force said:

Survivability is at the heart of the UK's operational independence. As part of Team Pellonia, the UK MOD will strive to ensure that UK NGAS capabilities are available to meet the UK's air platform protection requirements. This will provide the best possible protection for our people and capabilities, ensuring that MOD and Industry investment is perfectly aligned as we develop the next-generation of capabilities.

The announcement builds on the individual strategic partnering arrangements signed by the 3 companies with the MOD over the last 12 months, as well as on the team members' rich history of collaboration on UK platform protection capabilities. Leonardo provides integrated defensive suites for RAF Typhoons

and the majority of the UK's helicopter fleet including the AW159 Wildcat, AW101 Merlin and Apache AH-64E. Many of these systems incorporate electronics from Thales, while Chemring countermeasures are widely employed across the UK's fleets. Team Pellonia will act as a catalyst to deepen this cooperation further and deliver enterprise-wide innovation.

The team are already on contract to deliver protection systems for the RAF's fleet of Shadow surveillance aircraft and the new Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning (AEW) aircraft. Looking to the future, a number of UK air platforms will be reviewed in the coming years. Team Pellonia will drive to ensure that UK NGAS capabilities are available to meet defence's needs.

Team Pellonia partners will work together to offer defence platform-level integrated self-protection systems based on Leonardo's Modular Advanced Platform Protection System (MAPPS) architecture. Depending on the platform requirements, sensors and effectors could include Leonardo's Miysis Directed Infrared Countermeasure (DIRCM), Thales's Elix-IR® Threat Warning System (TWS), Thales's Vicon XF Countermeasures Dispensing System (CMDS) and Chemring's full suite of expendable countermeasures.

As the science inside UK defence and security, Dstl will act as technical partner to the team throughout the capability development, system integration and entry into service process, providing quality assurance throughout to ensure military advantage now and into the future.

As well as working together to provide the advanced capabilities of today, the Team Pellonia members will work together to agree a roadmap for investment that draws on the strengths of each team member in a collaborative enterprise-wide approach to the future survivability of air platforms. UK allies that share similar requirements will also be able to access self-protection systems from Team Pellonia. These systems will be compliant with the NATO Defensive Aids System (NDAS) standard and therefore have substantial export potential, bringing economic and social value back to the UK.

The close relationships forged through Team Pellonia will give UK defence and UK industry the confidence to invest in and develop cutting-edge new capabilities and maintain critical skills onshore, ensuring that the UK's armed forces continue to have access to the latest protective technologies for years to come.

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## **Sovereign Base Areas Specialised Committee meeting: 18 July 2022**

Press release

The fourth meeting of the Specialised Committee, co-chaired by the European Commission and the UK Government, discussed issues relating to the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus.



The UK and EU issued a joint statement following the fourth meeting of the Withdrawal Agreement Specialised Committee on the Sovereign Base Areas of the United Kingdom in Cyprus:

The fourth meeting of the Specialised Committee was held on 18 July 2022 in Brussels, co-chaired by officials from the European Commission and the UK Government.

The Committee was established by the Withdrawal Agreement to facilitate the implementation and application of the Protocol.

The EU and the UK reviewed the operational phase of the implementation of the Protocol since its entry into effect on 1 January 2021.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to its smooth implementation and agreed to continue technical discussions with the objective of reaching a common understanding on the correct implementation of the Protocol in the area of fisheries (Article 6 of the Protocol).

The co-chairs agreed that the technical discussions should include legal experts from both sides and be completed by the autumn. The Specialised Committee will revert to this issue immediately afterwards.

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## [New Service Centre opens in Newport](#)

News story

The centre will provide court users with support and guidance on their cases.



The Newport centre opens today (Monday 18 July) and is our fifth and final Service Centre following sites opened in [Stoke-on-Trent](#), [Birmingham](#), [Loughborough](#) and [Salford](#). The centres are an important part of the government's £1 billion reform programme.

This centre brings staff together under one roof to provide support and guidance about cases. This increased capacity helps court users who need information about criminal cases, and complements the teams in Salford and Stoke-on-Trent who already advise on criminal cases and the [Single Justice Service](#). These teams allow court staff to focus on helping people attending hearings and court in-person.

Service Centres answer more than one million queries each year. They allow us to answer calls and queries quickly and offer better access to justice by providing a service that is more consistent. They also handle several important services that the public relies on, such as applications for probate and supporting video hearings.

Paul Harris, Operations Director, said:

I'm delighted that our new Service Centre is now open. It delivers on a promise we made at the beginning of our reform programme to make it easier for court and tribunal users to find information on their cases.

The Newport Service Centre will help callers with queries about criminal cases. Common queries they'll advise on include listing enquiries, interpreter bookings and enquiries about hearing results.

Service Centres have achieved a huge amount and bring value to court and tribunal users every day. For example, the new digital divorce process has improved the service at Stoke service centre. A majority of divorces are now concluded within 20 weeks and the number of divorces rejected has been reduced from 40% to less than 1%.

The opening of the Newport Service Centre completes this part of our £1

billion investment to reform courts and tribunals by providing more and better ways to access justice for everyone that needs it.

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## **Record £2.8 billion commercial benefits delivered through Crown Commercial Service agreements**

- Almost £3 billion achieved in commercial benefits in 2021/22 through CCS agreements
- Total spent through agreements has doubled over the past 5 years to £27.6 billion
- SMEs have benefited from £2.2 billion in direct spending, an additional £687 million directly compared to 2020/21

Almost £3 billion in commercial benefits have been achieved for public sector organisations through use of Crown Commercial Service (CCS) agreements, delivering record value for taxpayers.

CCS agreements provide public sector bodies with a choice of suppliers who offer the best value, leveraging the scale of public sector demand to secure competitive prices. By using these agreements, public sector customers can achieve commercial benefits such as reduced costs compared to market prices and better value in contract terms and conditions.

The newly published CCS annual report and accounts for 2021/22 shows £2.8 billion of commercial benefits were achieved across the public sector. CCS agreements secured £1.9 billion in benefits for central government, and a further £0.9 billion for the wider public sector.

This includes £4 million in savings for 14 NHS trusts on mobile and data services, such as voice calls, connectivity and applications. The Student Loan Company also saved £1.6 million by outsourcing its print and mail services through CCS's Managed Print and Digital Solutions framework.

ACRO Criminal Records Office, a national police unit, was able to improve efficiency and accuracy by putting in place a machine translation solution through CCS's Language Services framework. This enabled the organisation to translate vital conviction information quickly from EU member states and prevent criminal cases being thrown out of court, saving £6,000 in 3 months and helping to make our streets safer.

**Minister for Brexit Opportunities and Government Efficiency, Jacob Rees-Mogg**

**said:**

The Crown Commercial Service is one of the highest-performing parts of the Government. It provides the best value for taxpayers day in, day out. At a time of high inflation and squeezed budgets, its work is more valuable than ever.

By leveraging the scale of public sector demand when choosing suppliers, these agreements have secured billions in savings, which can be used to support vital services delivered across the public sector.

Spending through CCS frameworks has doubled in five years, reaching £27.6 billion in 2021/22. This means CCS is on course to hit its target of £30 billion by 2024 and represents an increase of £4.9 billion on the 2020/21 total. CCS also assisted customers with contracts valued at over £5 billion annually by running procurements on their behalf.

The amount spent directly with small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) increased by £687 million compared to the year before. In total, £2.2 billion was spent directly with SMEs, supporting growth and jobs across the UK.

**Simon Tse, CEO of Crown Commercial Service, said:**

Growing the economy is a top priority and supporting small businesses will do just that.

The past year has seen record spending with SMEs through CCS agreements and suppliers have been paid promptly, aiding their growth and spreading economic prosperity across the country.

CCS agreements have also supported public sector customers with key policy priorities, such as net zero commitments and supply chain auditing.

Thousands of customers used CCS's dedicated net zero web pages over the last 12 months to identify agreements that help them meet sustainability goals.

CCS also published its first annual modern slavery statement in November. This set out steps being taken to identify, prevent and mitigate the risks of modern slavery in CCS operations and supply chains, including ensuring that suppliers are publishing an annually updated modern slavery statement.

**Chair of the CCS Board, Tony van Kralingen said:**

Crown Commercial Service has once again driven significant value for taxpayers, while continuing to develop and enhance its reputation for excellence across central government and the wider public sector.

I am delighted to be able to end my term as Chair of the CCS Board with such outstanding results. The Board and I are confident that the platform for continued success is well established.

### **The year at a glance**

- £27.6 billion of public sector spend was channelled through CCS agreements, doubling spend over 5 years
- Customers who have used CCS agreements have achieved commercial benefits equivalent to £2.8 billion
- CCS's employee engagement index, as measured by the Civil Service People Survey, remains high at 71% in 2021
- £2.2 billion was spent directly with SMEs through CCS's commercial agreements in 2021/22 – an additional £687m compared to 2020/21
- The assisted procurement service helped deliver procurements for customers worth a total annual contract value of £5 billion

### **Read the full report**

You can read [CCS's Annual Report and Accounts](#).

You can find a full list of all the commercial agreements CCS offers, alongside details of how CCS can help you build policy considerations into your procurement, in our [interactive digital brochure](#).

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## **[PM's remarks at Farnborough Air Show: 18 July 2022](#)**

It is fantastic to be here at Farnborough the scene of many of the most exciting developments in the history of powered flight

It was here that the de Havilland comet ushered in the jet age

here that the world first saw the Vulcan bomber, a beautiful machine I remember from my childhood

and here that spectators saw first the amazing aeronautical ability of the Typhoon

which I experienced myself last Thursday

With the help of wing commander Paul Hanson I took off from RAF Coningsby straight up like a vertical firecracker

we slipped the surly bonds of earth

as the poet Magee puts it  
and danced the skies on laughter silvered wings  
we flung that eager craft through footless halls of air  
and generally put it through its paces, I can tell you  
and after a while the wing commander said to me  
do you want to have a go  
and I said are you sure  
it seems very expensive to me  
we only have 148 of them and they cost about £75m a pop  
and he said don't worry  
you can't break it  
and I thought oh well famous last words  
and so I pushed the joystick right over to the right and we did an aileron  
roll and then I hauled the joystick right back and we did a fantastic loop  
the loop  
and then I did a more complicated thing called a barrel roll in which I  
pushed the stick up and right a bit  
and we started to pull a few Gs, as they say  
and when I came back to consciousness I could see  
the sea getting closer and closer  
and I started to dream about the incredible forest of wind farms I could see  
and I thought about the way this government in the last few years has been  
reclaiming doggerland  
harvesting the drowned prairies of the north sea  
and harvesting them once again with gigawatt after gigawatt of clean green  
energy  
helping to deliver a long term sustainable solution to our energy needs  
ending any dependence on Putin whatsoever  
and this reverie must have gone on for a while because my colleague said er I  
am taking back control now  
and we headed happily home



and I was absolutely stunned by the typhoon

because it is now more than 25 years since I first flew a fast jet

I went out, thanks to the RAF, to Seymour Johnson air force base in north Carolina and flew an F15E strike eagle

and I remember sitting in that cockpit and looking at wires running either side of me that were attached to pedals at the pilot's feet

and were pulling the flaps

and I looked at that and I thought this really isn't so different from a sopwith camel

and on Thursday last week at Coningsby I asked them afterwards, as you ask about what would happen in a fight between a tyrannosaurus rex and a Killer whale

what would happen in a fight between a typhoon and an F15E strike eagle

and they said it would be no contest

almost 30 years ago when I went up in a F15E

the strike eagle seemed to me to be the last word in strength and power and aggression

but compared to the typhoon, according to the RAF, it would be so motionless and defenceless that a dogfight

in the brutal words of one typhoon pilot would be like clubbing seals

and so the lesson I draw is about the scale and the pace of technological change

It was only 85 years ago that my grandfather was flying wellington bombers

with equipment so primitive that you really have to marvel at the bravery of the men and women who were involved in that war

in fact he used up quite a few wellington bombers

he crashed twice – the second time into a church

I am afraid he was always prone to religious doubts

I marvel at the bravery of that generation

and let's face it – it was only 120 years ago that this whole enterprise began – of heavier than air powered flight –

in machines, barely more than a century ago, that looked like laundry baskets

lashed together with leather and canvas

and propelled by lawnmower engines

and if you can go from a laundry basket to a typhoon in a century

I just want you to imagine what the next 20 years and the next 50 years will bring

and I want you to know that this government believes in British aviation

and British technological genius and its power to bring jobs and growth across our whole country, uniting and levelling up across the whole country

and that is why we are investing so massively in defence, the biggest uplift since the end of the Cold War,

and that is why I am so obsessed with the FCAS

with Team Tempest and everything that that involves

I think it is a fantastic project

There are already 560 UK companies playing their part

more than a thousand apprentices and new graduates involved

and I am a passionate believer in the potential of our burgeoning partnership – not just with Italy, but with Japan

an incredible thing to be doing now 80 years after the end of the Second World War

and of course, FCAS is not just a plane

it is a whole platform for technological change and industrial spin-offs of all kinds

because the combat aircraft systems of the future will be very different even from the typhoon

and some of them will be manned, some of them will be crewed and some of them won't be

and in developing these new technologies

and maintaining the air superiority that we have luxuriated in for so long and which is so crucial for our long term security

I want our country to be in the lead

and then on this scorching day

with the thermometer about to blow and temperatures here apparently higher

than the Sahara

there is the next great technological challenge

which is how to send a plane across the Atlantic without burning tonnes of kerosene and adding the carbon tea cosy that is heating our planet to destruction

we know that we must fix it

we know that time is running out

and that is why one of the first things I initiated 3 years ago was a project called Jet Zero

in which I think many of you are participating and thank you very much for what you are doing – a zero carbon plane

and people think it's impossible

they say pigs might fly

well let me tell you

this is not only the country that built the first jet engine, but the first plane across the Atlantic

In 1909 a pilot by the name of John Theodore Cuthbert Moore Brabazon took off with a six week old piglet in a waste paper basket tied to the strut of a Short Brothers biplane

We showed that pigs could fly a hundred years ago

and we are going to fix zero carbon aviation as well

not just because it's right for our planet but because it will drive jobs and growth around the country

and that is why, today, we are investing a further quarter of a billion today in UK aviation technology and innovation

and so, in conclusion, I want you to know that after 3 happy years in the cockpit

and after performing some pretty difficult if not astonishing feats

getting Brexit done and restoring this country's ability to make its own laws in parliament

vaccinating our population faster than any other comparable country and ensuring the fastest growth in the G7

and being the first European country to give the Ukrainians the vital military help they need see off Putin's aggression

not to mention, cutting neighbourhood crime by 31 per cent

lowest unemployment for almost 50 years

gigabit broadband from 7 to 69 per cent households in this country

and many many other statistics

I am now going to hand over the controls

seamlessly to someone else

I don't know who

but whoever it is I can tell you that the twin engines, the great Rolls Royce twin engines of this conservative government will roar on

fantastic public services

a dynamic free market economy

each boosting the other and developing millions of tons of thrust

and there could be no better example of that relationship

that symbiosis between government and the private sector than the aviation industry

and if you want a final example of this government's ambition I give you not just FCAS, not just Jet Zero but space flight as well

This year if all goes well

we will launch the first UK satellite in history to enter space from UK soil

as Newquay becomes this country's equivalent of Cape Kennedy, shortly to be followed by Shetland as well

and I leave it to you to imagine who

at this stage I would like to send into orbit

Perhaps a volunteer could be found from the green benches of parliament

I leave that entirely to your speculation

but for now, with so much to look forward to in this incredible sector and with the UK at the leading edge of progress

not just for our national security, the security of our friends and neighbours

not just for our economic prosperity around the whole country

but for the protection of the planet itself

I declare this great Farnborough air show open