



Environmental improvement in the Aerospace and Defence Supply Chain



Case Study: PFW Aerospace, Farnborough, UK

PFW Aerospace, employing 100 at its Farnborough UK site, manufactures a wide range of precision components, from pipes and ducts to airframe structures for the aerospace sector.



Following a review of its operations it has embarked on the development of a focused plan of action to manage its environmental impacts, as well as deliver financial savings.

Mark Gossington, PFW Aerospace UK Continuous Improvement and Quality Director, said:

“We recognise that, as well as highlighting opportunities to address rising commodity and energy costs, the focus on environmental management will ensure we are able to demonstrate our sustainability, while reducing our carbon dependency”.

With assistance from the SEEDA funded Aerospace and Defence Sustainability Club (formerly the Aerospace Resource Efficiency Club - www.aerospacerec.co.uk) a range of measures were identified:

Energy

Potential savings of £12000 were identified from:

- The establishment of improved monitoring of energy consumption.
- Raising the awareness among employees of opportunities for energy savings.
- A review of voltage regulation, lighting systems, heating controls and compressor management.



Waste

Using a range of metals, such as stainless steel, titanium, manganese and aluminium, which have inevitably risen in cost, there has been a renewed focus on the reduction of waste, the fabrication of metals and added value from waste generated. This has included a review of metal waste resulting in improved recycling and value, improved understanding of the potential for waste reduction and recycling among all existing waste streams, packaging use and reuse.



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Training and Communication

As well as a comprehensive review of PFW's activities and sharing of good practice among Aerospace and Defence companies membership of the Aerospace and Defence Sustainability Club enabled the raising of awareness through attendance at accredited Environmental Awareness and Waste Management training courses provided by the managers of the Club, The Olive Consultancy.



Subsequently, PFW have established a 'Green Team' to communicate good practice and feedback and to ultimately help to deliver the identified savings.



Mark Gossington, stated that:

"The Aerospace and Defence Sustainability Club enabled us to understand both the environmental risks the business faces but also the opportunities available to us.

We are at an early stage of the process but we are committed to becoming a more sustainable business in the UK, and it is anticipated that measures identified at Farnborough can be replicated at PFW's Nuneaton site.

The review of environmental risks and opportunities, and its subsequent development, will ensure we are able to minimise our environmental impacts and contribute to wider efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Potential savings identified are significant and we expect these to increase as the programme is developed further."

- ◆ For details of PFW: www.pfw.aero/relaunch_rsm, 01252 370666



- ◆ For details of The Olive Consultancy: www.consultolive.com, 02380 111440 or info@consultolive.com



- ◆ For details of the Farnborough Aerospace Consortium: www.fac.org.uk, 01252375600



- ◆ For details of the Aerospace and Defence Sustainability Club: www.aerospacerec.co.uk

