

## Profile: Aerospace, Space & Satellite

### Alignment to strategic priorities:

National Hampshire CC Surrey CC Coast to Capital Enterprise M3

<b>5,863</b> Jobs (2019) <b>18% below</b> National average	<b>+3.8%</b> % Change (2019 - 2022) Nation: <b>-10.4%</b>	<b>376</b> businesses (2021) <b>77%</b> have 1-4 employees	<b>£43.3k</b> Average wages per job: <b>LSIP = £31.0k   South East = £30.5k   Nation = £30.4k</b>
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Source: Lightcast

#### TOP ONLINE POSTED OCCUPATIONS:

1. Programmers and software development professionals
2. IT business analysts, architects and systems designers
3. IT user support technicians
4. Engineering technicians
5. Information technology and telecommunications professionals n.e.c.

#### TOP SPECIALISED SKILLS:

1. Agile Methodology
2. SQL (Programming Language)
3. Microsoft Azure
4. Automation
5. C# (Programming Language)

#### TOP SOFT SKILLS:

1. Communications
2. Management
3. Customer service
4. Problem solving
5. Planning

#### JOB POSTINGS REGIONAL BREAKDOWN:

1. Guildford
2. Basingstoke and Deane
3. Rushmoor
4. Woking
5. Reigate and Banstead

Data are for January 2019 – December 2022 | Source: Lightcast

### Additional insights and intelligence

Space South Central is the largest regional space cluster in the UK, which covers the LSIP area (as well as the Solent LSIP area). It is estimated there are approximately 2,392 specifically space-focused employees across 111 companies.<sup>1</sup> In a 2022 report about the industry, 46% cited 'Recruiting staff' and 38% cited a general shortage of skills as barriers to growth. The LSIP roundtable on Aerospace<sup>2</sup> also cited an ageing workforce as a concern – particularly high-skilled, practical engineers.

In the LSIP area, employment in the Aerospace, Space & Satellite sector tends to be concentrated in Aerospace – including Aviation – in roles such as *Air traffic controllers, Security guards and related occupations* and *Aircraft pilots*. A focus on Space & Satellite highlights roles such as *Engineering technicians, Production managers and directors in manufacturing* and *Mechanical engineers*.

A Space Skills Alliance report<sup>3</sup> identifies the demand for skills for the space sector across the Space South Central region (which takes in the Solent LSIP area). Typically, these centre around *engineering, software, and business* with many non-space specific roles falling into commercial operations<sup>4</sup>.

This was reflected in the Aerospace roundtable with comments captured about use of Sales Engineers (who can understand the customer's need and translate to colleagues to develop a solution) as well as support to grow and scale-up businesses. The roundtable also reported demand over the next three years at least to maintain pace with technological advances such as cloud computing, machine learning and cyber security to remain relevant, agile and competitive.

The Space Skills Alliance report suggests provision of education and training across the South is mostly good, with a diverse range of provision across all levels of education – including some unique, short course offerings. However, there are some weaknesses around aero/mechanical engineering and environmental science due to declining student numbers and difficulties in delivering viable technical courses. The Aerospace roundtable captured demand for a level 2-3 Apprenticeship in Engineering & Manufacturing alongside needs for pathways to various engineering roles such as Systems, Software, Sub-systems, Radiation, Thermal and 'older' technologies often found in spacecraft.

In terms of local provision, it's difficult to isolate specific subject areas and there is some evidence of career pathways via universities and apprenticeships<sup>5</sup>. As mentioned in the previous sector, Apprenticeship starts in this subject area accounted for less than 10%; a lot lower than the national proportion<sup>6</sup> indicating there could be some work to do here.

**CASE STUDY:** As the Aerospace sector accelerates its transition to cleaner, greener technologies to meet the government's net zero commitments, its future global success at least partially depends on the **Jet Zero strategy**<sup>7</sup> to achieve net zero aviation by 2050.

Linked to this, Enterprise M3 LEP have created the **Jet Zero Cluster** and commissioned a detailed analysis of businesses, activity, skills strengths and challenges across the local area to help inform the work of the Cluster. Newly formed, the Cluster has representatives from the aviation industry, academia, trade associations and government bodies and forms a vital part of the LEP's vision for a low carbon high growth economy.

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