

# Annual Review

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# **INTRODUCTION**

Flight is critical to the UK: for trade, jobs, family ties and - vital for an island nation - links to the rest of the world. It is through the ATI that UK government and industry come together to tackle the principal issue facing flight in the future: decarbonisation. This is both a challenge and an opportunity and the UK, with its technical capability and research base, is well positioned to meet both.

The complexity of aviation development, the scale of funding required, the length of time needed to qualify new technologies and the global environmental imperative means private investment in aviation decarbonisation is best accompanied by government funding. The ATI brings strategic direction, technical expertise and independence of thought to this process, working with industrial and government partners to build competitiveness across the UK in the aviation of the future.

The Institute, established in 2013, has a strong track record. It has led ambitious R&D projects notably in the critical areas of propulsion and wings. It engages across UK manufacturing, academia and research to stimulate R&D activity and encourage innovation. Funded projects are chosen with Innovate UK and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Investment of around £300m per year is committed to 2026, with an extension to 2031 indicated. Total funds committed since inception now exceed £3.2bn, the latest benefits of which are set out from page 14. The Institute also works alongside key industry fora including the Aerospace Growth Partnership and the Jet Zero Council, providing thought leadership on all aspects of the future of flight.

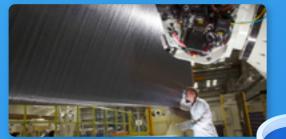
The ATI sets a strategic agenda for aviation development and engages with the UK's research, academic and industrial partners to deliver it. With the overall goal of delivering economic benefits across the UK, the ATI funds a wide range of collaborative projects, the details of which are set out in this report. Thought leadership activites are delivered through in-depth studies such as 2021's FlyZero and the Boeing Accelerator programme along with regularly published INSIGHT papers which can be read at **www.ati.org.uk**.

The Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI) believes the content of this report to be correct at the date of writing. The opinions contained in this report, except where specifically attributed, are those of ATI, based upon the information that was available to us at the time of writing. We are always pleases to receive updated information and opposing opinions about any of the content. The content reflects the status of ATI-supported projects, the R&D landscape and economy during the ATI's 2019-20 financial year. AT date of publication, the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aerospace sector was yet to be quantified. All images are reproduced with kind permission of the copyright holders.

# THE ATI: FULFILLING A UNIQUE ROLE







## **CEMENTING THE RESEARCH BASE**

+ Funding world-class open-access facilities

+ Developing the research base

## TRANSFORMING **COMPETITIVENESS**

+ Investing in highly automated digital manufacturing focused on sustainability

 $\diamond$ 

## **DELIVERING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY ACROSS** THE UK

## **MAKING AIRCRAFT MORE SUSTAINABLE**



10% drag reduction

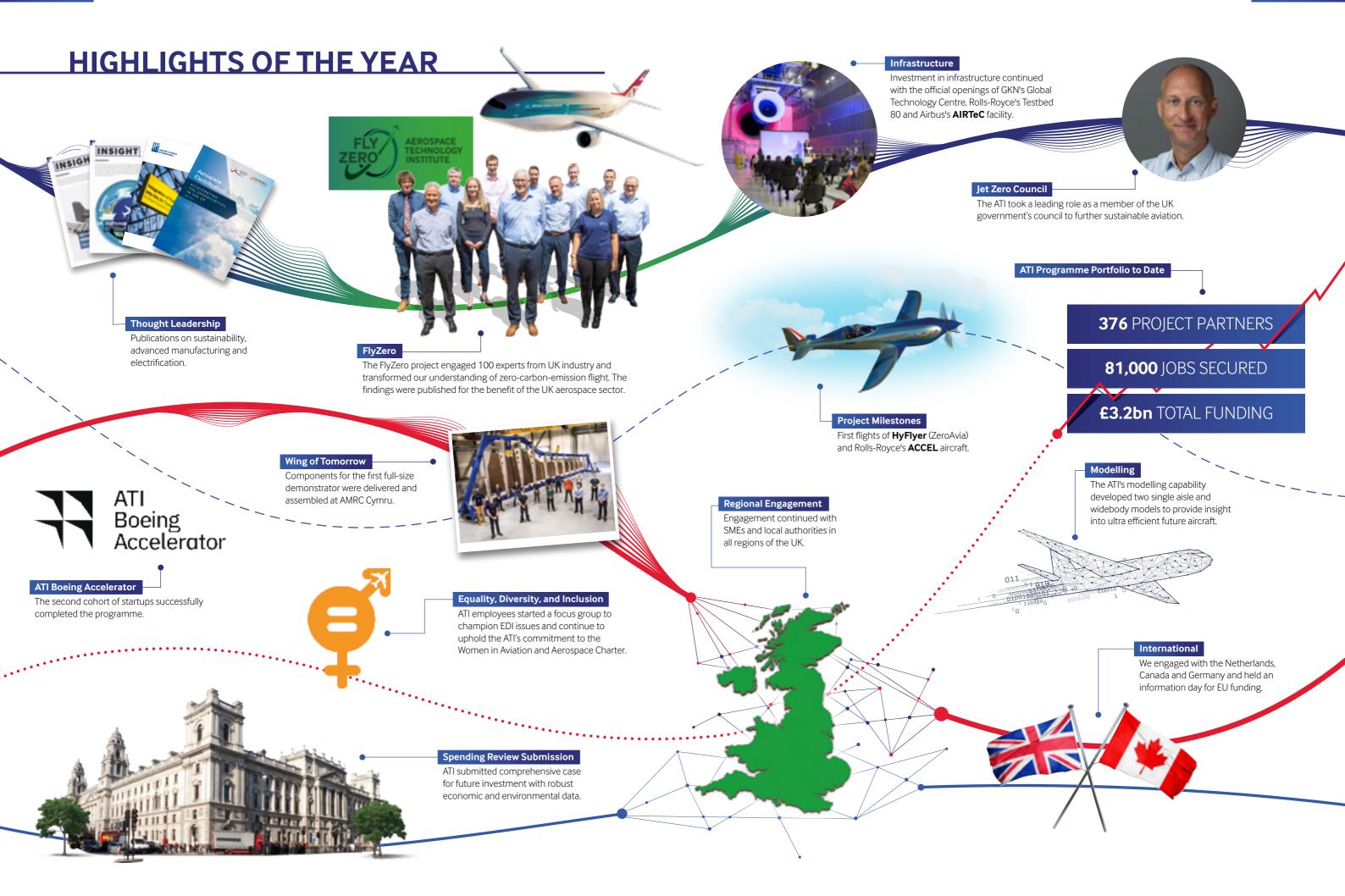
## **ACCELERATING THE PACE OF INNOVATION**



+ World's first civil aerospace accelerator



+ A unique collaborative project for zero-carbon aircraft



Annual Review 2020/21

# CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

2020/21 has been an active year for the board. The sustainability of flight agenda has led to a surge in research and development in the industry and academia, as well as considerable focus from government. This has put the ATI centre stage as an independent body coordinating research in the sector and providing advice to the government. It has also created a full agenda for the board. The FlyZero project – described on pages 10-11 – has temporarily expanded the Institute by some 100 staff and enhanced its thought leadership credentials with industry, government, and the public at large. The pace of change in recent months, driven by FlyZero, CoP 26 and other developments has also highlighted the need for a fresh technology strategy for UK aerospace. This will be published in April 2022.

A primary board responsibility is to secure long-term funding for the organisation and its technology programme. The need for this has been highlighted as the scale and pace of research required to deliver zeroemission flight has become apparent. The ATI drew up a comprehensive and evidenced submission to the government's 2021 spending review, enabling the Institute to reiterate the fundamental value of R&D to aerospace and the UK economy at large; to quantify the potential benefits for the UK if it takes a leadership role in decarbonising aviation; and to clarify the consequences if we fail to take the initiative in a competitive world.

Delivering ambitious R&D projects and future strategies requires close teamwork with other organisations, and I am grateful to colleagues at the Aerospace Growth Partnership (AGP), the Department for Business Energy and industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Innovate UK for their support. This year has also seen broader links with the Department for Transport. Thanks also to the members of the advisory groups which give valuable support to the Institute by bringing different perspectives and challenge to our thinking. Our output would be much less rich without their contribution.

Finally, I am grateful to my fellow board members, whose commitment and input are so vital to the ATI's success. My thanks and best wishes go to our three independent directors Michael Harper, Deborah Keith, and Scott Tolson, whose tenures came to an end this year. All have played a crucial role on the board, on subcommittees and in offering advice to the executive. Michael and Deborah joined in the early years of the ATI and have done much to shape the organisation. In their place I am delighted to welcome Janet Collyer, Paul Everitt, and Ben Stocks. All bring a wealth of valuable experience to the ATI.



Stephen Ball Chairman, ATI

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

Aviation is transforming. Environmental concerns, Covid-19, and disruptive technology are changing the industry before us. The ATI is at the heart of this, influencing how aviation responds and how UK aerospace can adapt and prosper. A good example was our FlyZero project which demonstrated the feasibility of carbon-free flight and unveiled three concert aircraft, one capable of flying

A good example was our FlyZero project which demonstrated the feasibility of carbon-free flight and unveiled three concept aircraft, one capable of flying 280 passengers up to 5,250 nautical miles. FlyZero has gained the interest of industry, academia, international partners, and the public. It has enhanced UK expertise, established new relationships for the ATI, and changed how the Institute works.

The ATI technology programme is reviewed on pages 14-29. Total funding reached £3.2bn to September 2021, up £300 million since September 2020, half from the government, half from industry. Twenty-seven new projects were started in year, with 198 projects live during the period. Our zero-emission flight portfolio saw exciting developments: ZeroAvia's hydrogen fuel cell-powered aircraft had its maiden flight, and Rolls-Royce's Spirit of Innovation became the world's fastest electric aircraft. We invested in important new R&D infrastructure, including Airbus's wing integration centre, GKN's technology centre, and Rolls-Royce's Testbed 80 – the largest in the world.

The ATI budget became virtually committed this year as the Institute approaches the end of its first phase in 2026. Consequently, a comprehensive submission was prepared for the government's spending review, revealing high ambitions in UK industry and academia to lead global efforts to decarbonise flight. Realising this would generate significant economic growth throughout the UK.

The ATI continued to stimulate fresh thinking. Our INSIGHT paper on sustainability demonstrates the scale and complexity of the environmental challenge, and we

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Internally, the executive management team this year welcomed Nazia Hirjee as chief operating officer, Sophie Lane as chief relationships officer, and Harry Malins as chief innovation officer. They bring professionalism and fresh thinking, improving our diversity of thought and challenging the status quo. We have improved our focus on equality, diversity and inclusion, working with consultants to provide training and advice. IT systems have been updated to improve security and a team has considered the ATI's own carbon footprint. The Institute is stronger as a result.

I want to thank Stephen Ball and the board for their support; colleagues at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Innovate UK for their partnership; and officials at the Department for Transport for their engagement. Most of all, I thank the ATI team who have shown resilience, imagination, patience and good humour in a challenging year.



Gary Elliott Chief Executive, ATI



FlyZero was a £15m in-depth project to assess the feasibility of zerocarbon transatlantic flight by 2030. One hundred specialists were seconded into multi-disciplinary teams from across industry to develop the project and build the UK's decarbonisation expertise. The conclusions have been published and are available on the ATI website.

The project team found that zero-carbon-emission flight will be feasible for large commercial aircraft and could begin commercially in the mid-2030s. For the interim, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) will be needed, but green liquid hydrogen will be the principal fuel for zero emissions in the longer term.

Three concept aircraft were developed by the project: a smaller aircraft powered by hydrogen fuel cells; and two larger models, narrowbody and midsize, that would use gas turbines for propulsion. The midsize concept would be capable of flying 280 passengers 5250 nautical miles, putting all points in the world within one-stop range. The model shows that such an aircraft would offer significant environmental benefit, delivering carbon abatement of 4 gigatons (around four times current global annual aviation emissions) by 2050. The FlyZero team found that the UK aerospace supply chain is well placed to contribute to both hydrogen and SAF propulsion.

The results and findings of FlyZero are published as a series of detailed reports covering technology; fuels; aircraft concepts; commercial and market considerations; opportunities for the UK; and findings from offload work packages commissioned through UK industry and academia. These are available on the ATI website at www.ati.org.uk/flyzero. Regional roadshows to disseminate the results will commence in April 2022.







# FLYZERO CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: A SUMMARY

## CONCLUSIONS

- SAF has an important interim role.
- regulations will also be required.
- £14bn GVA and 74,000 jobs.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- rolled out in the 2020s and early 2030s.
- finance would also support developments.
- providing a centre of excellence for UK industry.
- zero-carbon aircraft developments.

**1.** Green liquid hydrogen is the optimum zero-carbon energy source for large aircraft and is expected to be cheaper than SAF from the mid-2030s, although

2. Zero-carbon-emission aircraft could occupy the regional, narrowbody and midsize markets. FlyZero has produced concept designs for all three. The midsize could reach all destinations with one stop. If introduced in the 2030s it could start a process to reduce cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from aviation by 4 gigatons (Gt) by 2050 and 14 Gt by 2060.

3. Technology breakthroughs are required in hydrogen fuel systems, tanks, gas turbines, fuel cells, electrical propulsion systems, aerodynamic structures and thermal management. Further research in climate science is also fundamental. New global aircraft certification and health and safety

4. By leading, the UK could grow its market share in civil aerospace by 2050 from 12% to 19%, its GVA from £11bn to £36bn and aerospace jobs from 112,000 to 154,000. Failure to act could see market share reduce to 5%, with

**1.** Industry and government should expedite the entry into service of large zero-carbon-emission aircraft. Industry should focus on technology and government on infrastructure and regulation. Urgent investment in technology and green energy infrastructure is required. SAF should be

2. ATI and BEIS should create strategic mission-led R&D programmes to maximise UK capability and supply chain participation, and broker international collaboration to accelerate technology development.

3. Critical technologies must reach technology readiness level (TRL) 5-6 by 2025 to ensure that UK equipment is on the first liquid hydrogen-powered aircraft. Stimulating industry access to private

**4.** A cross-sector open-access hydrogen technology centre should be created to facilitate research into fundamental hydrogen behaviour,

**5.** Incentives, pricing, and taxation to encourage sustainable aviation should be considered, along with using aviation tax or levy receipts to support

# **THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

Offering independent, expert thought leadership is a critical part of the ATI remit. We seek to maximise the creative and technological potential of the sector - making connections, enabling information sharing, fostering collaboration, and developing the culture of innovation. Through our relationships with industry and government, we connect the ecosystem, shape ideas, influence support networks and catalyse action with strategic impact.

FlyZero has been a good example of this, as was the Institute's campaign to connect the UK's tooling community, beginning with a nationwide capability survey followed by an online event to discuss the current and future tooling requirements in the sector. The event successfully linked suppliers with end users, with one Tier 1 supplier saying: "Some of the gaps we felt the UK had might not be as big as previously thought." Delegates were also offered B2B meetings and an entry in a tooling directory, which is available on the ATI website and will be further developed in 2022.

Thought leadership continued with two new INSIGHT papers, setting out a sustainability framework to guide investment into R&T projects offering potential sustainability solutions for air transport and a deep dive into near net shape technologies. A joint report into the challenges and opportunities for airports to host and enable hydrogen aircraft was developed with Airports Council International. Electrification of aircraft was explored in a joint report with Warwick Manufacturing Group. These multidisciplinary themes have also been examined by FlyZero. Visit **www.ati.org.uk** to view and download our publications.



# ATI AND THE JET ZERO COUNCIL

The Jet Zero Council, announced by the UK government in June 2020, brings together ministers and industry leaders to identify the wider issues in zero-emission flight. Emma Gilthorpe (COO Heathrow Airport) was appointed chief executive of the Jet Zero Council in March 2021. The Council has two main delivery groups: one for sustainable aviation fuels (SAF); and one for zero-emission aircraft. The ATI's CEO Gary Elliott is a Council member and leads the direction on zero-emission aircraft. The Jet Zero Council allows senior aviation stakeholders in both government and industry to identify and discuss whole-system developments (including in aircraft, airports, fuel supplies, and air traffic) needed for zero-emission flight. Its early focus has been on the underpinning policies required to establish SAF manufacture and usage in the UK; and it is starting to consider issues around hydrogen infrastructure.

# **FUNDING TO 2031 AND BEYOND**

As the ATI has shown since 2013, the UK aviation industry can thrive with consistent government/industry investment, and the Institute recognises the importance of participating in periodic reviews of its purpose and expenditure.

expenditure. The Institute showed that fully enabling the potential of the UK could increase aerospace's gross value added to Aerospace in the UK employs 265,000 staff (both directly and indirectly) and generates annual revenues of £25bn, virtually all of which is exported. Key regional centres include those in North Wales, Bristol, Derby, Belfast, East Lancashire and Ayrshire. UK leadership could accelerate global adoption of zero-carbon aircraft by driving progress in critical technologies, with UK technology capable of delivering up to 18% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> savings possible in civil aviation.

In its 2021 spending review submission the ATI argued that while flight decarbonisation is a global challenge, it represents a significant opportunity for the UK's academic, research and industrial base. The ATI was able to show an appetite amongst its partners to co-invest up to £650m per year in programmes focused on new forms of propulsion; In its 2021 spending review submission the ATI argued The UK government has indicated that it will extend funding for the Institute from 2026 to 2031. It has also awarded £685m to the ATI Programme from 2022 to 2024. This is a welcome development for this long-term sector.

# **TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY**

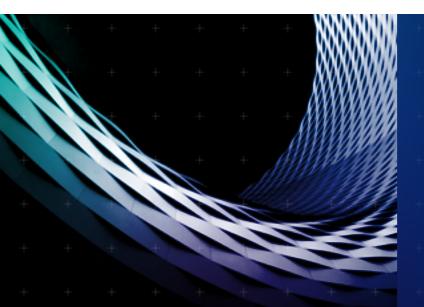
The ATI will publish a new technology strategy in 2022 Destination Zero, superseding Accelerating Ambition published in 2019. Aerospace is at a pivotal moment. There is a mounting public consensus on the need for urgent action to The ATI will publish a new technology strategy in 2022 and adoption rates; and on the consequential ATI Programme investment priorities. It will set the path towards achieving net zero carbon emissions for commercial aircraft by 2050 and positioning the UK as a leader in sustainable design, manufacture, assembly, and adoption rates; and on the consequential ATI Programme investment priorities. It will set the path towards achieving net zero carbon emissions for commercial aircraft by 2050 and positioning the UK as a leader in sustainable design, manufacture, assembly, and operations of future aircraft.

Aerospace is at a pivotal moment. There is a mounting public consensus on the need for urgent action to mitigate carbon emissions and other climate-related harms. In 2019 the UK became the first major economy to sign into legislation a target for net zero emissions by 2050. Meanwhile, the sector is waiting to see how international travel is affected in the aftermath of Covid-19. Moreover, the industry is experiencing a period of disruptive innovation, with advances in engineering technologies and techniques opening the sector up to new opportunities and a new generation of start-ups.

The new ATI strategy will offer technical direction for the challenges facing aerospace if it is to meet the 2050 target; on likely market technology evolution more efficient aircraft design; and more fuel-efficient systems. Subsequent industrialisation would increase this level of private investment by a factor of 10.

A broad approach to innovation will be necessary. Whilst more investment must go towards zero-carbonemission technologies, maintaining progress on ultraefficient aircraft technologies is also vital. And to succeed in both, UK aerospace will need to be at the forefront of a broad range of crosscutting enabling technologies. The strategy will urge high ambition in pursuing innovation in aerospace and make the case for maximising the potential of the sector by embracing collaboration across the aviation ecosystem and through cross-sector partnerships.

# THE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME



The heart of the ATI is its technology programme. Funding is delivered through several streams designed for different size organisations and total grant funding amounts. Funding is also available for international collaboration and capital investment.

Progress during the year in projects covering propulsion and power, systems, aerostructures and vehicles is set out over the next few pages. Investment in key UK infrastructure is described on pages 16-17.

# STATISTICS YEAR ON YEAR

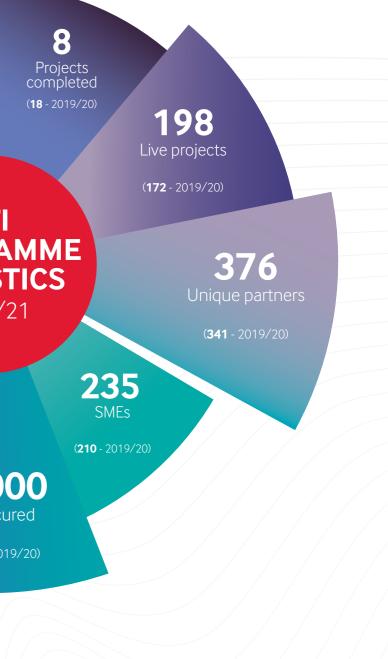
The 2020/21 programme invested £300m (£150m each contributed by government and industry) bringing the total invested to date to £3.2bn. Twenty-seven projects went to contract in the year, increasing the total number of live projects to 198.

The ATI now has 376 unique partners, with 25 SMEs joining in 2020/21. Over 60% of partners are now SMEs. All projects are collaborative, with many having three or more partners. Many also include academic or Catapult Centre partners. The Programme can show that it secures jobs across the UK aerospace supply chain; spreads capability throughout the sector; and generates valuable technology spillovers that benefit the wider economy.

£154m UK Gov contribution (**£105m** - 2019/20) £1.6bn Total UK Gov contribution (**£1.4bn** - 2019/20) **ATI PROGRAMME** £3.2bn **STATISTICS** 2020/21 (**£2.8bn** - 2019/20) £129m (**£79m** - 2019/20) 81,000 Jobs secured (**71,000** - 2019/20)

## Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI) Programme £3.9 billion to 2026

ATI strategic programme	R&D funding for smaller business	NATEP	International bilateral funding calls	ATI Boeing Accelerator
Key facts	Key facts	Key facts	Key facts	Key facts
Total grant funding: <b>£1.9bn</b>	Total grant funding: <b>up to £20m</b>	Total grant funding: <b>£13.7m</b>	Total grant funding: up to £2.25m	£100k equity investment for
Annual budget: <b>£150m</b>	2019 call grant: <b>£8m</b>	Current programme: <b>£15m</b>	UK-Sweden bilateral funding call launched	<b>start-ups</b> 3 month programme
Project grant (avg): <b>£5.1m</b>	Project grant: <b>£250-750k</b>	Project grant: <b>up to £150k</b>	in April 2020	to support innovation in technologies for
Project duration (avg): <b>3 yrs</b>	Project duration: <b>1-3 yrs</b>	Project duration: <b>up to 18 months</b>		industry 4.0 for the UK's aerospace ecosystem
TRL 3-6	TRL 2-6	TRL 4-6	TRL 4-6	



KEY:

INDUSTRY

ACADEMIA

**RTO/CATAPULT** 

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# ATI INVESTING IN UK TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

#### Supply Chain Manufacturing Centre (SCENIC) - £5.0m

Investment in a range of manufacturing research capital aims to increase the competitiveness of the UK supply chain for aerospace metal structural components. Located in an open access technology factory at the Northern Ireland Technology Centre (NITC), it will enable increased R&D by UK industry, particularly SMEs.



## 3 MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (MTC)

## Aerospace Research Centre (ARC) - £15m

A collaborative environment focused on R&D of leading-edge aerospace technologies for the future. The facility enables the development of new full-scale manufacturing systems.

## National Centre for Additive Manufacturing (NCAM) - £4.2m

Manufacturing, post-processing and digital facilities help de-risk the adoption of additive manufacturing and accelerate its uptake.

#### Digital Reconfigurable Additive Manufacturing Facilities for Aerospace (DRAMA) - £11.6m (ISCF)

A new metal powder bed facility and a range of assets have been developed to support UK supply chain companies in their adoption of AM.

## 6 GKN AEROSPACE

#### Electron Beam Melting Development Cell (Cell-EBM) - £1.9m

An electron beam melting (EBM) development cell provides an R&D environment for testing manufacturing processes.

## Global Technology Centre (GTC) - £32m

This facility helps to bridge the gap between initial research and competitive manufacture, providing a collaborative working environment to deliver accelerated technology to market.

## ADVANCED FORMING RESEARCH CENTRE (AFRC)

#### High Temperature Hydraulic Forge (HIVES) - £6.6m

HIVES is part of a wider investment into the FutureForge project that will transform one of the manufacturing sector's most important supply chains. FutureForge is jointly funded by the ATI, Scottish Enterprise, and the AFRC's High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Catapult funding.



## Gear & Actuation Manufacturing Facility - £2.7m (ISCF)

Boeing UK's first manufacturing site in Europe facilitates the development of manufacturing equipment for gear and actuator components for commercial aircraft.

## 5 AIRBUS UK

#### Aerospace Integrated Research and Test Centre (AIRTeC) - £19.1m

This advanced testing centre for large structural assemblies is central to the Wing of Tomorrow programme which is exploring the best materials, manufacturing and assembly techniques to help deliver more sustainable aircraft.

## 8 UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## Thermofluids Laboratory Upgrade (Osney) - £6.1m (ISCF)

Upgrading these facilities will enhance research into cooling performance and hot stage technologies essential for the operation of high-pressure turbine stages of large civil engines and improve instrumentation and manufacturing capabilities.



Proving Advanced Engine Concepts (PACE) - £6.3m

Project PACE supports X-ray capability and tooling in Rolls-Royce's Testbed 80 to validate the next generation of large diameter, geared architecture engines. Rolls-Royce will deliver key capabilities into their indoor test bed facilities in Derby, including X-ray, image analysis and tooling for engine assembly.



## NATIONAL COMPOSITES CENTRE (NCC)

Innovation Capabilities (iCAP) - £36.7m

iCAP is a suite of new technologies for the design and processing of composite materials from 1mm to 5000mm wide – by far the greatest range in the world.



## **9** ADVANCED MANUFACTURING RESEARCH CENTRE (AMRC)

## Large Scale Titanium Casting Facility & Ceramic Shell Facility - £15.4m

A large-scale furnace can produce titanium parts up to 500kg and ceramic shell moulding facilities will produce large precision castings.

### Advanced Fast Make Casting Facility (CastFast) - £4.1m

These facilities will research the use of additive layer technologies with investment casting for rapid production of aerostructures. This will enable components to be produced at lower cost, with shorter lead times, at higher quality and more sustainably.

#### Flexible Robotic Machining (FRoMHAA) – £0.5m

This aims to give UK aerospace unique capability in high accuracy robotic machining by combining an existing accurate robotic solution with world-leading expertise in CNC machine tool dynamics.

#### Disruptive Textile Technology for Aerospace Applications (PERFORM) - £3.3m (ISCF)

Supporting the work of AMRC Composites Centre, state-of-the-art equipment for composite preforming using disruptive textile technology will be used to develop solutions for joining, impregnation and process automation.

### Product & Process Verification Centre of Excellence (PPV) - £3.5m

PPV forms a major part of the AMRC Cymru facility at Broughton. It targets innovations in data acquisition, visualisation and processing.



## Open Architecture Additive Manufacturing (OAAM) - £6.5m (ISCF)

Three large scale and scalable platforms will enable aerospace manufacturers to develop and demonstrate advanced AM concepts in a collaborative environment.

## 16 IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

#### National Wind Tunnel Facility (NWTF) - £2.6m

A collaboration across several UK universities to build intellectual capability around the use and exploitation of wind tunnels to support leading-edge research across multiple sectors. The investment has been used to develop the capabilities of 17 wind tunnels and open them to external users.



# **PROPULSION & POWER**

Propulsion and power represents around half the value of the ATI's R&D portfolio. It is advancing major efficiency gains in gas turbines and leading breakthroughs in electric and hydrogen-powered flight. Around 90 organisations are involved in power and propulsion projects, including 35 SMEs, six research and Catapult organisations and 17 in academia.



ZeroAvia's Hyflyer project aircraft made its first flight at Cranfield in June 2021, followed by a world-first hydrogen-powered flight in August. The project has developed a novel hydrogen powertrain using batteries, hydrogen fuel cells, electric motors and gas storage. Further developments will support scale-up to larger aircraft, with HyFlyer II due to refit a 19seat aircraft with a 600kW powertrain and carry out a zero-carbon flight of 300 nautical miles. The project creates a unique UK supply chain for future aviation with ZeroAvia (powertrain); Aeristech (air compression); and the European Marine Energy Centre in Scotland (green hydrogen and fuelling systems design). The ACCEL project's 'Spirit of Innovation' aircraft also completed its first flight from Boscombe Down in September 2021 and became the world's fastest all-electric vehicle (see case study below).

ZeroAvia's HvFlver II proiect

Rolls-Royce's UltraFan® demonstrator remains a key focus. It is the world's largest aero engine with potential to deliver a 25% fuel efficiency improvement. This project is now well advanced with many individual elements completed, and large-scale demonstrations begun. 2020/21 saw four further UltraFan® projects conclude, delivering ground-breaking composite fan cases, core engine structures, weight optimisation, and air and oil systems. The demonstrator build phase has launched and the first engine test is scheduled in 2022.

Rolls-Royce's Testbed 80, a major piece of research infrastructure, was opened in May 2021. It is the world's largest and smartest indoor aerospace testbed, and will support many ATI-supported projects, as well as utilising the **PACE** project, using advanced x-ray technology to see into engines while running.

Other projects have focused on future product capability and advanced disruptive tools and methods. COLIBRI (Collaboration Across Business Boundaries) will exploit artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve and speed up collaborative design. Dowty Propellers' Digital Propulsion project (**DigiProp**) has successfully demonstrated reductions in noise and weight, enhancing passenger experience and saving fuel, whilst the collaborative Meggitt-led UHBR Thermals project



has achieved a breakthrough in heat management performance, a key enabler for ultra-high bypass ratio engines.

Important new projects launched in 2020/21 include GKN's H2GEAR, to develop a cryogenic hydrogen-powered electrical and propulsion system. Smart venting to help avoid contrail formation will also be explored. H2GEAR technology will be integrated into aircraft carrying up to 100 passengers and enable zero-carbon-emission auxiliary power units in large transportation aircraft. Blue Bear's InCEPTion project will develop a safe, scalable, modular, power-dense, and quiet all-electric propulsion module combining batteries and fuel cells. This will accelerate the electrification of aircraft carrying up to 30 passengers.

## Rolls-Royce has also initiated a series of projects including:

- **REINSTATE** involves eight partners to develop a portfolio of sensing, inspection and repair techniques for aeroengines with application to other industrial sectors.
- LUCIA (Large UltraFan Composite Integrated Aerostructures) will push the boundaries of composite technology to unlock significant weight savings.
- FANTASIA (Future Noise Technologies and Systems Integration Analytics) will ensure that future engines achieve required noise levels. New techniques in engine design and testing will replace expensive existing methods and give early indications of design suitability.

# **CASE STUDY**

Project Acronym: ACCEL Proiect title:

Accelerating the Electrification of Flight

Project partners:

Cost:

Rolls-Royce (lead partner), YASA, Electroflight

£6.89m, 2018-2021



The ACCEL project aimed to design, build and flight test a high performance electric powertrain providing a unique and detailed understanding of the potential for electric flight and the propulsion systems and components involved. The 'Spirit of Innovation' aircraft completed its first flight from Boscombe Down in September 2021 and became the world's fastest all-electric vehicle when the world speed record attempt was certified in January 2022. It reached a top speed of 555.9 km/h (345.4 mph) over three kilometres, smashing the existing record by 213.04 km/h (132mph). It also achieved 532.1km/h (330 mph) over 15 kilometres - 292.8km/h (182 mph) faster than the previous record. Knowledge gained from the project will provide data and insight into future future electric power and propulsion systems and hybrid-electric commuter aircraft.

"ACCEL demonstrates that strategic investment in UK technology can achieve world-beating results. This achievement of Rolls-Royce, Electroflight and YASA will resonate for many years and inspire the next generation of aerospace engineers. ATI is proud to have played its part in that. Congratulations to the whole team."

- **CORDITE** will improve the aerodynamics of the core systems of ultra-high bypass ratio engines, reducing fuel burn and emissions.
- **COGS** will develop hybrid metallic composite aeroengine delivering significant weight reduction and transferability to other sectors.



UltraFan<sup>®</sup> power gearbox

– Gary Elliott, CEO, Aerospace Technology Institute

# **SYSTEMS**

Extending the electrification of aircraft systems is a key focus along with further developments in undercarriages, fuel systems, and flight systems in the cockpit. Around 169 organisations are active in systems projects, including 20 in academia, seven research or Catapult organisations and 84 SMEs, boosting the UK's supply chain.

SAFRAN's **MEGCAP** project has improved thermal management of aircraft starter-generator electrical machines (see case study) while SMPP (Scaleable Multi-Platform Power Systems) is developing technologies for power generation, distribution and conversion to support more electric aircraft.

## Aerospace Electrification: Accelerating the Opportunities.

The ATI and Warwick Manufacturing Group published a joint report detailing the challenges that must be addressed in the journey to electrifying aerospace. Three critical challenges were examined: energy storage, machines and drives, and systems integration. High-level recommendations for each area were produced, setting a baseline for future industry collaboration, and defining the opportunity for the UK supply chain. View or download at www.ati.org.uk.



SAFRAN's Large Landing Gear of the Future project has continued to improve the design, manufacturing operation and cost of ownership of landing gear systems.

Airbus's **FAST** (Fuel Architecture and Systems Technology) project has developed fuel subsystem technologies capable of integrating with next-generation wings.

Air quality sensors and air management technology developed through Honeywell's **U-CAIR** project have improved cabin air quality and reduced operational costs through increased fuel economy.

The GE-led **Open Flight Deck** project has built on previous work to develop new aids to optimise flight crew workload and improve situational awareness to extend safe operations.



# **CASE STUDY**

## Project Acronym: MEGCAP

## Project title:

More Electric Generation & Controls for Aircraft Power

#### **Project partners:**

Cost:

Safran Electrical & Power. **Barden Corporation, MEP** Ltd, MTD, 3T Additive Manufacturing Ltd, 3D Systems Europe Ltd

## £8.31m. 2017-2021



additive manufacture.

The partners bring different strengths including thermoplastic moulding and prismatic machining. Copper alloys for additive manufacturing improve the power generation of the electrical motors. Lightweighting significantly speeds up production line processes. These skills and strengths are combined to produce niche components for the aerospace market. The result is improved electrical power generation for propulsion and other energy applications.

"The project has allowed us to develop relationships with the other partners. Improving cross-collaboration allows us to solve each other's problems as well as opening markets to us within the greater SAFRAN group and potentially export abroad."

## New Systems projects begun in 2020/21:

- and a SME Digital Handbook.

Recognising the demand for more capable electrical power systems, **MEGCAP** aims to improve aircraft starter-generator capability with high reliability, greater efficiency and low-cost manufacturing.

– Phillip Davis, Project Manager for MEGCAP, MEP

• The **CONVERGENCE** project led by Moog delivers a structured approach to implementing a digital thread through the manufacturing process, increasing efficiency, capacity and helping the UK to secure future high-value work. The results will be disseminated through a Smart Factory Learning Centre

• ECLAIR (Enabling CO<sub>2</sub> reductions by better bLeed AIR management), led by Honeywell, will advance cabin air management technology and provide the market with next-generation environmental control systems.

Advanced eVTOL diagnostic device led by Vertical Aerospace will produce a prototype smart-diagnostic charge device for eVTOL aircraft batteries. Using new electro-chemical methods, it will deliver improved in-flight safety and performance and assist in future certification of battery systems.

## **AEROSTRUCTURES**

Outstanding progress was made on the UK's structures capabilities in 2020/21. The first **Wing of Tomorrow** fullsize demonstrator was assembled at AMRC Cymru, delivered by the Catapult network and supply chain and included delivery of significant elements by key partners Airbus, the National Composites Centre, GKN Aerospace and Spirit AeroSystems. This demonstrated the feasibility of producing optimised structures and manufacturing single aisle wings at high rate.

The ATI engaged with the High Value Manufacturing Catapult to initiate "sprint" projects focused on controlling manufacturing costs. Subjects included SAF, one-way assembly, ceramic composites, hybrid direct energy deposition additive manufacturing and casting. Projects worth £4.3m were approved with participation from 48 organisations across industry, academia and the catapult network.

In conjunction with the FlyZero project, ATI's structures team launched a working group on hydrogen storage tanks, pulling experts together from the aerospace and space industries, RTOs, and the Health and Safety Executive. The group is establishing the requirements for these future systems to help position the UK as a leader in their design, development, and manufacture.

The ATI led a working group focused on UK tooling capability to conduct a survey of the industry, deliver a webinar and publish a directory, which is available on the ATI website.

# New projects in metallics, additive manufacturing and high-rate composite manufacturing include:

- The OAAM (Open Architecture Additive Manufacturing) project scales up three directed energy deposition additive manufacturing (AM) technologies. The systems and state-of-the-art research facilities to be developed by the project will offer a fully quantifiable process and access to a simplified, lower risk route to industrialisation.
- ASCEND (Aerospace and Automotive Supply Chain Enabled Development) is an industry-led cross-sector consortium focuses on accelerating UK composites capability for single aisle, business jets and future mobility markets (including electric and hybrid propulsion aircraft).
- MASTER (Metallic Aerospace Structures Technologies for Eco-social Returns) will eliminate tens of thousands of fasteners from aircraft structures and improve sustainability analysis in technology decision-making.



## **CASE STUDY**

## Project Acronym:

## MASCoTS

## Project title:

Manufacturing and Advanced Simulation of Rapid Tow Shearing

#### Project partners:

iCOMAT, MSC Software, Daptablade, TWI Cost: £886k, 2020-2022

This project will develop the software and machinery required to enable composite designs with curved fibre paths, potentially providing a step change in lightweighting, performance and manufacturing productivity for the next generation of aerostructures.

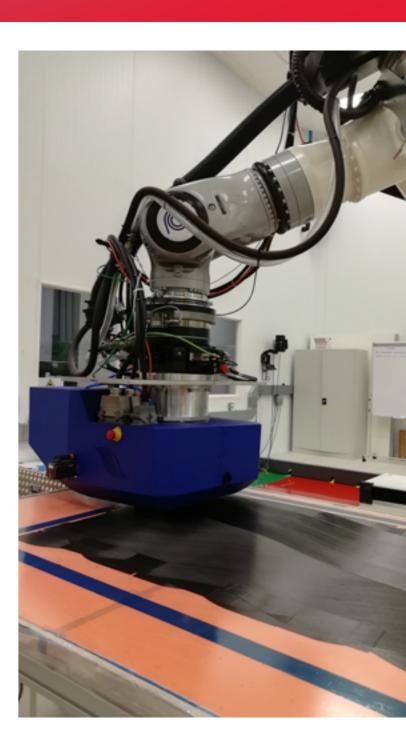
Developing an advanced prototype of iCOMAT's Rapid Tow Shearing (RTS) head will minimise manufacturing defects found in traditional composites manufacturing methods. The project will culminate in the manufacture and structural test of a wing-box demonstrator. The design will showcase the performance benefits of fibre steering with RTS, including weight saving, more efficient use of materials and aeroelastic tailoring, improving efficiency in flight.

"We are on a mission to unlock the performance of composites for the aerospace sector, enabling products which are lighter and perform better compared to what is possible today."

- Evangelos Zympeloudis, iCOMAT CEO



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# **VEHICLES**

The ATI's whole aircraft capability enables the UK to understand how individual technologies can be integrated into a vehicle and what benefits they offer at aircraft level. The full potential of new technologies will only be realised through early consideration of their impact at the aircraft level, and subsequent optimisation across systems and sub-systems.

The ATI's online Fixed Trade Calculator tool was updated for 2015 aircraft standards. It enables basic technology comparisons in terms of fuel burn, operating cost and CO<sub>2</sub> impact and is provided free-to-use for the UK aerospace community.

The ATI continues to grow its aircraft modelling capability; the Single-Aisle Future Aircraft Model (SAFAM) has been further developed to incorporate an updated engine and forms a reference 2030s aircraft platform. A Widebody Future Aircraft Model (WiFAM) is also currently being finalised. This work supports the assessment of future technology

The ATI's online Fixed Trade Calculator tool was updated for 2015 aircraft standards. It enables basic technology comparisons in terms of fuel burn, operating cost and CO<sub>2</sub> impact and is provided free-to-use for the UK Aerospace community. www.ati.org.uk/resources/tools



opportunities and sustainability modelling. A subregional turboprop aircraft model has been developed for evaluating concepts which incorporate electrified propulsion and their market opportunities.

The ATI's Whole Aircraft team played a leading role in the creation of FlyZero and support the project team's aircraft modelling activities. The ATI will build on these capabilities to enable the continued independent evaluation of future technology, commercial and sustainability opportunities for increasingly complex aircraft integration challenges and market scenarios.

# **CASE STUDY**

Project Acronym:		
IDP		
Project title:		
Initial Demonstration Platforms		
Project partners:		
Vertical Aerospace Group		
Cost:		
£23.76m, 2020-2022		

"The IDP project is an exciting opportunity for Vertical to investigate and overcome many of the fundamental challenges present in this new class of electric aircraft. The project is creating key knowledge and capabilities which will be essential for us as we continue to develop and mature our aviation technologies."

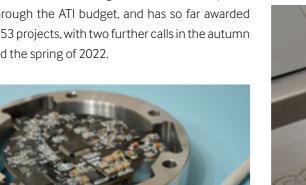


Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft are a new and emerging segment within the aerospace industry. The IDP project will allow Vertical Aerospace to explore, develop, and mature a range of sustainable aviation technologies and demonstrate them using a variety of platforms including part scale rigs and wind tunnels, full-scale test rigs, and flight testing of its initial VX4 demonstrator eVTOL aircraft.

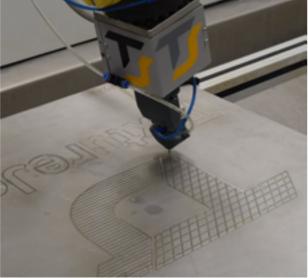
# NATEP

Cabin Interior Monument Load Cell

NATEP targets companies inexperienced at R&D. It funds small projects and provides in-kind support to set up and run them. It also engages potential customers (or end users) interested in exploiting the resulting technology. Demand continues to rise for NATEP's unique blend of support. Following two successful phases of NATEP, a third phase was launched in August 2019 with £15m public support through the ATI budget, and has so far awarded funding to 53 projects, with two further calls in the autumn of 2021 and the spring of 2022.



Programme benefits include enhanced visibility to potential customers through events such as the Boeing Innovation Forum in September 2021, where nearly one third of invited companies were NATEP participants. Case studies and project videos are available at **www.natep.org.uk**.



STREAM - Surface Texture Re-tooling for Efficient Aerospace Manufacturing

"I am delighted that the value-add delivered by the NATEP team continues to support our beneficiaries to form, deliver and disseminate their technologies. NATEP's unique blend of funding and mentoring is critical to the success of the projects and we are very pleased to see continued commitment from the UK government in supporting the aerospace supply chain in the UK. NATEP is an established part of the ATI portfolio and a key route for directing R&D funding to smaller businesses, who may not be familiar with government funding or R&D project delivery."



Harriet Wollerton, Programme Director, NATEP

# **INTERNATIONAL**

The ATI champions UK interests in aerospace development, but in a global industry the UK must cooperate with international partners. Collaboration with overseas partners can close technology gaps; enable research to be scaled up; and open access to overseas supply chains. The Institute remains engaged at a global level to identify where the UK needs further investment to remain competitive and entrench UK leadership in key technologies.

There is significant interest from the sector in remaining active in collaborative EU research and development. In anticipation that the UK that the UK will participate as an associated country in Horizon Europe, the Institute and ADS held a well-attended information day. We will look to hold further information days, as well as providing the sector with EU updates via ATI



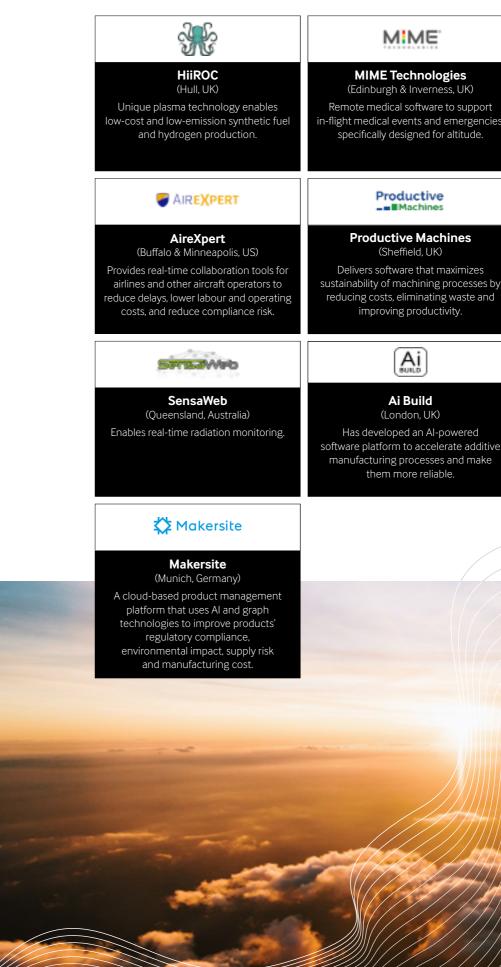
newsletters, regional events and the International Advisory Group.

The Institute continues to have positive conversations with countries including Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden on the possibility of future joint funding.

We have increased cooperation with the EU's new partnership for Clean Aviation and increased our level of information sharing with NASA. This has been particularly valuable for FlyZero, allowing technologists to compare and contrast approaches concerning net zero emissions technologies.

The ATI continues to represent the interests of the UK aerospace sector on key international and European groups and committees.

# **COHORT 2**



# ATI Boeing Accelerator

The ATI Boeing Accelerator has supported innovative start-ups to break into the UK's aerospace ecosystem, bolstering growth and competitiveness. The second cohort of 10 companies completed the programme successfully between January and March 2021.

This year's focus was on sustainability with capabilities ranging from novel production of hydrogen to reducing emissions using behavioural science-based software for pilots. The participants graduating from the programme benefitted from:

- £100,000 equity investment from The Boeing Company
- First-hand access to strategists, technical experts from the ATI, Boeing, GKN Aerospace and Rolls-Royce
- Mentoring from a global network of experienced entrepreneurs, mentors and investors
- Access and introductions to a network of angel investors, venture capital firms and the wider aerospace industry.

This year's programme took place virtually and founders from across the world joined the interactive sessions through internet-based meetings.

## APPLICANTS



female and minority



first-time founders





of the start-ups are sustainability-based



focused on energy





focused on Industry 4.0



continents – Europe, North America and Australia

ethnic-founded

from outside the aerospace industry



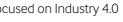
re-applicants













## ·III datch

## Datch

(San Francisco, US)

An intelligent voice AI for industry, enabling frontline workers to capture system information using voice in real time and intelligently integrating into company databases.

## C phycobloom

Phycobloom (London, UK)

Using synthetic biology to force algae to secrete oil, thus reducing the cost of biofuels.

## signol

**Signol** (London, UK)

The world's first software using behavioural science to reduce airlines' greenhouse gas emissions.

# GLOSSARY

ACARE	Advisory Council for Aviation Research and Innovation in Europe
ACCEL	ATI-supported project: Accelerating the Electrification of Flight
ADS	Trade association for UK aerospace, defence, security and space
AGP	Aerospace Growth Partnership
AIRTeC	ATI-supported project: Aerospace Integrated Research and Test Centre
AM	Additive manufacturing
AMRC	Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre
ARA	Aircraft Research Association
ARC	ATI-supported project: Aerospace Research Centre
ARCADE	ATI-supported project: Aerodynamic Research Testing Capability & Data Enhancement
ASCEND	ATI-supported project: Aerospace and Automotive Supply Chain Enabled Development
AWIC/AIRTeC	ATI-supported project: Advanced Wing Integration Centre/ Aerospace Integrated Research and Test Centre
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
CASTFAST	ATI-supported project: Advanced Fast Make Casting Facility
Cell-EBM	ATI-supported project: Electron Beam Melting Development Cell
CHASM	ATI-supported project: Capitalising Heuristic Advanced Sub-system Maturation
COAST	ATI-supported project: Critical Oil and Air System Technologies
COGS	ATI-supported project: COmposite Gears and Shafts
COLIBRI	ATI-supported project: Collaboration Across Business Boundaries
CONVERGENCE	ATI-supported project: Delivering increased efficiency through Industry 4.0 technologies
CORDITE	ATI-supported project: CORe Design Intelligent TEchnology
CRIAQ	Consortium for Research and Innovation in Aerospace in Quebec
DELICE	ATI-supported project: Design of Engineered Lightweight Innovative Casings for Engines
DfT	Department for Transport
DIT	Department for International Trade
DigiProp	ATI-supported project: Digital Propulsion
DRAMA	Digital Reconfigurable Additive Manufacturing Facilities for Aerospace
ECLAIR	ATI-supported project: Enabling CO $_{\rm 2}$ reductions by better bLeed AIR management
EDI	Equality, diversion and inclusion
FA3D2	ATI-supported project: Future Automated Aircraft Assembly Demonstrator
FANTASIA	ATI-supported project: Future Noise Technologies and Systems Integration Analytics
FAST	ATI-supported project: Fuel Architecture and Systems Technology
FRoMHAA	ATI-supported project: Flexible Robotic Machining
GARTEUR	Group for Aeronautical Research and Technology in Europe
GTC	GKN's Global Technology Centre in Bristol
H2GEAR	ATI-supported project: Hybrid Hydrogen & Electric Architecture
HIVES	ATI-supported project: High Temperature Hydraulic Forge
НVМС	High Value Manufacturing Catapult

HyFlyer	ATI-supported project
HyFlyer II	ATI-supported project
iCAP	ATI-supported project: Innovation Ca
IDP	ATI-supported project: Initial Demon
IFAR	International Forum for Aviation Res
INCEPTION	ATI-supported project: Integrated flig for electric aviation
ISCF	Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund
LUCIA	ATI-supported project: Large UltraFa
MASCOTS	ATI-supported project: Manufacturin
MASTER	ATI-supported project: Metallic Aeros
MAXIM	ATI-supported project: Multi Axial Info
MEGCAP	ATI-supported project: More Electric
мтс	Manufacturing Technology Centre
NATEP	National Aerospace Technology Expl
NCAM	ATI-supported project: National Cent
NCC	National Composites Centre
NCCAT	ATI-supported project: National Cent
NCPP	ATI-supported project: National Cent
OAAM	ATI-supported project: Open Archite
PACE	ATI-supported project: Proving Adva
PERFORM	ATI-supported project: Disruptive Te>
POSTIE	ATI-supported project: Physical Optir
PPV	ATI-supported project: Product & Pro
R&D	Research and development
R&T	Research and technology
REINSTATE	ATI-supported project: Repair, Enhan increased Availability and Through lif
RTS	Rapid tow shearing
SAF	Sustainable aviation fuel
SAFAM	Single-aisle future aircraft model
SCENIC	ATI-supported project: Supply Chain
SME	Small or medium-sized enterprise
SMPP	ATI-supported project: Scaleable Mu
TRL	Technology readiness level
UCAIR	ATI-supported project: UK ATI Cabin
UHBR	Ultra High Bypass Ratio
UHBR Thermals	ATI-supported project: Addressing oi
WIFAM	Widebody future aircraft model

Capabilities

nstration Platforms

search

ight Control, Energy storage and Propulsion Technologies

an Composite Integrated Aerostructures

ng and Advanced Simulation of Rapid Tow Shearing

ospace Structures Technologies for Eco-social Returns

fusion Materials

c Generation & Controls for Aircraft Power

ploitation Programme

ntre for Additive Manufacturing

ntre for Combustion and Aerothermal Technology

ntre in Propulsion and Power

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n Manufacturing Centre

ulti-Platform Power Systems

n Air

oil heat management

