

Industry Profile

- The UK's aircraft and aerospace industry is the second largest in the world and a significant driver of regional and national economic growth and productivity
- The UK based industry employs a highly skilled workforce of almost 115,000 people. It is estimated that a further 140,000 people are indirectly supported by the aerospace industry
- In 2004, UK aerospace turnover increased by 1.6% in real terms to £17.71bn, this increase was achieved through rising export orders. Civil aerospace revenue increased for the first time since 2001, rising to £8.69bn, defence exports increased by 8.9% to £4.34bn
- Amicus represents almost 63,000 members in the Aerospace and Shipbuilding/Repair industries

Current Issues and Activities

- In March 2006, BAE Systems announced it was selling its 20% stake in Airbus and entered into negotiations with EADS. Whilst Amicus sees no threat to the UK's position as a Centre of Excellence for wings and fuel systems, Amicus has registered a concern for the long-term future investment in the industry
- The Government's Defence Industrial Strategy was published in December 2005. It is intended to develop a clearer joint understanding across Government, industry and the unions regarding the technologies and capabilities that are essential to retain on shore, and to ensure that the skills and expertise necessary for these strategic capabilities are protected.
- Amicus members and their employers in the industry have flagged up concerns that the industry is facing a demographic challenge regarding skills. The average age of the workforce is concentrated due to consecutive rounds of redundancies and restructuring. The Amicus view is that if we are to maintain our capability in defence manufacturing this skills gap must be addressed now.
- Lord Drayson, Minister for Defence Procurement has announced a groundbreaking partnership agreement between AgustaWestland and the MOD. The deal highlights a £1 billion contract with AgustaWestland to produce the new 'Future Lynx' helicopters.
- The Amicus National Industrial Committee has produced a Charter for Aerospace workers. The Charter lays out Amicus demands for workers in the sector and will give a focus to our campaigning and political lobbying strategy.