The UK needs a replacement for the fifth generation fighter aircraft.

Unite members in defence aerospace are extremely concerned that the UK government is making the wrong decisions, however, and is opting out of developing a new generation of manned fighter aircraft.

Our competitors in the US and now Russia have recently announced that they will be developing a sixth generation fighter which will be manned.

Yet, the current Conservative government claims that there is no need for manned aircraft, that the future lies in unmanned fighters.

Unite believes that this is the wrong decision for the UK, the wrong decision for Europe and the wrong decision for the UK as a defence manufacturer.

We are calling upon the government to ensure that the UK is capable of manufacturing both manned and unmanned fighter aircraft. Unless we do so, we will not be competitive.

In the UK we have built and exported many iconic defence aircraft such as: Comet, Strikemaster, Lightning, Hawk, Harrier, Jaguar, Tornado, Typhoon.

Continued government support for this industry is critical in ensuring that the UK maintains its sovereign capability to design and build defence aircraft and to use them independently.

But, as experience shows, once this capability is lost it is extremely difficult to get back.

Tens of thousands of jobs, and our ability to stand on our own two feet to support our national defence services are at risk.

That’s why we are calling on the government to think again, to support a manned sixth generation aircraft.

We also urge it to work with the defence manufacturers to build a consortium capable of offering serious competition to our international competitors.

www.unitetheunion.org  @unitetheunion  unitetheunion1
Unite says that the case for sixth generation fighter aircraft is clear:

**It supports manufacturing & skilled jobs**

At BAE Systems Military Air and Information alone, some 13,000 highly skilled workers are employed with a further 37,000 jobs supported in the supply chain and wider community.

It is also vital that government support is secured for a major unmanned combat air vehicle development programme. This is central to enabling the UK industry to retain the necessary capability to sustain a long-term future.

Without the future additional work involved in a sixth fighter, this high end engineering capability will be lost.

**By building in Britain we benefit Britain**

Unite believes that UK citizens want UK air space to be defended by aircraft built in this country.

But without government support and a coordinated approach from industry, the UK would have to buy its entire fleet of aircraft off-the-shelf from abroad. This would mean UK taxpayers’ money being spent to employ people in other countries rather than to support highly skilled and well paid UK jobs as well as loss of tax revenue, GDP and wealth creation.

**It’s an investment in our young workers**

The defence aerospace industry in the UK supports many early careers programmes and employs hundreds of graduates and apprentices. BAE Systems alone employs over 550 early careers employees.

These young workers will end up in highly skilled jobs that enable the UK to produce the best defence aircraft in the world.

But they need government to invest in them with a new fighter aircraft.

Keep UK defence aerospace manufacturing competitive

Support Unite in the fight to ensure that the UK remains a major player in all future aircraft programmes (manned and unmanned).

Back us as we press for UK taxpayers’ money to be spent in this country to support skilled UK jobs for generations to come.

SUPPORT YOUR UNION
HELP US WIN THIS WORK FOR UK WORKERS

www.unitetheunion.org  @unitetheunion  unitetheunion1