

Powering innovation and growth with our SME partners

BAE SYSTEMS

SME action plan

BAE Systems UK plc¹ already partners with over 2,000 UK small and medium enterprises (SMEs), investing more than £900 million annually and supporting them through fair payment practices, mentoring and collaboration. Building on this foundation, we are strengthening our approach to create greater opportunities, reduce barriers and increase impact across the defence supply chain.

We are building a supply chain where SMEs can engage, grow and contribute to the resilient, innovative capability our future depends on.

Our priorities	How we're making progress
Lead: Leadership, governance and culture. Building an SME-friendly organisation.	• Track and increase spend with SMEs across our business. • Set and deliver clear SME growth priorities aligned to customer needs. • Report transparently on our SME commitments and progress. • Embed a 'think SME' culture.
Connect: Engagement, access and opportunity. Making it easier for SMEs to do business with us.	• Engage SMEs through regular events and meaningful dialogue. • Provide clear visibility of our priorities, opportunities and future demand. • Simplify onboarding and streamline processes. • Expand SME access to opportunities through targeted sourcing and partnerships. • Increase SME visibility across our supply chain. • Provide clear guidance to help SMEs do business with us. • Champion SMEs and promote their contribution across the Defence supply chain.
Grow: Capability building and growth. Helping SMEs develop, grow and succeed.	• Strengthen SME capability through targeted mentoring, development & support. • Provide access to programmes, expertise and strategic partnerships.
Deliver: Social value and collaborative impact. Creating greater value through SME participation.	• Increase awareness of social value opportunities for SMEs. • Support SMEs to deliver impactful social value initiatives. • Foster collaboration to create greater value.
Innovate: Innovation and future growth. Unlocking SME innovation and technology leadership.	• Provide platforms for SMEs to showcase innovation and capability. • Support the development and scale-up of SME innovation. • Connect SMEs to high-value R&D and collaboration opportunities.

¹Excluding BAE Systems Inc managed businesses in the UK.

Working alongside our UK Government customer to create a fair, accessible and supportive ecosystem that enables SMEs to engage, grow and deliver sustainable sovereign capability and social value.

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