



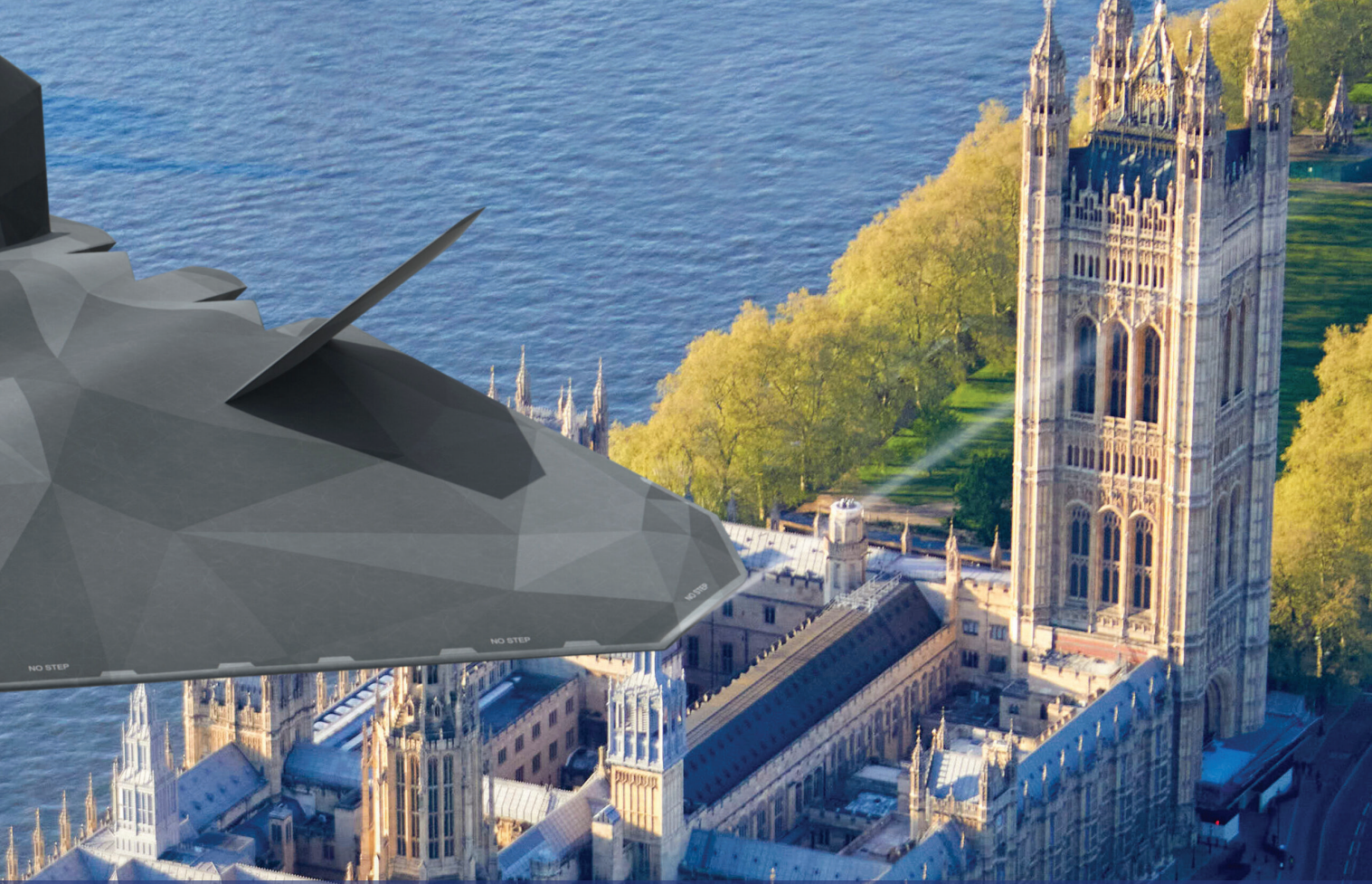
# GLOBAL COMBAT AIR PROGRAMME

Partnering internationally to deliver the future of combat air





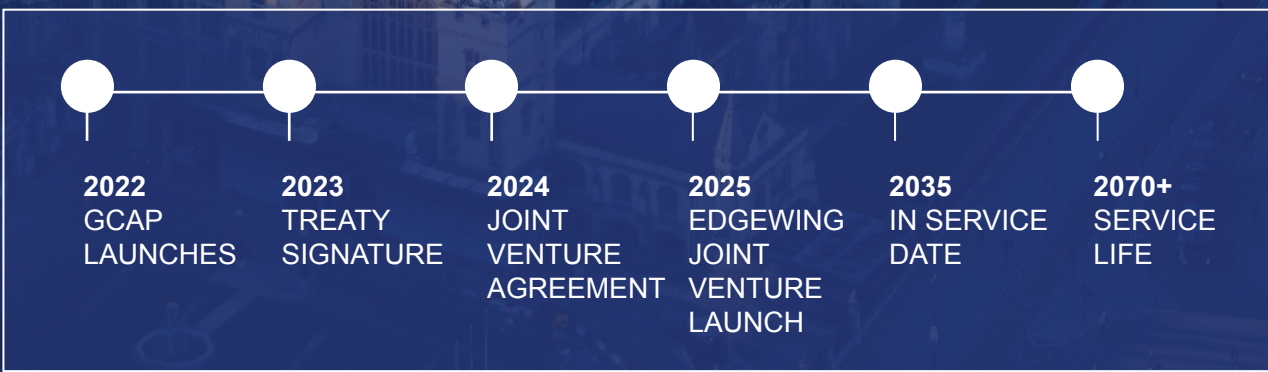
**The Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP) is a transformational partnership between the United Kingdom, Italy, and Japan to design, develop and deliver a next generation combat aircraft that is due to enter service in 2035.**



This strategically critical partnership brings together the three nations and their respective industries to collaborate on shared military and industrial ambitions to deliver one of the most advanced, interoperable, adaptable, and connected fighter jets in service globally.

GCAP has made rapid progress since being announced in December 2022, and in 2025, the industry partners launched Edgewing, a joint venture company to deliver the programme.

This partnership will foster innovation and technological advancements across all three nations, promoting significant economic growth, strengthening their industrial base, and enhancing security in both Europe and the Indo-Pacific.



The programme firmly positions the UK, Italy, and Japan as pioneers in the design, development and production of next generation combat air capability, and will see our collective technical and industrial expertise playing a central role in delivering the future of combat air.



## THE PROGRAMME WILL DELIVER



### Strategic and military objectives

GCAP is an important programme for the future of stability in the Euro Atlantic, Indo-Pacific, and wider global security. It will enhance military, security and defence cooperation, supporting national sovereignty and freedom of action, for generations to come.



### Next-generation technology

The programme will drive the creation of novel technologies including advanced stealth capabilities, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and integrated sensing and communications, operating as part of a system of systems across multiple domains.



### Partnership and collaboration

GCAP brings together the technological and industrial expertise of the three partner nations; leveraging the strengths of each country to produce a highly capable next generation fighter jet to secure control of the air. The collaboration will result in the sharing of expertise, advanced design, development and manufacturing techniques, and groundbreaking technologies. The UK, Italy, and Japan are open to working with other nations through this programme, while supporting the objectives of the core partners and delivering a successful programme.



### Economic and industrial benefits

Headquartered in the UK with operations and joint teams working in each of the partner nations, this programme is designed to boost the world-leading industrial capabilities in all three partner nations by generating intellectual property, creating highly skilled jobs, and stimulating economic growth.

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

The GCAP International Government Organisation (GIGO) was established in 2024 to oversee delivery of the programme on behalf of the UK, Japan, and Italy. The GIGO is made up of a Steering Committee (SC) - comprised of national representatives - which provides overall direction; and the GCAP Agency, which assumes the management, coordination and execution of all phases of GCAP as directed by the SC. The GIGO acts as the governmental-level authority coordinating programme timelines, requirements and strategic objectives among the three partner nations, working closely with Edgewing.





## INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS

In December 2024, BAE Systems (UK), Leonardo (Italy), and Japan Aircraft Industrial Enhancement Co. Ltd. (JAIEC) reached a landmark agreement to establish a new joint venture for GCAP. This agreement built on the strong trilateral government, defence, and industrial cooperation between the UK, Italy and Japan on GCAP since it was established in December 2022.

In June 2025, the partners announced the creation of Edgewing, the new joint venture company, with each partner holding a 33.3% shareholding. Edgewing brings together the combined strengths and expertise of three leading companies and its foundation marks a pivotal moment for the international aerospace and defence industry.

Edgewing will be responsible for the design and development of the next generation aircraft and will remain the design authority for the aircraft throughout its lifespan.

### Sub systems

At the same time, Leonardo (in the UK and Italy), Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (Japan), and ELT Group (Italy) are developing fully integrated sensing and non-kinetic effects and integrated communications systems for GCAP.

This will make the aircraft into a sensor powerhouse, gaining critical advantages from its ability to collect and fuse data and present key and actionable information to the pilot.


Secure integrated communications will enable the aircraft to operate as a network across formations of crewed and uncrewed aircraft, as part of a nation's wider system of systems. The aircraft will be an information contributor as well as an information user, sharing its picture of the battlespace.


Rolls-Royce (UK), IHI (Japan), and Avio Aero (Italy) are working together to design and develop the propulsion systems for the next generation performance and power generation, including working jointly on an engine demonstrator.

Industry partners continue to work with the programme's industrial leaders to ensure seamless integration of capabilities and optimisation of sovereign weapons effectiveness.

By fostering close collaboration between industries and governments, GCAP is a cornerstone of strategic defence and security partnerships and will deliver the capability to defeat the future threats of 2040+.



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