

Dual Use Technology Exploitation (DUTE) Cluster

The Dual Use Technology Exploitation (DUTE) Cluster is a £10m programme co-funded by industry and government which brings together SMEs, Suppliers, RTOs, Primes and Academics to address historic declines in defence spending. The programme was established in 2015 as an output of the Defence Growth Partnership's Value Chain Competitiveness Team which is chaired by Steve Fitz-Gerald; CEO of lead partner Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group. DUTE enables technology transfer between the defence and civil sectors (and vice versa) and is expected to support the creation and safeguarding of more than 330 jobs across 15 partners up to 2019.

Advanced Composites for Cross-Sector Exploitation (ACCSE) is a project led by Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group with partners TWI and Haydale Composite Solutions. ACCSE is exploiting defence and aerospace advanced structural composites through the collaborative development of Advanced Fibre Placement manufacturing processes and the migration of aerospace standards and process rigor (NADCAP AC7118) into the rail sector, setting the standard for lightweight future rail structures.

Dual Use Advanced Lightweight Materials for Electric Vehicle Optimised Structures (DUALMAT EVOS) is a project led by Saitetta Group with partners KS Composites and SHD Composites which leverages defence technologies to deliver innovative Electric Vehicle (EV) modules. In particular, KS and SHD are developing a rapid cure, flame retardant, non-conductive, monolithic structural composite energy storage system that meets the cost and volume requirements of the civilian markets.

LightArmour is a project led by NetComposites with partners Cranfield University, Xeracarb, Airbus Helicopters, C-Tech Innovations, Sheffield Hallam University and Pro2Pro. LightArmour brings together innovative composites together with novel RF moulding techniques to create an advanced, lightweight, formable armour system with cross-sector applicability. Design requirements for both body armour and aerospace armour applications are being addressed, the latter being provided by partner Airbus Helicopters for use on their light civilian helicopter products.

For more information please visit the DUTE website – dute.co.uk