

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

WINNER: GKN Aerospace: Global Technology Centre Bristol

GKN Aerospace's UK Global Technology Centre (GTC), based in Filton, Bristol, is a world-class 10,000m² research and development facility focused on advancing next-generation aerospace technologies and manufacturing processes. One of GKN Aerospace's four Global Technology Centres, it employs around 300 engineers and researchers and operates as an open-access collaborative hub, bringing together industry, academia, research organisations, suppliers, SMEs and start-ups.

The GTC places exceptional emphasis on developing its people and creating opportunities for employees at every stage of their careers. New starters receive comprehensive induction training covering company values, health and safety, compliance, quality, security and ways of working, alongside opportunities to build their understanding of aerospace through additional technical familiarisation. Employee development is supported through structured Personal Development Plans, regular one-to-one meetings and formal six-monthly reviews. Staff can access an extensive range of technical and professional training, from specialist composites courses and project management qualifications to leadership and communication development. Practical, project-based learning and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing are embedded within the working environment.

The GTC also demonstrates a strong commitment to education and the future workforce. It supports degree apprenticeships, graduate programmes, internships, placements, PhDs and EngDs, working closely with universities including Bath, Bristol, Imperial College London, Nottingham and Ulster University, as well as education providers such as Weston College and UWE. These partnerships help connect academic learning with practical experience and create clear pathways into careers in composites, aerospace and advanced manufacturing.

Beyond formal training, employees are encouraged to explore new skills, qualifications, responsibilities and career pathways. This creates a culture where continuous learning is actively encouraged and development is seen as something that applies to everyone, regardless of role or experience.

Through its investment in people, partnerships with education, structured development opportunities and collaborative culture, GKN Aerospace's UK GTC demonstrates a clear and sustained commitment to developing the skills and talent needed for the future of aerospace.

Learn more at: www.gknaerospace.com

