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Political clarity call on investment for world-leading UK industry

300,000 strong UK-based defence industry releases video demonstrating importance to nation's armed forces & economy

The Defence Industries Council (DIC), representing the UK-based defence industry, has today (Monday) released an information video demonstrating the vital role that it plays in providing the high-quality equipment for the UK armed forces as well as high-value employment for over 300,000 people across all regions of the country.

In the run-up to the Defence Green Paper, expected in the near future, the video showcases engineering, manufacturing and services excellence from across the UK-based defence industry spectrum ranging from the UK's largest manufacturer BAE Systems, Britain's second largest defence company, the Italian multi-national group Finmeccanica, the US multinational Northrop Grumman's UK operations and Canada's Vector Aerospace facilities. It highlights the innovative technology in use across UK defence as well as the attractive nature of the industry in Britain for investment from overseas companies.

The industry is seeking clarity from the major political parties on their future plans for defence following the next General Election to determine investment and capability decisions.

The video is available at <http://tinyurl.com/defenceengineeringexcellence> and will be rolled out across many news, political and defence websites.

Ian Godden, Secretary of the DIC, said:

"The defence industry underpins Britain's leading role on the world stage, employment for over 300,000 people and the capabilities of our magnificent armed forces. As this video showcases our current industry - number one in Europe and second only to the US globally -



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the future is more uncertain. We now need clarity from the nation's politicians around defence investment if this excellent position is to be maintained into the future.

"This video highlights the benefits of the UK-based defence industry. But the presence of that industry should not be taken for granted because it is by no means guaranteed to continue without the right future investment from both the public and private sector. Government spending on defence has halved as a percentage of gross domestic product over the last twenty years and this is not sustainable. Political parties now need to outline to the country what their foreign policy, defence and security approaches will be to inform decision-making in our world-leading industry."

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For further information please contact Samuel Jones on 020 7091 4521 or at samuel.jones@adsgroup.org.uk.

Notes to Editors:

1. For more information on the new initiative and website, as well as the UK defence industry, please go to www.defencematters.co.uk. Defence Matters is supported by the Defence Industries Council, the collective voice of the defence industry in the UK. Through Defence Matters we aim to raise awareness of the UK defence industry, in particular the work we do for the Armed Forces, and the contribution we make to the UK's security and economy.
2. The Defence Industries Council works to promote the interests of the defence sector and raise wider awareness of defence industrial issues. The UK Armed Forces' ability to respond quickly to emerging operational threats depends on its national technology and industrial base. The UK defence industrial base produces world class equipment and is internationally competitive but its continued health is dependent on the relationship with Government as its primary customer and regulator. Today's investment in defence technology provides the capabilities our Armed Forces need



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for the future and enriches the national industrial and technology base for the benefit of the entire economy.

3. The trade association members of the DIC are A|D|S, the UK's AeroSpace, Defence and Security trade organisation and the British Naval Equipment Association. Membership of the DIC is on a rotational basis comprising senior executives from UK-based defence companies. For more information on the DIC please go to <http://www.sbac.co.uk/pages/53214663.asp>.