Defence Secretary, Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, saw Airbus and its stakeholders into the New Year at Airbus’ New Year’s Reception. The event, which was well attended by those from Westminster, the media and the sector, was held at the Cinnamon Club in London, where Mr Williamson gave a keynote speech.

Industrial Strategy important for Wales, says Welsh Secretary

Welsh Secretary, Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP, visited Airbus’ Newport campus where he highlighted the importance of the UKs Industrial Strategy to Wales. The Secretary of State said he was confident that the plan will drive growth across the country. Speaking at the launch, Katherine Bennett, Senior Vice President Airbus UK, stressed that competitiveness was crucial for the business to continue to attract investment and highlighted key areas in which Airbus can benefit from the government’s plan. During his visit, the Secretary of State for Wales was shown some of the world leading cyber research and technology demonstrators in action when he met with employees.

More Welsh wings lined up for Emirates

Dubai-based airline Emirates has firmed up an order to acquire up to 36 additional A380 aircraft, expanding its flagship A380 fleet. The contract was signed at the World Government Summit by HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group; and Mikail Houari, Airbus President for Africa and Middle East. The agreement is for 20 A380s and an option for 16 more aircraft with deliveries starting in 2020, valued at US$16 billion at the latest list prices.
With 2018 marking the year that Airbus Helicopters’ H175 super medium helicopter is now in operations across four continents and in both hemispheres, it is the UK where you will find the highest concentration of these aircraft, with nine of them based at Aberdeen conducting North Sea oil and gas crew transfer missions. The aircraft, capable of reaching 90% of all UK North Sea offshore installations carrying 16 passengers, has become very popular with crew and passengers alike as a result of the speed, reliability, comfort and low noise levels of the aircraft in flight. There are currently 22 H175 in operation worldwide, which have logged a total of more than 23,000 flight hours. The next aircraft to enter service will be Hong Kong’s Public Services version used for security and search and rescue operations.

The ground-breaking collaboration between Airbus, Siemens and Rolls-Royce to develop the E-Fan X hybrid-electric technology demonstrator was announced at the end of November. The announcement is a significant step forward in hybrid-electric propulsion for commercial aircraft. It is anticipated that the first flight will be in 2020, with one of the aircraft’s four gas turbine engines replaced by a two megawatt electric motor, and provisions will be made to replace a second gas turbine with an electric motor once system maturity has been proven.

Airbus received its Armed Forces Covenant Gold award from Prince Harry and the Ministry of Defence at an event at the Imperial War Museum in London. The award, which is given to those companies who demonstrate and advocate their support for the Armed Forces at the highest level, was received by members of the Airbus Armed Forces Engagement Team team in October.

Airbus armed forces commitment gets Royal approval

Airbus teams up with Siemens and Rolls-Royce for an electric future

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The winner of the first ever Airbus A400M photography competition was James Roberts, whose entry beat over 960 submissions from other members of the public to win the top spot. James, alongside category winners Marina Munoz Fernandes (Military) and Alvin Russell (General Public), will now receive a money can’t buy experience; a trip to the Airbus A400M manufacturing site in Seville, a guided tour of the final assembly line and a chance to go on an A400M flight simulator.

Winner of A400M photography competition unveiled
The head of Airbus’ Broughton plant, Paul McKinlay, won the 2017 European Manufacturing and Leadership Award. One of three people shortlisted in the leadership category, Paul secured the most votes from people across the industry in Europe. He was presented with his award at a dinner held at Berlin’s iconic Fernsehturm tower, part of the European Manufacturing Strategies and Supply Chain Management Strategies Summits that took place in the city. “I was delighted even to be nominated for such an award, and even more pleased and humbled to be voted for by colleagues and industry leaders across Europe,” said Paul. “This is recognition for the whole team at Broughton and the progress we have all made together in the plant over the last few years and I want to thank all of my colleagues.”

Airbus leadership puts the win in wing

Another stellar year for Airbus Commercial Aircraft

Earth, say cheese!

Minister opens new home for RAF’s A400M

Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL), a subsidiary of Airbus Defence and Space, has confirmed the successful launch of CARBONITE-2; an Earth observation technology demonstration mission owned and operated by SSTL. The spacecraft, which weighs 100kg and was built in Guildford, is equipped with a telescope and HD video, both of which have been adapted for use in space. The imaging system is designed to deliver high resolution images and colour HD video clips with a swath width of 5km.
Satellite paints a picture of Earth’s pollution

The Airbus built, pollution monitoring satellite, Sentinel-5 Precursor, was successfully launched in October and has been conducting observations of the Earth’s air quality since. The satellite, which was built in Stevenage and has a payload which was made in Portsmouth, is part of the global monitoring programme “Copernicus”, a joint European Commission–European Space Agency undertaking. It aims to acquire continuous and accurate Earth observation data and provide services to improve the management of the environment, understand and mitigate the effects of climate change, and ensure civil security.

Attending the launch, which was screened at the

Children have a magical flight with Santa

Airbus teamed up with its current partner charity, the British Heart Foundation, and the Children’s Hospice South West to host a Christmas party and flight with Santa for children living with complex health conditions. It was an unforgettable event for the children and their families, some of whom had never flown before. The hour-long flight took the families across the Brecon Beacons and was organised by Airbus in partnership with Eastern Airways, ACC Charter and Bristol Airport.

Airbus Helicopters takes off with £100M support deal

Airbus Helicopters has been chosen by the RAF to continue providing operational support to their fleet of Puma 2 helicopters based at RAF Benson. The contract will see Airbus Helicopters responsible for providing full technical support and logistics until March 2022, with the deal being worth an initial £100m. John Howell, MP for Henley said “I am delighted to see the continuation of Puma 2 and that this contract has been awarded. There were rumours that the Puma 2 was on its way out. But this suggests otherwise. I spoke in a debate in the House of Commons and asked a question at Prime Minister’s Question time about the future of the Puma 2 which is essential to the future of RAF Benson.”

Visit our new Public Affairs website!

The UK Public Affairs team has now launched its website. Visit ukpa.airbus.com to find out about our engagements, events, regular news updates and more.

News in Brief

- Airbus CEO, Tom Enders, spoke at this year’s ADS industry dinner giving his insight on the challenges and opportunities facing the UK and global aerospace industry.
- Guillaume Faury has been appointed President of Airbus Commercial Aircraft.
- Join us at RIAT (13-15 July) and the Farnborough International Airshow (16-22 July) this summer!