ROLLS-ROYCE LAUNCHES TRANSFORMATIONAL JET ENGINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

News / Manufacturer



The UK Government and Rolls-Royce have unveiled plans for a joint £2.5 billion, 10-year research and technology programme aimed at advancing next-generation gas turbine technologies for both civil and defence aerospace. The initiative is expected to represent a major opportunity for the UK's advanced manufacturing sector, supporting innovation, competitiveness, and industrial growth for decades to come.

The programme will focus on developing more efficient, lower-emission jet engine technologies as Rolls-Royce seeks to secure a role on the next generation of commercial single-aisle aircraft. A key element of the initiative includes the development of an engine demonstrator, while also maintaining critical UK design, development, and testing capabilities that underpin the nation's sovereign defence aerospace expertise.

Single-aisle aircraft, which dominate the global short- and medium-haul market, are expected to enter service in the mid-to-late 2030s. Engine manufacturers are expected to compete for positions on these programmes in the coming years as airframers prepare for potential aircraft

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launches around the end of the decade.

The UK Government's Industrial Strategy identifies the narrowbody segment as the largest growth opportunity for the aerospace sector over the next half-century. Winning a position on future aircraft platforms could unlock billions of pounds in additional investment, generate an estimated £120 billion in economic value over the programme's lifetime, and create tens of thousands of highly skilled jobs. The initiative could also drive the development of new advanced manufacturing facilities across the UK, strengthening the country's position as a global aerospace powerhouse.

Tufan Erginbilgic, CEO, Rolls-Royce, commented: "This is a landmark moment for the UK's aerospace industry. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to lay the foundations for decades of sustainable economic growth across the UK, creating high-value jobs and transforming the country's advanced manufacturing supply chain. Aerospace is a growing and globally attractive market and this programme with Government is vital to enable the UK to compete. Working together, we can also sustain the nation's capability to power military aircraft and secure its position as one of only two countries that can design, develop, make and service the jet engines that power the world's commercial airliners."

Subject to a final agreement, the initial phase of the programme is expected to support approximately 3,300 jobs across **Rolls-Royce** and its UK supply chain by the end of 2029. Securing a position on future narrowbody aircraft programmes could generate tens of thousands of additional highly skilled roles nationwide. To help meet future workforce demands, Rolls-Royce and the UK Government will collaborate on a comprehensive jobs and skills strategy, while the investment will also create new opportunities for universities and research institutions involved in aerospace innovation.

Rolls-Royce's transformation over the past three years has strengthened its position as a strategic partner to the UK Government, which has a long-standing commitment to supporting the aerospace sector. The company expects to invest substantially more than the Government throughout the narrowbody engine programme. Today, Rolls-Royce remains one of only three companies worldwide with the end-to-end capability to design, manufacture, and support advanced commercial aircraft engines.

Should Rolls-Royce's next-generation engine technologies be selected by aircraft manufacturers, the company intends to re-enter the narrowbody market through strategic partnerships. This would involve establishing new state-of-the-art UK facilities for engine assembly and testing, while significantly expanding domestic advanced manufacturing capacity for critical high-value components. These include high-pressure turbine blades, among the most demanding parts of a modern jet engine, and advanced composite fan blades. The initiative would also create significant opportunities for the UK supply chain, requiring new manufacturing facilities and expanded capabilities as Rolls-Royce and the Government work together to maximise participation from domestic suppliers.

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