



**SKILLED UP
FOR THE FUTURE.**

MEET THE AMBASSADORS:

ADVANCE MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING

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GARY CLAYTON

Gary Clayton is Chairman of the UK Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems Association (UAVS), which represents the industry to UK government and regulators. Mr Clayton manages Research and Technology for defence, security and aerospace company Cassidian. Mr Clayton initiated the key Uninhabited Air Vehicle (UAV) research programme, ASTRAEA, and also runs a joint research foundation between Cassidian, the Welsh Government, and Cardiff University.



JOHN WHALLEY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AEROSPACE WALES

John Whalley is Chief Executive of Aerospace Wales, a company which he helped to establish. In this role, he works closely with the Welsh Government on aerospace strategy. He is also a Director at Associates in Excellence, an aerospace supply chain excellence programme, and an Associate at The Advance Consultancy, a leadership, management and business coaching organisation.

ADVANCE MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING

This is an important growth sector for North East Wales in particular; Flintshire has 29.5% of all its employees working in manufacturing. There are some core hotspots of manufacturing excellence, particularly in the aerospace and defence industry, reflected in a cluster of recent orders for Airbus to the value of seven billion pounds

North Wales is a national and international Centre of Excellence in aerospace. The car industry is another important aspect of the regions' manufacturing base, with Toyota's engine manufacturing plant based in Deeside which is also one of the company's European Centres of Excellence.

There is also significant capacity and potential growth in other areas of high-tech manufacturing; North Wales is a major centre for the opto-electronics sector and has attracted leading multinationals in this area including Sharp and Qioptic.

The industry is supported by the Centre of Excellence in Opto-Electronics, Technium OpTIC at St Asaph. Bangor University's Electronic Engineering Department is another significant Research and Development (R&D) resource in the region.

While manufacturing future trends appear positive, particularly in North East Wales, construction is more of a mixed picture. According to a recent report by the Construction Skills Network, the Welsh construction industry is expected to see output rise at an average rate of 2.7% per year over the five years to 2017.

This is largely predicated on main construction work starting at Wylfa in Anglesey towards the end of 2016. However employment trends in construction in North Wales are predicted to decline at an average rate of 1.5% per year in the period to 2017.

North Wales is also a key location for the chemicals sector. Over 2,600 people are employed in the manufacture of chemicals and chemical products, almost three times the national proportion. The strength of the employment base has attracted companies such as BASF.

Strategic policy emphasis is on continuing to build on the success in manufacturing and attracting inward investment; Deeside is an Advanced Manufacturing Enterprise Zone. The Deeside Enterprise Zone can potentially provide a business rate discount of 100%; enhanced capital allowances for plant and machinery and simplified rules and regulations regarding planning decisions. Sema, the Sector Skills Council for the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering sectors, provides training and apprenticeship information and other resources for North Wales, and there are key training sites in the region including the Advanced Composite Training and Development Centre at Glyndŵr University, and Bangor University's School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.



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