



Supporting future engineers

QinetiQ sponsors IMechE UAS Challenge 2017

Executive summary

QinetiQ was proud to sponsor the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) annual UAS Challenge; we provided a location for the event at the Snowdonia Aerospace Centre in Llanbedr, Wales and opened our doors at QinetiQ Target Systems (QTS) in Ashford to the winning team as a prize. The event gave the students an incredible experience of operating in a 'real-life' airfield, as well as showing the winners the benefits of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)- based career and what that can mean within QinetiQ.

The brief

IMechE organise a competition known as 'The UAS Challenge' every year, in which University teams from around the world design and build Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). The teams spend an academic year working on their UAS, with specific mission objectives, to prepare to compete at a 'fly-off'. In 2017, there were 22 competing University teams, from as far afield as Turkey and Egypt. IMechE needed somewhere to host the June 'fly-off', as well as something to offer the overall winning team as a prize.



“ We are always looking for exceptional young recruits to join us in pushing the boundaries of UAS innovation. ”

Graham Wise, QinetiQ UAS Campaign Lead.



Our solution

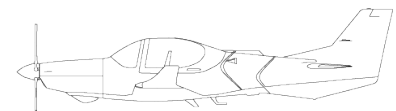
We became platinum sponsors of the event, providing IMechE with a location for its fly-off. QinetiQ, in partnership with Snowdonia Aerospace LLP, provided the Snowdonia Aerospace Centre in Llanbedr, West Wales, which provides access to the Wales UAS Environment, an incredible 7,100 square kilometre section of segregated airspace over Cardigan Bay, where UAS can fly in safety away from commercial and military aircraft.

The students competed across three challenges to test various elements of their UAS, including endurance and weight-bearing, all hoping to earn the prize of 'Overall Champion'. This year

the overall prize, as well as the prize for innovation and design, was awarded to the University of Bath. As a reward, we hosted the winning University at QTS in Ashford for a day to provide insight into real-world engineering and demonstrate some of the career opportunities within QinetiQ.

Outcomes and benefits

By collaborating with Snowdonia Aerospace LLP and IMechE, QinetiQ was able to give the students the real-life experience of a fully-operational airfield. The sponsorship of the UAS Challenge also enabled us to provide them with a unique insight into the career opportunities available to those with a science technology and engineering background.



The Snowdonia Aerospace Centre provides access to a **7,100** square kilometre section of segregated airspace over Cardigan Bay, where systems can fly in safety away from commercial and military aircraft.

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QinetiQ is always on your side, protecting, improving and advancing your vital interests

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