



## **Billy Beggs, Engineering Innovation Manager, University of Central Lancashire**

Billy Beggs joined UCLan in October 2011 from BAE Systems where he was Concept Demonstrations Manager for 16 years. After serving an RAF civilian apprenticeship in Belfast, he moved to British Aerospace in 1973, initially working on Tornado development programme and all UK development aircraft projects moving into Manufacturing Engineering then Engineering Management until retiring from the company in 2011. During his time at BAE Systems he was involved with developing a number of new manufacturing technologies: Carbon Fibre, Robotic Assembly and Laser projection leading to 3D aircraft building. His remit included the development of these technologies and the Process Standards to production delivery.

From 2001 he led the team developing Unmanned Vehicles at BAE Systems across Land, Sea and Air which resulted in the company establishing its autonomous UAV business.

His role at UCLan is as the Engineering Innovation Manager, developing UK technology research into practical applications through working with SMEs and primes. The technology Billy is presently working on includes the application of Graphene research into the aerospace and automobile industries. His team successfully flew the world's first graphene winged aircraft at Farnborough International Air Show this year.

Billy works with manufacturing SMEs across the UK specialising in emerging technologies, advising them on how to maximise the integration of any innovation to best suit their business needs.

He is a panel member of the North of England NATEP board, the Northern Manufacturing Forum, a member of the Lancashire Growth Funding Panel and also has various advisory roles within the aerospace and defence industry.