



Tony Smith

Head of Innovation – Air and Space

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Tony joined the UK Defence Solutions Centre (UKDSC) as Head of Innovation (Air and Space) in April 2018 and is based in Farnborough, England. Prior to joining the UKDSC, his career has spanned aerodynamic research, air system development, flight test and strategy development.

After his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, he gained an MSc in aerodynamics and then a PhD in aeronautical engineering. After completing research for NASA and the Defence Evaluation Research Agency (DERA) at Cranfield University he worked at British Aerospace on the aerodynamic integration of stores onto Tornado.

In 1999 he moved to DERA (which became QinetiQ) at Boscombe Down and held a range of positions in aircraft performance and flight test across a number of fast jet and heavy aircraft programmes, including being the UK fight test engineer deployed to the US for the Sentinel (ASTOR) flight test programme. During this time he also spent a year seconded to the UK MOD as the Technical Manager for the Typhoon Tranche 2 negotiations.

He then led the QinetiQ Unmanned Air Systems team, including supporting the UK MOD bringing the Reaper system into service, working closely with the US Air Force.

In 2011 he became the Head of Engineering, and then Chief Engineer, for QinetiQ's helicopters business unit. In 2017 he became the technical lead for QinetiQ's Future Combat Air strategy team.