

Simon Barker BA (Hons), MBA
Vice President, Government Affairs, Leonardo



Simon Barker became Vice President, Government Affairs for Leonardo in the UK on the 1st January 2018.

Simon joined Westland Helicopters Ltd in 1981 as a business trainee following graduation from the University of Bradford. He has held a range of executive roles in the International Marketing and Corporate Planning/Strategy areas of the Company, as well as undertaking a secondment to the Defence Export Services Organisation, within the UK MoD in the late 1980s as its Head of Business Development.

Simon was part of the Chief Executive's Corporate Strategy team when Westland merged with Agusta and went on to lead the Joint MoD/AW implementation team for the Strategic Partnering Arrangement signed by both parties in 2006.

Simon was appointed to head up the Business Development function for its UK business interests in 2008, where the primary focus was on developing and broadening the UK Business base to offset the decline in global defence expenditure. During this period, the Yeovil site's business in Commercial Aerospace grew from less than 2% to almost 20% of annual revenues. Over £100M of Grant support was also secured from the Government during this period to underpin the Company's investments in this transformation.

Simon has a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Bradford and became a member of the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) in 2007. He was a Director on the Board of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership for six years following its formation in 2011.

Simon is currently a Director of WEAFA and of ADS Group and represents Leonardo's interests on the Board of the Aerospace Growth Partnership.