

Simon Jewell BSc (Hons), MSc (TM), FRAeS
Strategy Director
BAE Systems Air

Simon recently joined the BAE Systems Air Sector Board as Strategy Director. Air comprises five businesses with global operations and markets with over 27,000 employees and worldwide sales of £6.5bn. He has four decades of experience working in the defence sector having served in the Armed Forces before joining industry, where he has focused on future capability, growth and innovation.

Prior to his current role, for six-years Simon led the Niteworks partnership, comprising over 175 companies working with MOD to provide practical, impartial responses to complex defence problems by combining evidence, experience and innovation. The partnership supported MOD decision-makers in the fields of operations, acquisition and capability.

He has extensive experience in business development, sales, marketing, technology and strategy, including international experience gained through his prior responsibilities for European marketing, a two-year tour in Washington DC, and prior international military service in Germany and the Middle East.

During his 42 years in defence, his senior roles have included serving on the board of Sea Systems Group with responsibilities for strategy, business development and mergers & acquisitions, as Managing Director Strategic Capability Solutions, Managing Director Future Systems and Sales and Customer Support Director for MBD (now MBDA).

Between 2005-2011, Simon was Chairman of the UK MOD Systems Engineering for Autonomous Systems Defence Technology Centre (SEAS DTC) and from 2005-2015 was Chairman of ASTRAEA that sought to open the airspace to the routine, non-segregated operation of unmanned aerial systems. In 2013, he received on behalf of ASTRAEA the Royal Aeronautical Society's Team Silver Medal for work contributing to major advances or contributions in aerospace. He has supported the Typhoon combat aircraft programme for over 10-years serving as the programme lifecycle management chair.

Before joining what is now MBDA in 1985, Simon served in the British Infantry and as a Captain in the Royal Artillery, spending four years in Germany before joining the Sultan of Oman's Air Force and serving a further two years in the Middle East. In 1998, he attended the Royal College of Defence Studies and undertook post-graduate studies in International Relations. He holds a first-class honours degree in Information and Communication Technologies and a Masters in Technology Management. He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.