

Press Release

June 2021

Birmingham-based AE Aerospace Ltd to create new jobs following £400,000 loan

A Birmingham-based machining company has secured a £400,000 loan to help safeguard its 65 employees as well as creating 10 full time new jobs and apprentices over the next two to three years.

AE Aerospace secured the finance from the Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF) - provided by The FSE Group, Debt Finance Fund and backed by the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS).

[AE Aerospace](#) is a leading provider of engineered solutions and manufacturing within the aerospace, marine, civil and defence industries. The business manufactures low to medium volume components for prototype through to current aircraft, including both spares and legacy parts.

The funding will also allow the business to continue its growth, developing value added solutions for UK and export markets. The business's components are used on platforms primarily for civil aerospace project including Airbus A220, A320 and A350 as well as some defence platforms.

Peter Bruch, Managing Director of AE Aerospace said: "Covid-19 has had an impact on many UK businesses during the last year. This funding will enable us to maintain our current workforce, putting the company in a strong position to fulfil its growth plans and create 10 new full-time jobs in the coming years. Our thanks to Kerry, The FSE Group's Investment Manager, who guided us through the funding process to secure the loan assisting the business to achieve its aims."

The UK Aerospace industry is worth £20bn providing a range of new contract opportunities for AE Aerospace.

Kerry Haughton, Investment Manager, at The FSE Group, which manages the MEIF Debt Finance Fund adds: "AE Aerospace has a strong management team offering a broad range of engineering solutions and strong customer relationships. The manufacturing industry is a key growth sector for the West Midlands area and the future job creation will have a positive impact on the local economy, further strengthening the future of the business."

Ryan Cartwright, Senior Manager at the British Business Bank, said: "This MEIF funding will support AE Aerospace as it navigates the impact of Covid-19, while also maintaining its growth, with new jobs in the pipeline. We encourage other businesses in the Midlands to consider the MEIF as a source of funding for growth."

Tim Pile, Chair of Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) said: "To support the local and national recovery from Covid-19, it's vital that businesses like AE Aerospace receive funding to safeguard as well as create jobs and apprenticeship opportunities for local people. Taking into consideration the impact of Covid-19 on the aerospace industry, it's encouraging to see this business wants to grow and strengthen this sector in our region. This type of investment combined with our targeted interventions is helping to deliver inclusive economic growth."

The Midlands Engine Investment Fund project is supported financially by the European Union using funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020 and the European Investment Bank.

The FSE Group, MEIF Debt Finance Fund provides loans between £100,000 and £1.5million to help growing SMEs across the region.

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Notes to editors

For more information about the MEIF Debt Finance Fund visit <https://www.thefsegroup.com/fund/midlands-engine-investment-fund-debt-finance/> or contact Kerry Haughton, kerry.haughton@thefsegroup.com tel: 07826 001902

For more information about AE Aerospace visit, <https://www.aeaerospace.com/>

About the Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF)

The Midlands Engine Investment Fund, supported by the European Regional Development Fund, will invest in Debt Finance, Small Business Loans, Proof-of-Concept and Equity Finance funds, ranging from £25,000 to £2m, specifically to help small and medium sized businesses secure the funding they need for growth and development.

The Midlands Engine Investment Fund is operated by British Business Financial Services Limited, wholly owned by British Business Bank, the UK's national economic development bank. Established in November 2014, its mission is to make finance markets for smaller businesses work more effectively, enabling those businesses to prosper, grow and build UK economic activity.

The Midlands Engine Investment Fund is supported by the European Regional Development Fund, the European Investment Bank, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and British Business Finance Limited, a British Business Bank group company.

The MEIF covers the following LEP areas: Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, Greater Birmingham & Solihull, Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, The Marches, and Worcestershire in the West Midlands; and Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Greater Lincolnshire, Leicester and Leicestershire, and South-East Midlands in the East and South-East Midlands.

The project is receiving up to £78,550,000 of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The programme will continue to spend to the end of 2023.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund. Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding.

The European Investment Bank is providing £122,500,000 to support the Midlands Engine Investment Fund. This follows backing for the Northern Powerhouse in 2017 and backing for the newly launched North East Fund. For further information visit www.eib.org

The funds in which Midlands Engine Investment Fund invests are open to businesses with material operations in or planning to open material operations in the West Midlands and East & South-East Midlands.

The British Business Bank has published the Business Finance Guide (in partnership with the ICAEW, and a further 21 business and finance organisations). The guide, which impartially sets out the range finance options available to businesses and provides links to support available at a regional level, is available at <https://thebusinessfinanceguide.co.uk>

About the British Business Bank



The British Business Bank is the UK government's economic development bank. Established in November 2014, its mission is to make finance markets for smaller businesses work more effectively, enabling those businesses to prosper, grow and build UK economic activity. Its remit is to design, deliver and efficiently manage UK-wide smaller business access to finance programmes for the UK government.

The British Business Bank's core programmes support nearly £8bn^[1] of finance to almost 94,800 smaller businesses^[2]. Since March 2020, the British Business Bank has also launched four new Coronavirus business loan schemes, delivering almost £73bn of finance to around 1.6m businesses.

As well as increasing both supply and diversity of finance for UK smaller businesses through its programmes, the Bank works to raise awareness of the finance options available to smaller businesses. The [British Business Bank Finance Hub](#) provides independent and impartial information to businesses about their finance options, featuring short films, expert guides, checklists and articles from finance providers to help make their application a success.

In light of the coronavirus pandemic and EU Exit, the Finance Hub has expanded and it now targets a wider business audience. It continues to provide information and support for scale-up, high growth and potential high growth businesses, but now provides increased content, information and products for businesses in survival and recovery mindsets. The Finance Hub has been redesigned and repositioned to reflect this, during this period of economic uncertainty.

British Business Bank plc is a public limited company registered in England and Wales, registration number 08616013, registered office at Steel City House, West Street, Sheffield, S1 2GQ. It is a development bank wholly owned by HM Government. British Business Bank plc and its subsidiaries are not banking institutions and do not operate as such. They are not authorised or regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) or the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). A complete legal structure chart for the group can be found at www.british-business-bank.co.uk.

^[1] Figures as at end of June 2020

^[2] Figures as at 28 January 2021

