

# PRESS RELEASE

**ROCKFORD**

ROCKFORD WINS MULTI-MILLION POUND CONTRACT  
FOR AIRCRAFT PANELS - 28 NOVEMBER 2017

## DEFENCE



Rockford has been awarded a multi-million pound contract to deliver aircraft panels to a world-leading defence aircraft manufacturer.

In a move that simplifies a fragmented supply chain, Rockford will now deliver complete electronic systems to the aircraft manufacturer, rather than the customer building it themselves and relying on many businesses to deliver individual parts.

Rockford will source various components such as switches, metallic structures, sensors, wiring and interconnect and integrate these into a final tested panel assembly. Rockford will then ship this complete unit to the customer, who will install into the air platform.

The work involved in winning a multi-million pound aerospace contract is not simple, and started many months ago with supplier development activities to validate the supply chain. This ensured all relevant conditions were flowed down, capacity was available and competitive pricing for the life of the programme had been achieved.

The next stage was to validate the build by developing and building the first off prototype panel. The first off panel was built utilising highly skilled operators, supported by production engineering technicians.

As part of this process, Rockford developed an idea of what the future manufacturing cell would look like. All details were covered, including set-up, flow, capacity, number of stations, floor space, line balancing of standard operations, build instructions, build jigs, line side stocking, automated equipment such as laser wire marking, cut and strip machines, electrical test cables and equipment, quality care points, handling equipment, KPIs (key performance indicators), final inspection and packing. These ideas were collated and developed into a 3D working model of the manufacturing cell, which has become a visual tool to validate both the build and production rate, and also provides the companies involved with a 3D video for engagement and feedback.

Rockford Sales & Marketing Director Chris Parsonage explained that their approach to system solutions helps defence customers deliver complex platforms by integrating technology. Meanwhile, this mitigates risk for customers by offering a one-stop-shop for all electrical requirements, simplifying complex, and often fragmented, supply chains.

Chris says, “We’re really excited to be working on this new project. Rockford is traditionally known for its cables and harnessing products, so this complex electrical panel allows Rockford to showcase its skills in electrical, electronic and mechanical systems and also further highlight our design and integration capabilities. The Rockford team is very proud to be working with a world leading defence aircraft manufacturer on a project of this magnitude”.

Rockford continues to grow its business by acquiring new customers and developing projects with existing customers. These strategies combined with the launch of the new system solutions capability for defence, commercial air and industrial markets have laid the foundations for Rockford to achieve its 2022 growth targets.

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# ABOUT ROCKFORD

Rockford's unique engineering-driven approach to design and manufacturing delivers a cost-effective, high-quality solution to customer needs.

Rockford has since 1978 successfully addressed the high-reliability requirements of the major Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in the defence and aerospace sectors. Our broad capability and competitiveness, combined with a reactive attitude to service means Rockford has become a major part of many important supply chains.

Rockford has the capabilities, technologies, products, and knowledge to design, manufacture, test, and deliver system-level electrical equipment that ranges from simple electrical cable assemblies and electro-mechanical sub-assemblies, and on to complete systems.

We offer a simplified, competitive and reactive supply chain, meeting your offset requirements and mitigating your risk: Designing high-performance, environmentally sealed, next-generation, high-speed, flexible cabling and system-level electrical equipment with engineering and production capacity for rapid prototypes and low to medium volume orders, delivered with on-site global engineering support.

Rockford has over 280 employees, 39 years of experience and operates from three SC21 Silver award-winning sites around the UK.

Rockford has been given the SC21 Silver award thanks to high standards of delivery, quality, sustainable improvement, and relationship excellence. The SC21 award reflects the exacting requirements of many defence and aerospace organisations worldwide.

Rockford can deliver a globally competitive solution through design excellence, ensuring all customer requirements are captured and met. Rockford's lifecycle management offers prototyping, on-site-installation, production, logistics, spares and obsolescence management.

*Defence air projects are an area in which we've always worked and that we want to develop and grow further. This project has simplified a fragmented supply chain for the customer, a world-leading defence aircraft manufacturer.*

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