



GlobalCombatAir

Global Combat Air Programme

An enduring, strategic partnership that is delivering a next generation fighter to protect the skies for decades to come; bringing together nations across Europe and the Asia Pacific regions.

A truly multi-national collaborative programme

In December 2022, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom launched the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), a strategically important partnership which brings together the three nations and their respective industries led by BAE Systems (UK), Leonardo (Italy) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (Japan), to collaborate on shared military and industrial objectives, and in the delivery of a truly twenty-first century combat aircraft in 2035.

GCAP is a hugely significant programme for the security, and political and economic prosperity of each nation. Through effective knowledge sharing and technology transfer, the programme will assist the evolution and delivery of vital sovereign combat air capability for Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom for generations to come.

Technology & transformation

GCAP is championing new approaches to the development and delivery of future combat air technologies, using digital engineering to design and innovate, embracing Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and ground-breaking wearable technologies that will ensure GCAP remains at the cutting edge of advancements in defence technology.

Intelligent factories have been established to support partnerships with high-tech SMEs and the use of advanced manufacturing techniques to reduce lead times and cost in future aircraft production, delivering time, cost and accuracy benefits across the programme.

The partners are also promoting research and development programmes across all three nations to drive implementation of advanced technologies in GCAP.

People & skills

GCAP is creating highly skilled jobs in all three nations, strengthening the industrial base and driving innovation with benefits to national and local economies and prosperity agendas.

The programme is attracting engineering talent with young people nationwide inspired by the opportunity to be part of a once-in-a-generation combat air programme.

Skills and training initiatives have also been launched to develop the existing workforce, build networks between employees and pass on knowledge to future generations who will join GCAP.

Supply chain

GCAP is harnessing innovation and technical expertise across a diverse range of suppliers, partnering with high-tech SMEs including those outside the traditional defence sector, to drive technology development quickly and enable suppliers to innovate and bring specialist skills to GCAP.

Investment in GCAP is helping to deliver benefits beyond the defence sector and stimulating economic growth, with over 1,000 suppliers already engaged in the programme across the partner nations.

The programme is adopting a revolutionary digital enterprise approach through a collaborative working environment, ensuring effective co-operation across international Governments and Industry, as well as partners and supply chains; creating a truly international programme.

3 PARTNER NATIONS



AROUND 9,000 PEOPLE WORKING ON GCAP WORLDWIDE

OVER 1,000 SUPPLIERS ACROSS THE PARTNER NATIONS



2022 GCAP LAUNCHES

2035 IN SERVICE DATE

2070+ SERVICE LIFE

