

Case Study: EADS Astrium Ltd

Sustainable Business Awards Winner:
Large Business Finalist 2010
Business Sector: Satellite Production

Company Background

EADS Astrium is a high-tech space manufacturer, specialising in production of equipment such as satellites which support global telecommunications amongst much else. Astrium operates as a stand-alone business within the broader EADS group, different components of which lead on different aspects of the overall space programme. It operates from a large site in Portsmouth which combines production areas, design, laboratories, administration, testing space.



Summary of Key Achievements

EADS Astrium were very early adopters of ISO14001, the first in their industry in UK, they have a very comprehensive system in place and a number of years experience of achieving reductions, improving efficiencies and spreading the sustainability message.

Social Achievements

EADS Astrium's large workforce is actively engaged and supported by the company in a number of ways, and with a particular emphasis on career development and progression. Within their working environment they enjoy many company benefits including extensive training opportunities and support services including an Employee Assistance Programme, various health-related benefits, flexible working opportunities and an all-inclusive employment policy.

EADS is very active in its local community and opens its doors to a number of groups such as schools, business associations and other professionals, offering tours, lectures and visits to promote and raise awareness of the company. They are very conscious of their place within the community.

A number of charities and charitable activities are supported, both at a corporate level and more personally through the support of employees' own charitable interests

Zero waste to landfill targets for 2010	
Cost savings of £18k per satellite built	
Very active in its local community and holds schools' visits regularly	
First within their sector to achieve ISO14001	
Supply of helicopters to Haiti after the recent earthquake	
KEY	
 Economic Achievements	 Social Achievements
 Environmental Achievements	

Environmental Achievements

EADS has long prioritised sound environmental performance, being one of the early adopters within the UK and the first within their sector to achieve ISO14001, as well as more recently EMAS. The EMS is constantly and thoroughly revisited and improved upon, with continual improvement at the heart of the company's drive for increased efficiency in all areas. Responsibilities for achieving improvements are channelled from central management through multiple teams and departments, with regular reviews and reporting meetings. "It has always been the policy of the group to go one step further, and this is not just a tick-in-the-box exercise." (Environmental Manager).



Major impact areas have been identified as waste and energy (onsite) with additional transportation and logistical issues which are unavoidable given the highly specialist nature of the industry. Significant investment and progress has been and continues to be made across the site, most recently with the installation of a new and bespoke waste management facility which will contribute to EADS' zero waste to landfill targets for 2010. Initial benchmarking of environmental performance data took place several years ago and has informed the major targets towards which the company is currently working.

Economic Achievements

The company's own high economic performance is amply demonstrated by its leading role within the space industry. Ongoing efficiency drives as noted above are a key feature of its core business and the measures implemented have led to significant cost savings. Staff are encouraged to put forward recommendations which they feel might be in the company's commercial interest – the 'titanium screws scheme' noted in the assessment form was a proposal to alter a transportation method which used specialist components to transport satellite parts at great cost – the suggestion and adoption of an alternative screw used in the process resulted in cost savings of £18k per satellite built (the company recognises that even though their final output costs can be extremely high such sums are still well worth saving and reinvesting).

Investment decisions are made by finance teams through the application of tools such as the 'marginal abatement curve' which ensure that accurate cost / benefit forecasts are possible. Spend and investment opportunities are constantly revisited to explore whether technological changes or falling prices have made previously unfeasible decisions more viable.

The company is a major employer locally and provides a number of skilled jobs to Hampshire residents in particular. It contributes not only to the strength of the local economy within the UK, but also the UK economy globally.

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