



Innovaero Pty Ltd

AIR Pass case study: collaborating to bring automated manufacturing to UAS platforms.

Innovaero Pty Ltd, a leading aeronautical product development and manufacturing company with world-class capabilities, has entered a partnership with the Aerostructures Innovation Research (AIR) Hub through the AIR Pass program.

The award-winning team at Innovaero combines industry expertise, state-of-the-art facilities and equipment to deliver industry-leading product design, certification and manufacturing services for the aviation industry. Innovaero has a strong track record of delivering successful outcomes for its clients across Australia and is globally recognised for its innovation.

Innovaero has several products at various stages of development and is moving towards a higher production rate. The company also brings experience in advanced manufacturing across a range of civilian and defence projects. Together, Innovaero and the AIR Hub will share ideas and access leading-edge technology in automation, both in Australia and overseas.

Innovaero has an impressive history of developing aerial camera technologies, including Nearmap Ltd and Spookfish Ltd aerial camera systems. Both those systems, especially the Spookfish camera, present a significant degree of complexity that is manageable in corresponding low-rate production for those programs. Moving into new markets such as defence, products are more likely to require 100 times those rates and efficiencies. Scale-up and automation will be essential to ensuring this sovereign capability remains competitive in the global market, where there will be much higher demand.

“The AIR Pass program is designed to support small and medium-sized enterprises to meet their ambitions and catalyse development within the Australian aviation industry. The Innovaero AIR Pass partnership will achieve exactly that, drawing on the

diverse skills and experience of both the AIR Hub and Innovaero teams,” said Dr Adriano Di Pietro, Director of the AIR Hub.

The AIR Pass Innovaero Project will investigate alternative manufacturing concepts, maintaining cost, weight and structural strength equivalency. The project involves undertaking a feasibility study to define solutions, based on customer requirements and constraints, for component manufacture and assembly procedures that optimise the production cycle time and cost. Production cycle automation is a focus of the project.

“Working with Swinburne gives the team there a great opportunity to apply their resources to reverse engineering current pre-production technology, and to focus on process engineering to assist with the expected scale-up. We are open to exploring new ideas and materials in order to achieve the ultimate best outcome, and to ensure we build on the significant export potential we’ve already demonstrated. Innovaero is proudly 100% Australian owned, and we intend to ensure that the commercial benefits remain in Australia,” said Simon Grosser, Innovaero Group CEO.

For more information, and to discuss the AIR Pass program, please email airpass@swinburne.edu.au.

swinburne.edu.au/airhub