*July 29th – for immediate release Further information: Chris Pockett – 01453 524311*

 **Renishaw involved in UK Government-funded aerospace consortium**

Renishaw has been included in a publicly funded consortium lead by GKN Aerospace in a bid to maintain Britain’s position as the second largest aerospace industry.

The multi-million pound research and development project, entitled Horizon (AM), will make up almost a third of a major new investment by the UK Government to boost the aerospace industry.

The project, which will utilise 3D printing to develop the next generation of lighter, greener planes, will last three and a half years, and the consortium also includes Delcam and the Universities of Warwick and Sheffield.

The UK’s Aerospace Technology Institute is backing the project, which hopes to improve processes by taking additive manufacturing techniques from research and development, through to viable production processes. It is believed the created components could be as much as 50% lighter than their conventional counterparts with complex geometries that cannot be cost effectively manufactured today.

These new processes will unlock innovations in low drag, high-performance wing designs and lighter, more efficient engine systems, with the potential to dramatically reduce aircraft fuel consumption and emissions.

Announcing the UK Government’s funding, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said, “I want to ensure the UK remains at the cutting edge of aerospace innovation, which is why I am pleased to announce that we are investing £154 million for research to explore new technologies like the 3D printing of plane parts and creating lighter, greener aircraft.”

Rich Oldfield, Technical Director of GKN Aerospace explains: “Additive manufacturing incorporates a range of hugely promising manufacturing technologies that the UK aerospace sector must fully understand and exploit if it is to retain its position as the largest national aerospace industry outside the USA.

This strong consortium has the expertise and understanding to continue the process of industrialising these technologies for use in both current programme updates and next-generation aircraft.”

Robin Weston, Marketing Manager for Renishaw’s Additive Manufacturing Products Division said, “Renishaw has long recognised the potential of additive manufacturing to make a very positive impact on the way things are made. Horizon AM is an exciting opportunity to work closely with the world’s leading engineers to ensure that AM will stand up to the rigours and demands of the manufacturing industry.”

Ends

**Note to Editors**

**About Renishaw**

Renishaw is a world leading engineering technologies company, supplying products used for applications as diverse as jet engine and wind turbine manufacture, through to dentistry and brain surgery. It employs 3,300 people globally, some 2,300 of which are located at its 15 sites in the UK, plus 1,200 staff located in the 32 countries where it has wholly owned subsidiary operations.

For the year ended June 2014 Renishaw recorded sales of £356 million of which 93% was due to exports. The company's largest markets are USA, China, Germany and Japan.

The Company's success has been recognised with numerous international awards, including seventeen Queen's Awards recognising achievements in technology, export and innovation. For more information visit www.renishaw.com