

Driving Open Innovation

BAE Systems – Advanced Technology Centre

Situation

BAE Systems is a global company developing, delivering and supporting advanced defence, security and aerospace systems deployed in the air, on land and at sea. The defence sector is currently facing major challenges requiring increased levels and rates of innovation.

An important part of BAE Systems, charged with responding to these challenges, is the Advanced Technology Centre (ATC) which provides research and development, consultancy, specialist manufacturing and technology brokering services to defence, aerospace and commercial markets. With 400 scientists and engineers, ATC works in collaboration and partnership with academic institutions and other organisations throughout the supply chain. With these partners, ATC identifies, pulls through and integrates technologies and capabilities in order to deliver discriminating solutions to its customers.

Objectives

While ATC has for a long time been using many forms of partnership, collaboration and technology scouting and other Open Innovation practices, the objectives of the tailored programme for ATC were to:

- provide a common understanding of Open Innovation principles as they apply to BAE Systems
- share existing best practice experience in Open Innovation within ATC and BAE Systems
- gain insights from other organisations and explore potential collaboration or learning opportunities
- identify actions for enhancing the way BAE Systems approaches Open Innovation in future.

Approach

H-I Network worked with the management team, HR executives and partner organisations of ATC to agree the objectives and define the programme. Over several months, the programme was refined and key inputs from other organisations were identified. Programme activities included:

- reviewing key Open Innovation objectives of key clients e.g. Ministry of Defence Innovation Strategy
- inviting and briefing guest speakers to relate science park and venture stories and share lessons learnt
- providing detailed agenda for the workshop and social programme
- utilising H-I Network Open Innovation tools, 5Ps of Innovation, Innovation Stress Points
- leading the facilitation of the two-day workshop at the Williams F1 centre
- consolidating the learning and actions for the BAE Systems ATC opportunities.



Results

The management and team of BAE Systems ATC provided positive feedback on the programme:

"The H-I Network has provided a well-structured and facilitated Open Innovation programme which the ATC team has found very valuable. The insights we were able to gain from the H-I Network member guests was excellent"

Glenn Gapper, Industrial Technology Acquisition Manager, BAE Systems ATC.

"The insights we've gained and contacts we make through H-I Network are of great value to me and BAE Systems."

James Baker, Director - Technology and Engineering Services, BAE Systems.