

Product testing in a real-world aerospace environment

Cobham Plc develops communications systems for challenging environments, enabling customers to stay connected across land, sea and air.

The Challenge

After developing a communications system that provides improved voice and data connectivity in aircraft cabins, Cobham Plc needed to test the product before going to market. To do this, the company required specialist facilities where it could warrant the new system against the natural neutron radiation environment experienced at altitude. However, the company did not have the capability to do this in-house.

The Solution

- Acceptance onto the Bridging for Innovators programme, which provides funding for businesses to access STFC's large-scale science facilities
- Access to STFC's ISIS Neutron and Muon Source facility
- Funding for 48 hours of beam time on ChiPlr – one of only three facilities in the world accepted as providing a good match to the aerospace radiation environment
- Dedicated advice and support from experienced scientists, engineers and innovation experts

The Benefits

By accessing ChiPlr at ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, Cobham Plc was able to formally assess the new communications system to ensure it adhered to safety standards. The results highlighted one software issue which was resolved in the final system, ensuring that the product the company launched was of the optimum standard.

The ability to assess reliability and safety in a real-world aerospace environment, with the support of STFC scientists, has enabled Cobham Plc to take the product to market more quickly and cost-effectively than was previously possible.



"Accessing STFC's ISIS Neutron and Muon Source enabled us to overcome a significant barrier whilst we were taking a strategically important new product to market. We would not have been able to achieve this without the support gained through the Bridging for Innovators programme."

**Richard Sharp, Managing Director,
Cobham RAD Europe Ltd.**

Image credit: Cobham Ltd.

About us

Science and Technology Facilities Council offers entrepreneurs, start-ups, SMEs and corporates the facilities, environment and people needed to de-risk innovation and accelerate business growth.

Through access to large-scale science facilities, complementary technologies and IP, and a flourishing network of science and industry experts, companies can create and transform products.

Bridging for Innovators provides funding for companies to utilise STFC facilities and expertise to fast-track solutions to industrial challenges and boost productivity.

Find out more:

Email: innovations@stfc.ac.uk Twitter: [@STFC_B2B](https://twitter.com/STFC_B2B)

Bridging the gap between pioneering science and business