



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Innovation

## Electroimpact

### Innovation funding facilitates major contract and drives growth at North Wales aerospace company



A manufacturing system created at Electroimpact, in Deeside, for parts of a brand new Chinese aircraft

Aerospace automation company Electroimpact was founded in 1986, near the Boeing Everett Factory in the US state of Washington, chiefly as a supplier of machine tools. It has been expanding its operations and client base ever since and, in 2002, the company opened a satellite office in Flintshire, North Wales, primarily to support Airbus.

Electroimpact is now a global company that provides state-of-the-art automated aircraft assembly systems to some of the world's leading aerospace and space companies, including Airbus, Boeing, NASA and SpaceX.

In 2014, it won a lucrative and ground-breaking contract to set up a complete wing manufacturing system for the new COMAC C919 aircraft, which was being created by the Chinese aerospace company XAC.

Some of the work on the Chinese system, such as the wing assembly tooling, was destined for Flintshire, but the company needed specialist design expertise to support some of its 100 or so engineers. Recognising that this support would be an investment in Electroimpact's future, the Welsh

#### The Business Key Achievements:

- Recognised the need to expand its design and technology expertise to aid future business growth.
- Delivered lucrative and ground-breaking Chinese aircraft manufacturing system.
- Employed 44 new staff in the three years since applying for innovation support.
- Expanded premises and constructed a new assembly building, with additional Welsh Government support.

Government agreed a contribution of £80,000 to help buy in the expertise, and so enhance its manufacturing processes.

Having secured the additional expertise needed, the designs for the manufacturing system were successfully completed. In July 2017, 34 cargo containers of assembly fixtures and tools for the wing leading and trailing edge assemblies were shipped to China, to be installed and commissioned.

The innovation team has also helped direct the company to other Welsh Government business support mechanisms. Electroimpact successfully secured additional funding for the expansion of its premises, with the construction of a new Hi-Bay assembly building. It was completed in June 2017. The Welsh Government has previously provided support for training and is advising the company on diversification into the nuclear energy industry – a sector Electroimpact is keen to explore.

Innovation funding supports the key objectives of the 2015 Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, particularly the creation of a more prosperous Wales. While the full economic impact of the project is not yet quantifiable, the company employed an additional 44 people during the course of this work. It hopes that the knowledge gained, with the Welsh Government's support, will enable it to participate in a wider range of aircraft programmes in the future, leading to further expansion and job creation in Wales.

"We had 100 employees when we made the initial application for innovation funding and we now have 144. While that is not all down to the innovation funding itself, it has made a significant impact. We've now enhanced our skill set and our facilities, and this will hopefully help us drive more business to the area and create more highly skilled jobs, so it can only be seen to be positive. I would highly recommend working with the Welsh Government as there are many funding opportunities out there for businesses."

**Andy Smith – Electroimpact.**

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To find out more about funding and support from the  
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