



**NEWS RELEASE ISSUED BY DEFENCE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION AND  
SOCIETY OF BRITISH AEROSPACE COMPANIES**

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**MAJOR NEW AEROSPACE, DEFENCE & SECURITY ORGANISATION TO BE FORMED**

The Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) and the Defence Manufacturers Association (DMA) have cleared the final hurdle in the process to agree a merger between the two trade associations.

Earlier today (Wednesday) the DMA's members, at an Extraordinary General Meeting, gave their approval for the merger - the final step in the process. This matches approval from the SBAC's members and internal approvals from office-holders at both trade associations. Further work now begins at both organisations to launch the new merged organisation in October 2009.

The new trade association will result from a merger of equals and will deliver improved services to around 800 member companies in civil aviation, defence, space and public security. It will also deliver an enhanced voice for the members with politicians, the media and public.

**Rees Ward, Director General of the DMA and CEO designate of the merged organisation, said:**

*"A great deal of work has gone in to the preparations for this merger. I am grateful for the hard work that colleagues at DMA and SBAC have put in so far for all our members. Now we have full approval from both memberships we can turn our energies to building an even more powerful organisation. It will deliver improved services to the combined membership, enhancing the services that are already valued and offering new services that members have told us that they need."*

**Ian Godden, Chief Executive of the SBAC and Chairman designate of the merged organisation, said:**

*"Both organisations have storied pasts and we know that the members did not take this decision lightly. However, it is obvious to us all that by combining forces we can do much more for our member companies. Therefore, this is an exciting new future for the sectors that we represent and we look forward to working with our DMA colleagues to establish the new company. In the meantime we will celebrate all that the SBAC has achieved over its 96 year history and ensure that the brand has a strong showing at next week's Paris Airshow as its last appearance at a major international event."*

More information on the new company, its structure, its name, its brand and the methodology for ensuring full member participation will be announced in due course.

**ENDS**

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***Notes to Editors:***

1. *For further information about the proposed merger please go to [http://www.sbac.co.uk/community/cms/content/preview/news\\_item\\_view.asp?i=19393&t=0](http://www.sbac.co.uk/community/cms/content/preview/news_item_view.asp?i=19393&t=0).*
2. ***Defence Manufacturers Association*** - *To know more about DMA please go to: [www.the-dma.org.uk](http://www.the-dma.org.uk)*
3. ***SBAC*** - *To know more about SBAC please go to: [www.sbac.co.uk](http://www.sbac.co.uk)*