

12th October 2022

Aerospace Strategy
Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment
PO Box 1473
Wellington 6140

Kia ora Aerospace Strategy team,

Thank you for circulating the 'Developing the Aotearoa New Zealand Aerospace Strategy' Consultation Document, and for inviting feedback.

As the local economic development agency, ChristchurchNZ seeks to support local business and stimulate sustainable economic growth in Christchurch. Christchurch has a thriving aerospace sector which has grown rapidly, despite the challenges over the last few years. Given the potential for future growth, aerospace has been identified as a key sector for the city and remains as one of our priority areas going forward.

Overall, we are supportive of the focus areas for the five goals articulated in the strategy consultation document. We believe that these align well with the strengths of the local sector. However, the goals could benefit from being more ambitious to encourage growth and rapid technological advancement in the aerospace sector.

We support the focus on autonomous aerial vehicles, though this goal could be broadened beyond integration with aviation systems. Autonomous aerial vehicle technology is a current strength for the sector, locally and nationally. With further support New Zealand could show significant international leadership in this industry and through novel application of the technologies for commercial benefit, environmental and social good outcomes.

There are several factors that will be critical to allow the sector to grow and achieve these goals. Firstly, more streamlined and transparent regulatory processes would reduce barriers to entry for aerospace start-ups and support existing companies to increase their own research and development capabilities. Ensuring that a skilled workforce is in place is also key for the sector's future. The skills shortage, along with the current lack of diversity in the workforce, is already a major concern for the sector. This issue will become more acute with the rapid growth plans in the sector and will hamper those plans if not addressed. Finally, additional infrastructure may be required, particularly that targeted early-stage start-ups with testing and R&D activities. There are a number of overseas examples, such as Lot 14 in Adelaide, that could be replicated locally to benefit the sector.

ChristchurchNZ

BNZ Centre, Level 3 (West), 101 Cashel St
PO Box 2962, Christchurch 8140
Christchurch 8011, New Zealand

enquiries@christchurchnz.com
Phone: +64 3 379 5575
www.christchurchnz.org.nz

Thank you again for the opportunity to feedback on the initial strategy plan. We welcome the opportunity to provide further input into the strategy development as it progresses.

If you have any questions on the above, please let us know.

Ngā mihi,



Martin Cudd
General Manager, Innovation & Business Growth, ChristchurchNZ