

Dorset Defence Skills Catalogue

Building Dorset's Defence Workforce

Dorset – a strategic centre for defence

The defence sector is a crucial part of Dorset's economy, valued at £437 million and employing 8,000 people. The county is a strategic centre for defence, anchored by a significant Ministry of Defence (MoD) presence engaged in research, development, training and operations.

Dorset's geography and secure facilities provide a unique environment for high-tech development and testing across land, sea and air. As global spending on defence and security grows, Dorset's world-leading companies in the sector are well placed to grow, driving local prosperity and social opportunity.

A partnership approach to skills

The challenges and strategic actions around maintaining a consistent supply of people with the skills to achieve this growth are described in detail in the Dorset Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). There are many organisations – employers, skills providers and stakeholders – working to overcome these and provide the talent pipeline needed by local businesses.



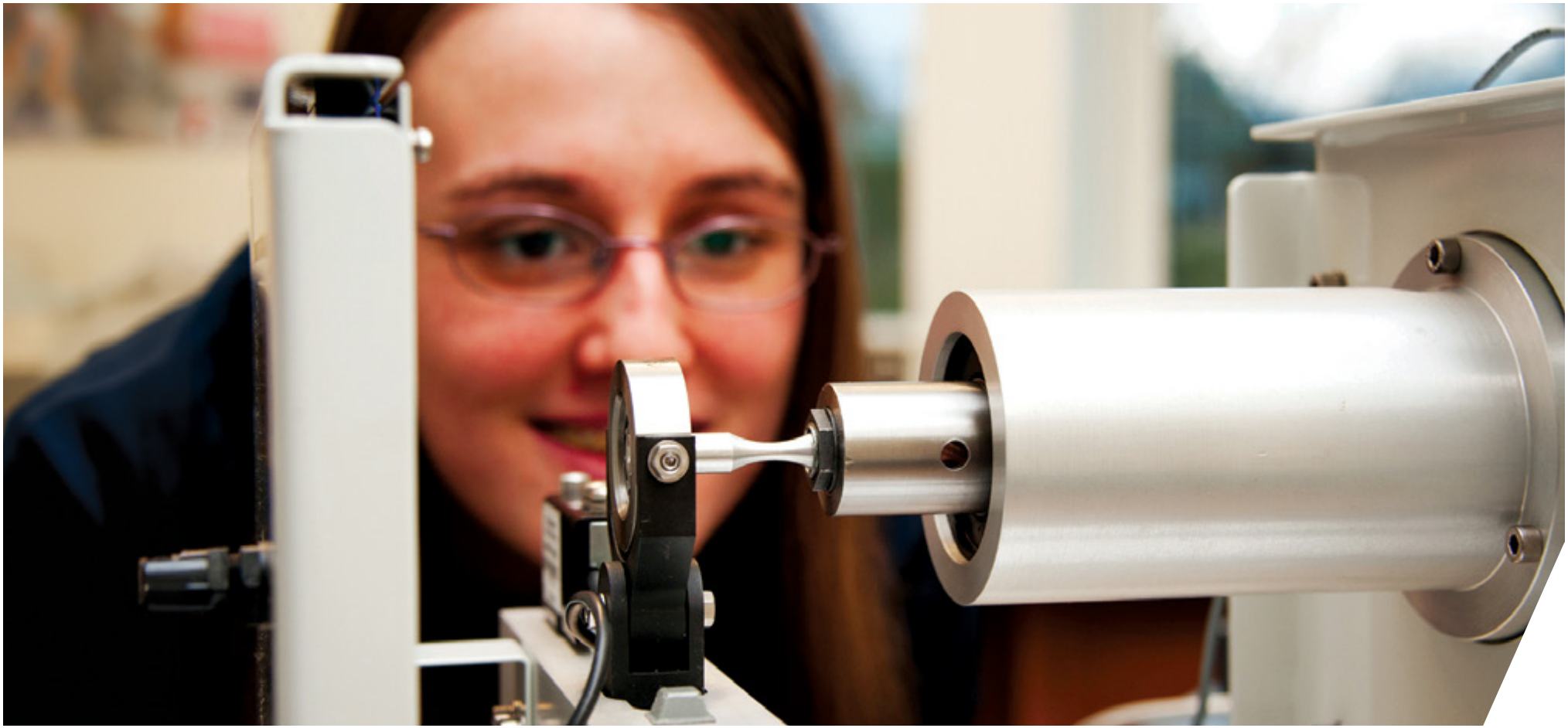
£437M
Economic value
Contribution to Dorset's economy

8,000
Jobs supported
People employed in the sector

Simplifying skills access

A central priority of the LSIP is simplifying access to the skills system. Against that background, this document provides a “one stop shop”, signposting the skills supply and support available to defence companies in Dorset and the surrounding area.

The work to provide a comprehensive talent pipeline outlined in this document supports the growth ambitions outlined in the Dorset Defence Investment Prospectus.



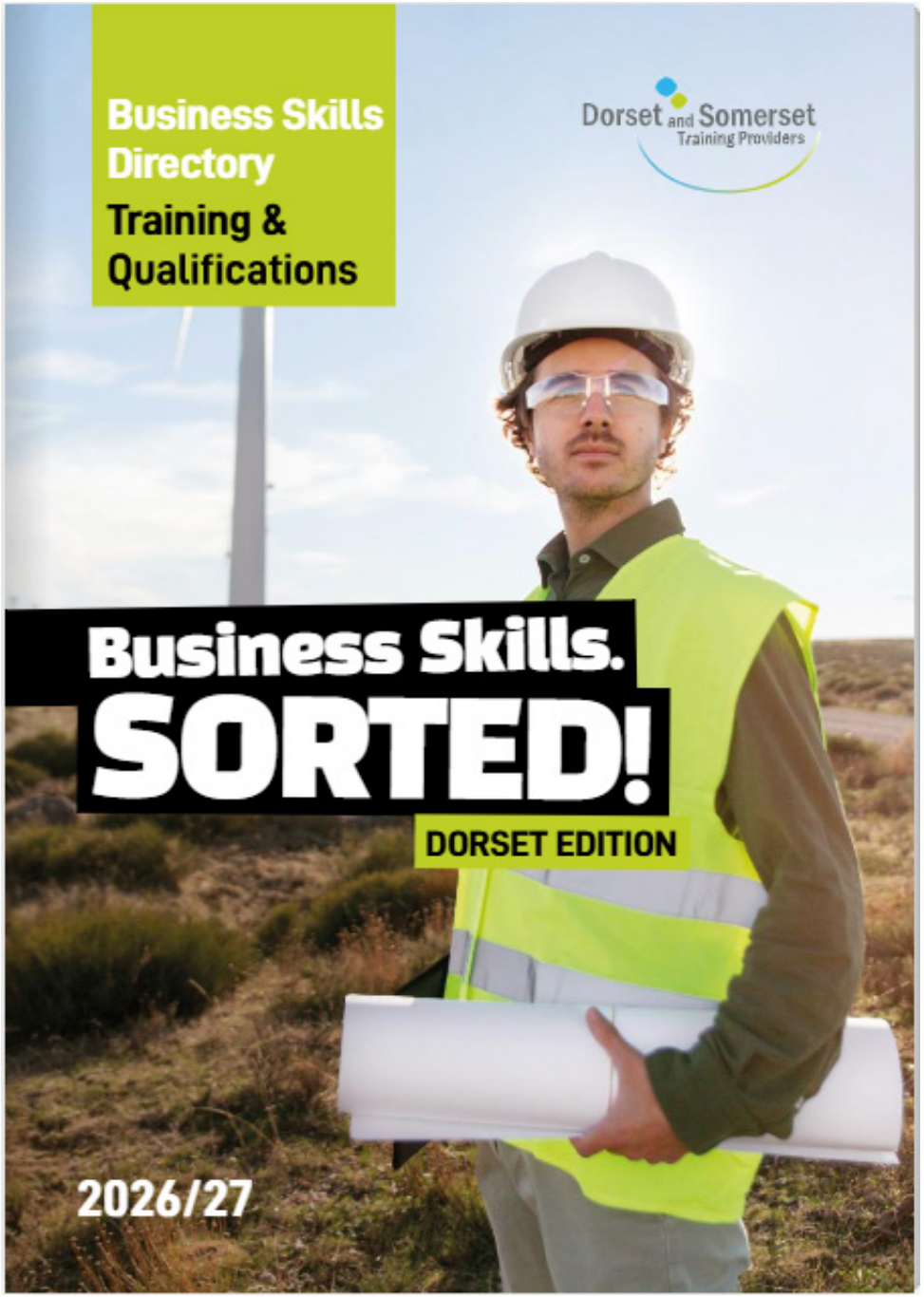
Business Skills SORTED!

The Dorset edition of Business Skills SORTED! is comprehensive directory providing employers with up-to-date information on the county's skills, training and career pathways from apprenticeships to skills bootcamps and student placements.

It aims to demystify the training opportunities available to your business and provide contact details for skills providers who can support you and meet your needs.

Whether you are looking to maximise the skills of your existing workforce, attract high-quality talent or recruit to high volume vacancies, Business Skills SORTED! is a great start point to understand local skills providers, available funding and the best fit for your needs.

Everything Dorset businesses need to find, develop and attract local talent.



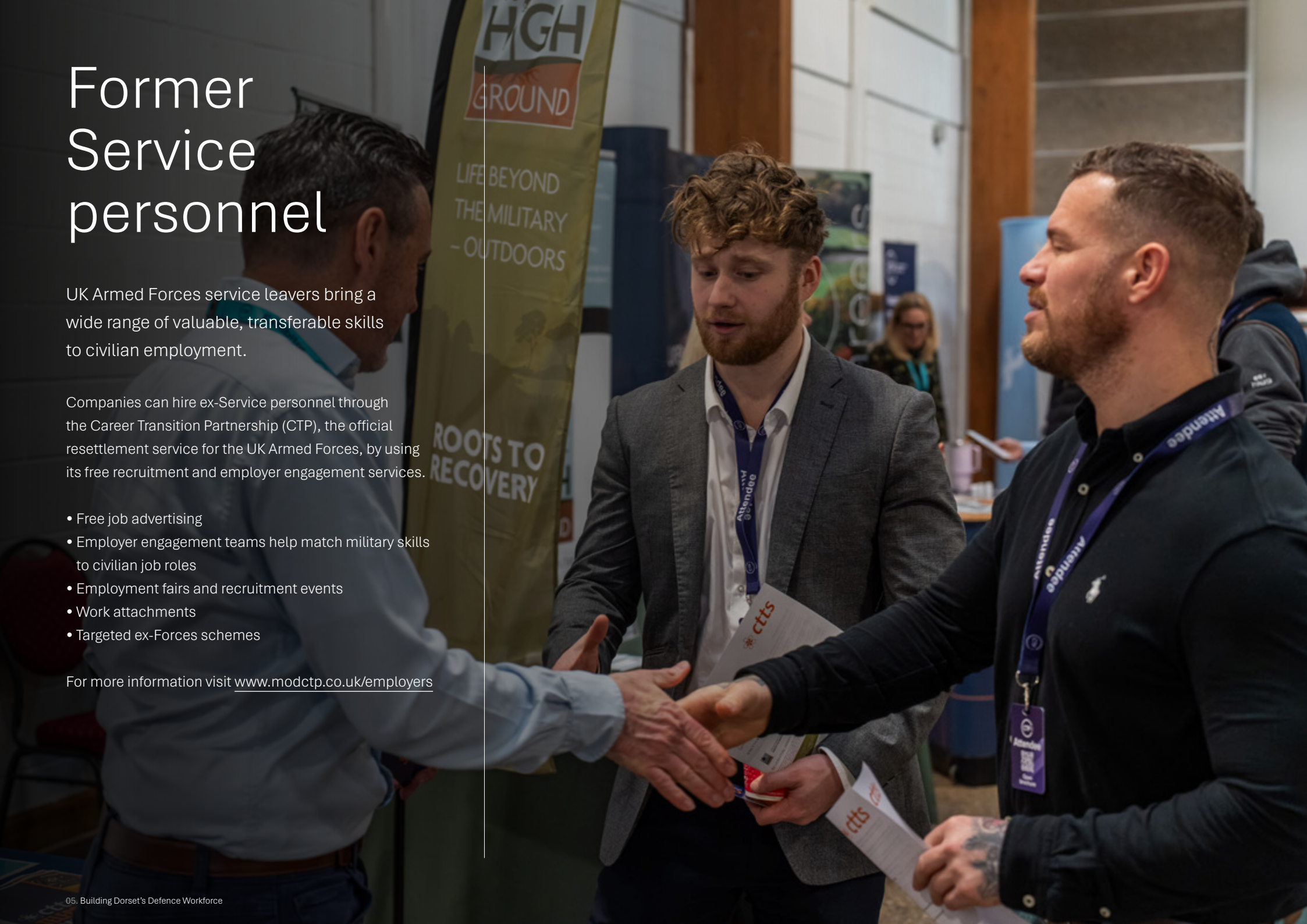
Former Service personnel

UK Armed Forces service leavers bring a wide range of valuable, transferable skills to civilian employment.

Companies can hire ex-Service personnel through the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), the official resettlement service for the UK Armed Forces, by using its free recruitment and employer engagement services.

- Free job advertising
- Employer engagement teams help match military skills to civilian job roles
- Employment fairs and recruitment events
- Work attachments
- Targeted ex-Forces schemes

For more information visit www.modctp.co.uk/employers



Dorset Careers Hub

Working with local schools and colleges is a powerful way to raise your organisation's profile, develop your employees and inspire the next generation of talent.

Dorset Careers Hub connects employers with schools and colleges across the county, creating meaningful opportunities for young people to learn about the world of work, explore career pathways and understand the skills employers value most.

By supporting careers education, your organisation can:

- Increase awareness of your business and sector
- Inspire future employees and help shape the local workforce
- Develop staff through volunteering, speaking and leadership opportunities
- Support social mobility and make a positive impact in your community
- Build a pipeline of future talent to support long-term recruitment needs

To support employers, Dorset Careers Hub has produced an Employer Engagement Booklet, providing practical guidance on the different ways businesses can work with schools and colleges.

Visit www.dorsetcareershub.co.uk/get-involved to register your interest, explore the Employer Engagement Booklet, or contact the team directly at dorsetcareershub@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



Cluster Networks

Dorset forms an integral part of important industry clusters that support business growth across the defence sector.



SWRDSC
South West Regional
Defence and Security Cluster

South West Regional Defence and Security Cluster (SWRDSC)

SWRDSC promotes collaboration between industry, academia and the public sector. It has a 600 strong membership, more than half of which are true defence suppliers, of which 75% are SMEs.

In 2025, the cluster held 25 events with over 2,500 registrants and over 630 organisations participating. This included government organisations, 11 academic bodies including six universities and four Further Education colleges.

Find out more

DORSET EMC Engineering and Manufacturing Cluster

Dorset Engineering & Manufacturing Cluster (DEMC)

DEMC supports and promotes Dorset's engineering and manufacturing industry.

Through partnerships with key stakeholders, DEMC brings engineering businesses of all sizes together, champions the sector's interests enabling sustainable growth, and cultivates a skilled workforce, ensuring the development, education and retention of future talent.

Find out more

Future Workforce programme

Help grow your talent pipeline by working with Dorset Council's Future Workforce programme.

The varied and comprehensive programme supports schools to take part in tech competitions, organise employer-engagement activities in school or at your workplace to raise young people's awareness of the great career opportunities on their doorstep.

Contact digitaldorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or find more information at Future Workforce - Dorset Council.





Business Growth Dorset

Business Growth Dorset provides a range of support to help businesses start, grow and thrive.

Its website includes information on support including funding available to defence and security businesses, plus a skills section outlining the range of support to help businesses build a strong workforce.

Helping Dorset businesses start, grow and thrive.

Dorset Skills

The Dorset Skills LinkedIn page provides regular skills news and updates including cross sector skills provision in digital and leadership.

Helping Dorset employers access training, skills support and the latest workforce opportunities.