

Zero Emissions Flight - Unite the Union (Gatwick Branch) Motion

Zero Emissions Flight (ZEF), including zero-carbon (electric, hydrogen) and hybrid-powered aircraft have the potential to revolutionise air travel: creating greener, cleaner, quieter flights.

The economic opportunities are huge. There is the potential for the creation of thousands of highly-skilled, well-paid jobs across research & development, testing, manufacturing, certification and operation of these aircraft by airlines and at airports.

The social benefits are also massive. We can distribute air travel more extensively across the country, revitalise regional airports, and reduce noise and air pollution from aircraft.

There's also a strategic industrial opportunity to be gained from clean aerospace technology and skills amongst the UK workforce that can have spill-over benefits to other sectors.

The UK has already fallen significantly behind the US and China in the development of electric vehicles, cars and electric systems such as motor and battery manufacturing, with severe consequences for the future of the UK automotive sector and Unite members.

However, the lower-volumes, higher performance requirements and safety standards of aerospace components and systems - coupled with the UK's world-leading aerospace and aviation expertise - mean that we still have an opportunity to be global pioneers in ZEF.

We're already home to Evolito, a key supplier of aerospace electric motors to many leading electric aircraft developers globally. However, we have few companies developing the aircraft themselves, and the US, China and other European countries are leading us here.

It is vital we do more to seize our opportunity and super-charge this industry in the UK. Pioneering the next generation of Great British Aviation will require innovative policy to accelerate innovative technology. We must push the UK government in this area.

This branch supports:

- The potential for a Zero Emissions Flight (ZEF) industry in the UK to create economic growth, social benefits, clean technology development, and jobs for workers.
- The opportunity for the UK due to our geography, suitable flight routes and world-leading aerospace and aviation expertise to become a pioneer of this industry.
- The risk that the UK is falling behind China, the US and other European countries in leading ZEF development, and we are likely to miss a closing window of opportunity.

This branch commits to lobbying for:

- Government and industry support for a ZEF industry in the UK.
- A set of [policy proposals](#), that would lay the runway for this approach to take-off:
 - **Pioneer Airports** - selected for targeted support;
 - **Private Jets** - used as early adopters and financers;
 - **Pivot to Hybrid** - ensure support for hybrid-electric powered flight;
 - **PSO Routes** - public service obligation routes used to trial technology;
 - **Pollution Controls** - penalise polluting flights to create a clean flight market;
 - **Innovation Fund** - ring-fence funds to support ZEF start-ups and scale-ups.