

SC21 Overview

What is SC21?

SC21 is a change programme designed to accelerate the competitiveness of the aerospace & defence industry by raising the performance of its supply chains.

International competition, together with the challenges posed by the defence industrial strategy, necessitates rapid improvement in the effectiveness of our supply chains.



Source: AeiGT; SBAC discussion with members at all scales of business since September 2005

At the same time, industry must ensure that it delivers competitive solutions for customers whilst maintaining profitable business growth.

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SC21 Commitments

Signatories to SC21 are committed to developing supply chains to ensure they remain competitive and able to deliver increased value to customers.

To be a signatory to the SC21 action plan you do not have to be a large prime company, we are actively encouraging companies from all levels in the supply chain.

SC21 signatory companies are committed to:

- **A new SC21 business culture:** no matter what our role or position in a supply chain, we are determined to effect fundamental business transformation. We will work openly and transparently, through sharing information and working collaboratively, to deliver benefits across the industry. We will avoid duplication and waste.
- **Delivering innovation:** we will build on success to enable our industry to be a leader in the development of competitive value chains. We will pursue the most competitive solutions for our customers, by accessing innovation and specialist expertise. We will encourage innovation and investment of all types throughout the supply chain, achieved through providing a more trusting and open environment.
- **Through-life solutions:** total through-life cost is of paramount importance to our customers. We will involve all functions of the supply chain, for example: procurement, engineering and finance, throughout the project, product or service lifecycle. Transparency will be encouraged, with more planning and forecast data made available using bid conferences, project conferences and other means of communication.
- **Delivering the SC21 plan:** as a signatory to this action plan, we accept that our adherence to the commitments will be tested annually and that our performance will be measured and published. We will help in the development of this plan by sharing experiences.
- **Leadership:** we will encourage colleagues in the industry, including our customers and suppliers, to join SC21 as both signatories and active participants.
- **Ethical practices:** we will ensure that all business is conducted in a principled manner, with the highest degree of personal and business integrity.
- **Increased pace of change:** our rate of change and improvement will be at an accelerated pace. Signatories will work together to harmonise how supply chains are developed, how accreditation occurs, how performance is measured and how relationships are improved.

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Why do SC21?

A growing number of customers, suppliers and competitors are committing to SC21. It is therefore important that you understand this programme and consider whether your business should participate in order to maintain its competitive position.

What are the benefits of committing?

Your company could benefit from some specific savings - for example when customer audits are reduced under SC21. You will achieve reduced overheads from supporting fewer audits, which is valuable to you in offering the most competitive solution to your customer. Through participating in SC21 your business will understand how the industry will be changing in the future and you will be aware of the latest developments in the sector.

What does it cost to participate?

It costs nothing to subscribe to SC21. To fully engage in the change programme will require the commitment of some resources, but the benefits accrued from SC21 will easily outweigh any resource allocations.

If my company chooses to sign-up, what will the SC21 signatory companies expect of me and how will I need to demonstrate my company has satisfied these expectations?

As a signatory to SC21 you will become a member of the SC21 taskforce. The taskforce meets regularly to review progress in the implementation of SC21.

The main aims of the forum are:

- Review progress against the plan
- Communications forum for sharing success stories, lesson learned and specific issues

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What will my company get out of SC21?

By participating in SC21 you are positioning your company as an innovative market leading company which is willing to develop long term relationships with your customers and suppliers. By applying SC21 principles you will be able to significantly improve your company's supply chain performance and reduce duplication.

What are the risks if I simply ignore SC21?

The total number of companies committed to SC21 doubled within two months of its launch. The more companies that join this initiative, the greater the benefit to the UK supply chain. There is some risk that over time, those businesses that have not embraced SC21 and developed their businesses along these lines will become less attractive as key suppliers.

How do I implement SC21?

The initial phase of SC21 implementation covers 3 work streams: Accreditation, Development & Performance and Relationships

The SC21 programme is largely about doing what we already do but in a more efficient, co-ordinated and collaborated way.

Through consultation with key customers, suppliers and regional partners throughout the aerospace and defence industry, we have been able to develop and agree a common implementation engagement process across the industry for implementing SC21.

The implementation process has been designed specifically to provide a simple framework within which to operate, rather than prescriptive rules.

There are 3 ways of implementing SC21: key customer led, regionally led and in house (own programme). The SC21 engagement process is fundamentally the same however you implement SC21, merely different organisations play different roles within the framework. The 3 ways to implement are:

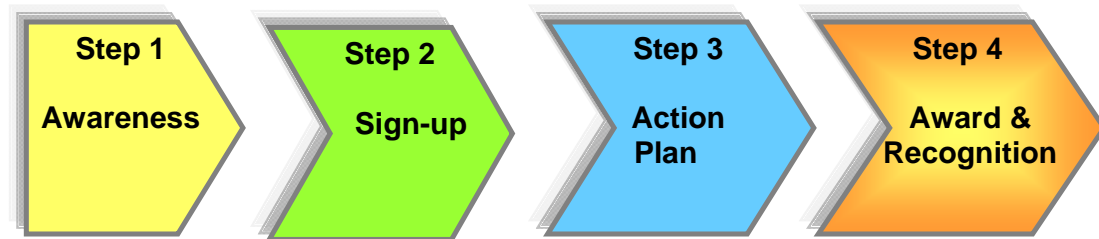
- SC21 key customer implementation plan
- SC21 regional implementation plan
- SC21 in house (own programme) implementation plan

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Steps to Implement SC21

SC21 is implemented as a four step process:



Step 1 Awareness

Identify if SC21 is right for your organisation

- Information in the how to guide
- Support available from regional partners
- Support available from a Strategic Partner, such as [Industry Forum](#)

Step 2 Sign Up

- Electronic form available on SBAC website
- Requires CEO equivalent commitment to the SC21 principles

Step 3 Action Plan

- Identify your customers, suppliers, regional partner and define business group
- Establish the business group
- Agree implementation plan
- Identify relevant action stream elements
- Create a Continuous Sustainable Improvement Plan (CSIP)
- Support available from a Strategic Partner, such as [Industry Forum](#)

Step 4 Recognition

- Implement the CSIP
- When evidence and data develops undertake assessments in preparation for award application
- Apply for Bronze, Silver or Gold recognition

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