



ACW awarded SC21 silver accreditation (the top 1%!)

Southampton, 8th February 2010: ACW Technology Ltd., one of Britain's most successful electronics manufacturing service (EMS) providers, has been awarded silver accreditation in the 'Supply Chains for the Twenty First Century' (SC21) national aerospace and defence supply chain improvement programme. The silver accreditation is the highest level so far attained by any company; it is a great achievement for ACW and follows an intensive yearlong audit process. There are approximately six hundred companies in the SC21 programme. ACW is one of only four companies to reach silver level status (and only the 2nd to go straight to silver) in the three and a half years the programme has been running. The formal presentation took place on 2nd February at an SC21 taskforce meeting in Yeovil.

Achieving supply chain improvement is critical to the continued competitiveness of the UK aerospace and defence industry and SC21 was set up with the aim of accelerating the process. With international competition increasing, the participation of companies of all sizes throughout the UK supply chain is crucial to delivering real results from this modernisation programme.

ACW was formally nominated to join SC21 in late 2008 by Thales, to whom it is a preferred supplier. In joining SC21 ACW signed up to a formal recognition process that reflects the contribution and commitment of its supply chain. Being part of SC21 gives ACW the opportunity to network with other leading companies in the aerospace, defence and security sector, including the UK Ministry of Defence, in a coordinated effort to improve the industry's supply chain. The network also provides the opportunity for ACW to learn of the latest developments in the sector at an early stage. ACW will have to go through a re-accreditation every year and have to show a continuous improvement in business practices, manufacturing practices, on time delivery (in full) and quality.

Owen Reeves, Managing Director at ACW commented: "A significant percentage of our business comes from customers in the aerospace, defence and security sector so achieving an SC21 silver accreditation gives us access to potential new customers in this market and the valuable knowledge sharing encouraged through the programme enables us to enhance the already excellent service we're able to offer them.

ACW has more than 20 years of expertise in all areas of manufacturing and offers a complete end-to-end service including product manufacturing, global sourcing, logistics and repair. The company has three facilities: in Southampton, Tonypandy (South Wales) and Zhuhai (China) with a fourth due to open in North Carolina (US) in Q2 2010.