

The Defence Manufacturers Association (DMA) and the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) today (Monday) both held Extraordinary General Meetings at which their members voted to give a mandate to their respective Councils to merge the two organisations into one new trade association.

The merger aims to create an even stronger association for the membership, eliminate the duplication of roles in

representation to Government on behalf of industry and unite the expertise of the staff of both organisations. This will deliver significant benefits for the members of both the DMA and SBAC that together make up the UK's world-leading aerospace and defence industry.

The process now enters a second stage. The SBAC Council will meet to agree final terms of the merger while the DMA membership will do the same in parallel. Following this second stage, the new organisation will then begin to take shape during 2009 and will formally come in to existence.