

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 4 March 2008**

(7.30pm to 9.10pm)

Present:

Tony Lock – Mayor
Phil Chandler
John Cruddas
Clive Davis
Bridget Dollard
Tony Fife
Julian Freke
Dave Gooding
Peter Gubbins

Steve Hawker
Andrew Kendall
Ruth Kendall
Ian Martin
Pat Martin
Tom Parsley
Wes Read
David Recardo
Alan Smith

Also present:

Alan Tawse – Town Clerk
Graham Cole – Managing Director (Business) AgustaWestland plc

PRAYERS

Reverend Ed Bangay led the Council in prayers on behalf of the Townspeople of Yeovil.

GRANT PRESENTATION

The Mayor presented a grant in the sum of £1,000 to a representative of South Somerset Voluntary and Community Action Limited towards core running costs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/127 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 February 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

7/128 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from J Vincent Chainey, Pete Goodman, John Grana, Dave Greene, John Hann and Simon Hester.

7/129 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

7/130 **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming engagements and announcements were attached to the Agenda.

The Mayor drew attention to a number of charity fundraising events and extended his thanks to the various sponsors who had kindly contributed towards the costs of staging the events.

7/131 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:-

- South Somerset District Council Newsletter – March 2008
- Heritage Matters – The Somerset Historic Building Owners' Newsletter – January 2008
- Walk – Magazine of the Ramblers' Association – Spring 2008

7/132 **AGUSTAWESTLAND PLC**

Graham Cole, Managing Director (Business) of AgustaWestland plc attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation of the work undertaken by the Company and its plans for the future.

(A summary of the main points covered by the presentation is attached as an appendix to these Minutes).

During his presentation, Graham drew attention to the business issues facing AgustaWestland and ways by which the Company planned to respond in order to meet the challenges that lay ahead.

Details of the Company's product range were outlined at the meeting along with the support which AgustaWestland gave to the military and civil sectors.

Graham concluded by emphasising that whilst AgustaWestland was the second largest helicopter manufacturer in the world, the Company could not be complacent, and needed to look at ways of developing its position and role in a global market.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, a DVD was screened which highlighted the use of AgustaWestland helicopters in various parts of the world undertaking a variety of military, civilian emergency and relief work.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their support for the success of AgustaWestland and its plans for the future.

The Council acknowledged the significant impact which the Company had on local employment and the local economy and reference was made to the

importance of local organisations continuing to work together to help foster successful partnerships.

Attention was also drawn to the steps being taken by the Company to broaden its market to avoid an over reliance of orders from single sources – such as the Ministry of Defence.

Reference was also made to ways by which AgustaWestland contributed towards various local charities and community projects, and their intention to continue making similar contributions in the future.

The Mayor thanked Graham for his interesting and informative presentation, and it was

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/133 POST OFFICE – NETWORK CHANGE PROGRAMME

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 7 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their opposition to the proposed closure of the Goldcroft Post Office branch.

In support of this stance, it was pointed out that the branch was used by a considerable number of local people, who relied upon the branch for processing their DVLA licence applications. Closing the branch would result in additional pressure being placed on the only other branch in the Town that offered this service (King George Street) which was located over half a mile away across the busy A30 trunk road and along hilly terrain.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the King George Street branch already suffered from chronic queuing problems, following the closure of the Lower Middle Street branch four years ago. It was pointed out that nearby car parking was in constant demand, and that the proposal to close the Goldcroft branch would make it extremely difficult for those members of the community who do have access to a car to park close enough to the King George Street branch to use it.

Reference was made to a number of health studies carried out by the South Somerset Health and Social Needs Analysis Group (in conjunction with the Primary Care Trust) which have demonstrated that the Yeovil Central Ward in which the Goldcroft branch was situated had relatively high levels of social deprivation. This manifested itself in low car ownership and a high dependency on health-related benefits all of which made it more important for the Goldcroft branch to be kept open to provide safe, convenient and effective access to post office services for local people.

RESOLVED

(1) that the matter be noted;

- (2) that the National Consultation Team be urged to take all the above outlined factors into account as part of the consultation process, and to keep the Goldcroft branch open in the interest of the community that it serves; and
- (3) that the Town Clerk be requested to respond to the consultation document incorporating the above mentioned points, and a copy of his draft response be circulated to all Yeovil Central Ward Members for information.

7/134 **PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 8 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the proposal by the District Council to designate The Park area of Yeovil as a conservation area be supported.

7/135 **NALC CONFERENCE 2008**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 9 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the benefits of the Town Council being represented at the Annual Conference and at the Larger Local Councils' Assembly.

Members discussed the level of representation at each conference, and the range of topics and workshops which were staged at the Annual Conference.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the Town Council be represented at the May Annual Conference by Tony Fife, Tony Lock, Alan Smith and the Town Clerk; and
- (3) that approval be given to the Town Council being represented at the Larger Local Councils' Assembly later in the year, and the representation at that conference be considered and determined at a future Council meeting when further details of the event were known.

7/136 **TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was proposed by David Recardo, seconded by Tony Fife and

RESOLVED

that Wes Read be nominated for the office of Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

There being no other nominations, Wes Read thanked the Council for their support.

It was then proposed by David Recardo, seconded by Tony Fife and

RESOLVED

that Phil Chandler be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

There being no other nominations, Phil Chandler thanked the Council for their support.

7/137 **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

The Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee presented the Minutes from the previous cycle of meetings, drawing attention to specific references to Council and any other matters of particular interest and answering any questions.

Planning and Licensing Committee

28 January 2008
11 February 2008

7/138 **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Yeovil Town Centre Consultative Panel

23 January 2008

Yeovil Twinning Association

14 February 2008

Yeovil Youth Council

21 January 2008
18 February 2008

7/139 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

7/140 **YEOVIL SKI AND ACTIVITY CENTRE**

Council considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 13 refers).

The Town Clerk circulated a supplementary report at the meeting, which outlined details of the bids received for the appointment of a preferred agent to market the site at an early date in accordance with the draft development brief.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- (1) that the use of the Council's Emergency Procedure (under Standing Order no. 51) to authorise the opening and analysis of both tenders received be noted;
- (2) that, given the exceptional circumstances, Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (No. 12) be suspended to enable both bids to be considered at this meeting;
- (3) that Alder King Property Consultants be appointed to market the site at an early date in accordance with the draft development brief – the costs of which to be met from contingencies; and
- (4) that the Mayor, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and Alan Smith (Yeovil South Ward) be appointed to represent the Town Council at meetings with the appointed agent and, following consultation with the appointed Members, the Town Clerk be authorised to act on behalf of the Town Council in relation to ongoing issues – subject to regular reports back to the Town Council on key developments, the adoption of the final development brief and the choice of developer.

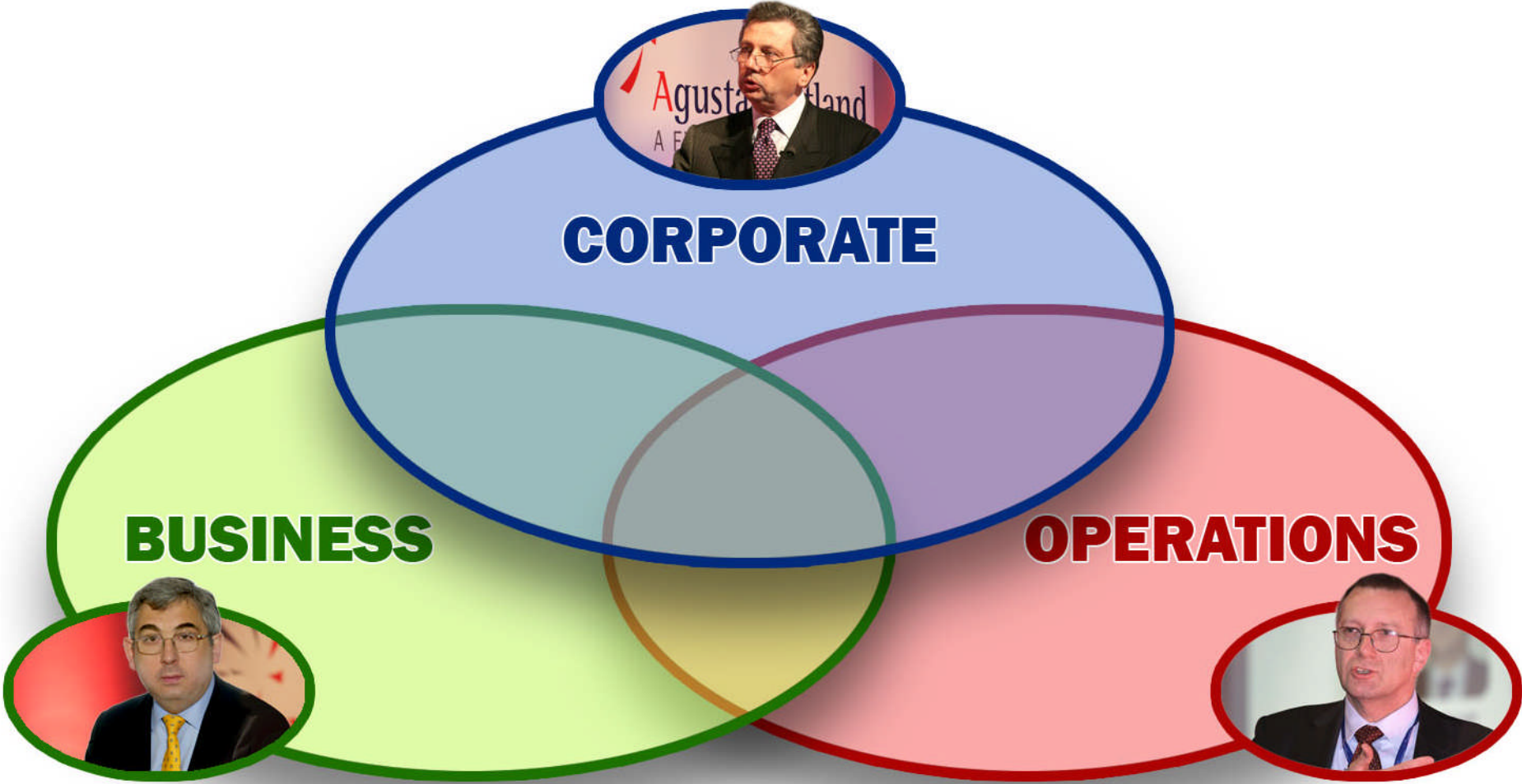
Mayor

AT/JW
19/03/08

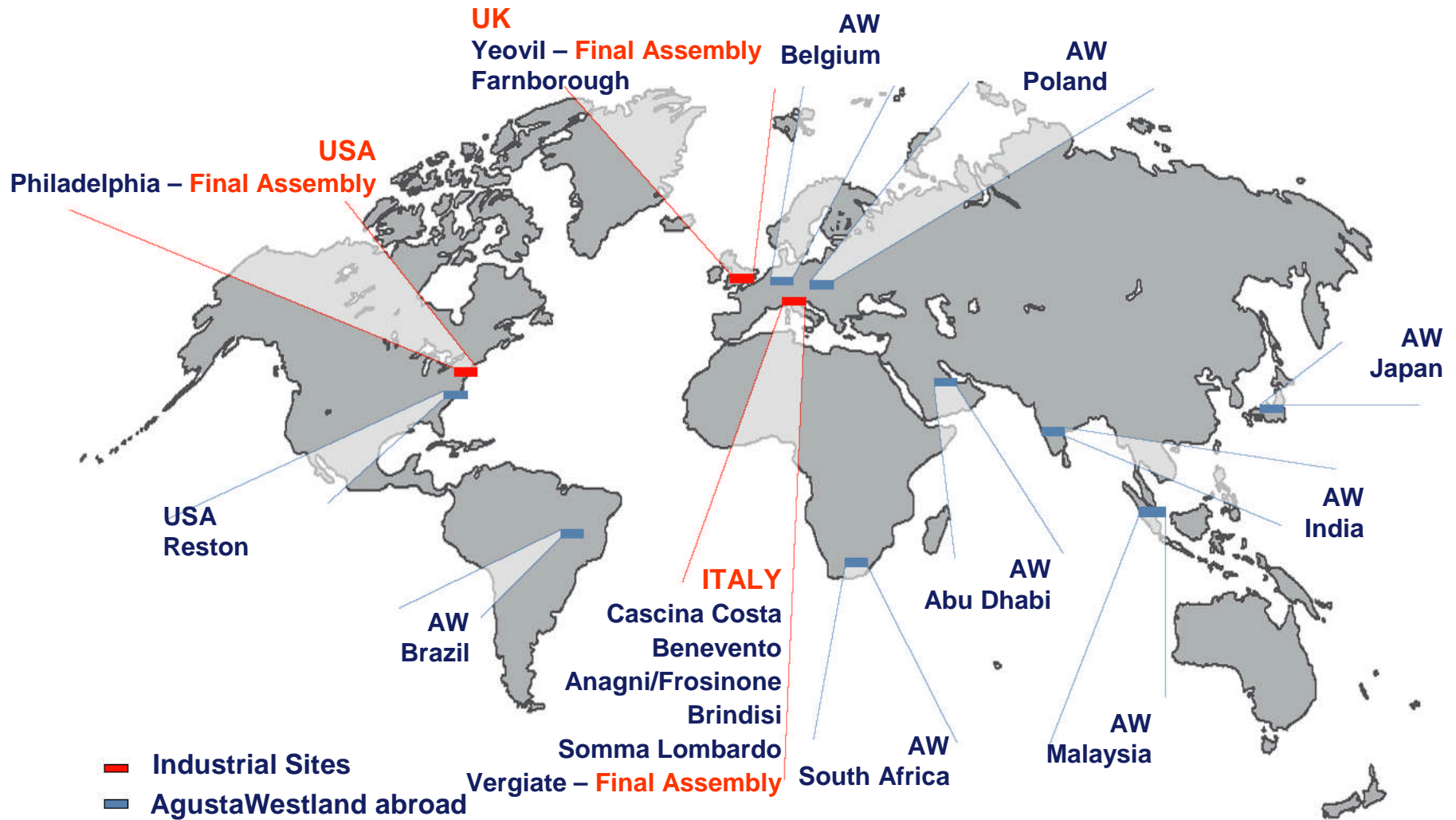


AgustaWestland Company Overview 2008

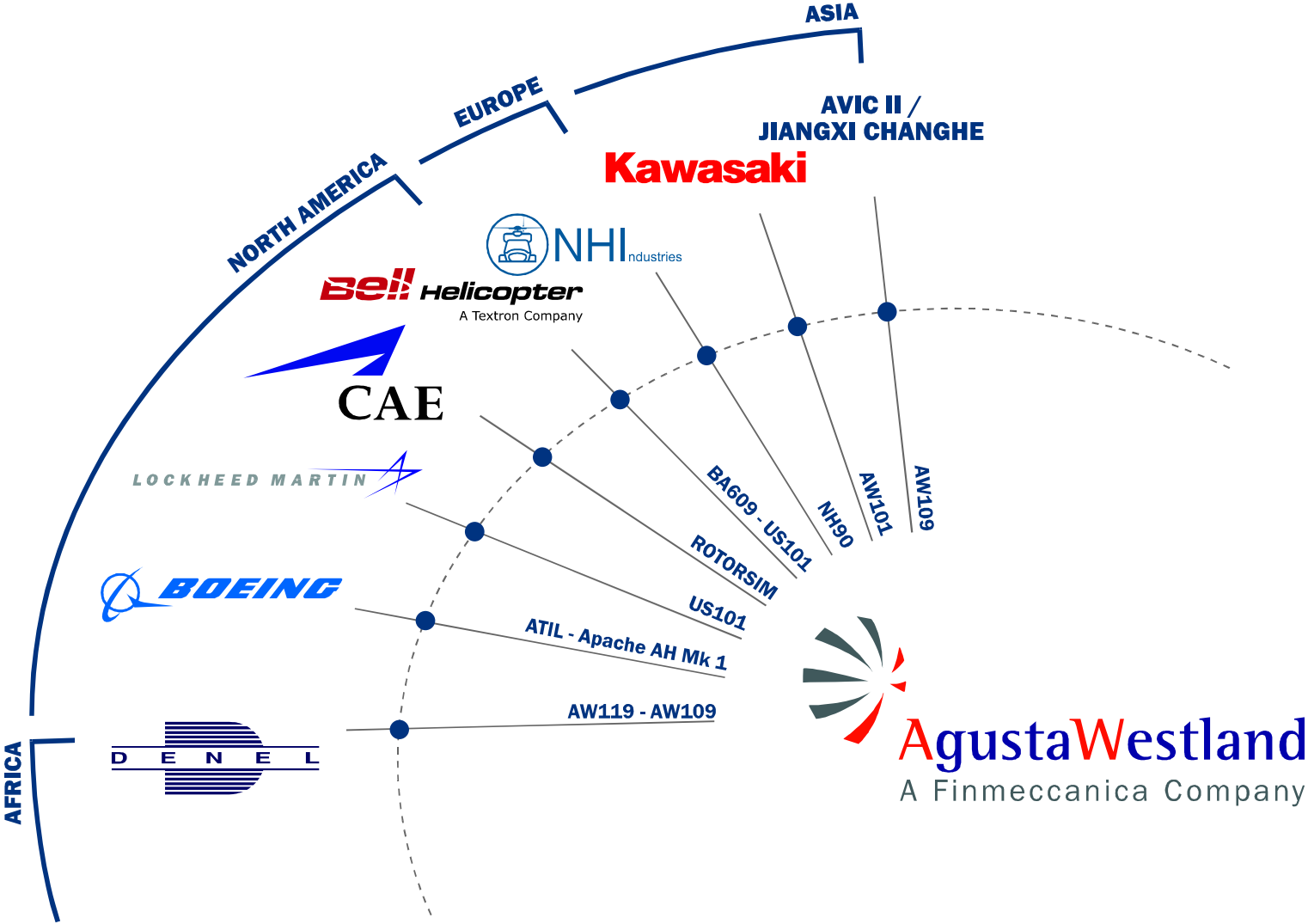
Our New Organisation - Transition



Major Locations



International Partnerships



The Company

Product Range

Products

2 Ton 4



Grand



AW109LUH



AW109 Power



AW119 Ke

5 Ton 8



BA609



AW139



AW149



AB412



AW129



Super Lynx 300



Future Lynx

9 Ton 12



NH90 (TTH)



NH90 (NFH)



Apache AH Mk1

13 Ton 15



AW101 Civil/VIP



AW101 Maritime



AW101 Utility



AW101 C/SAR

Customer Service – Military & Civil

Military Sector

- Innovative support solutions with increased focus on through-life cost and capability management:
 - World leader in Integrated Operational Support (IOS) solutions
 - Committed to aircraft availability-based contracts
 - Extending the boundary of industry-based support into the military domain.

Civil Sector

- A global network of service centres
- “Power-by-the-hour programmes” with fixed guaranteed costs for main operators



Local Impact - Future

- **Employment remaining constant.**
 - **4,300 employees**
 - **3,300 live in Yeovil and South Somerset**
 - **£100,000,000 annual Salary bill**
 - **Significant future investment – new aircraft and facilities.**
 - **Future Orders.**
 - **£60,000,000 annual spend with suppliers in Yeovil and South Somerset, employing 3,500 staff.**
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Local Impact – Business Issues

- **Attracting and retaining world class employees to the company.**
 - **Judged on corporate and social responsibility from customers, partners and collaborators.**
 - **Local issues have a global impact.**
 - **ISO 14001 certification achieved Dec 2007 – Waste Management**
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Local Impact – Business Issues

- **AgustaWestland contribute to the community on 30-40 various charities, activities and events.**
 - **Employees contribute to a number of different charities through payroll giving.**
 - **Apprentices and trainees raise a significant amount of money on-site for local charities.**
 - **Indirect investment whereby employees take time off for public/civic duties.**
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Yeovil – part of the global market



- **AW (Yeovil) Located in beautiful countryside**
 - **However behind the factory gates AW is part of a global market**
 - **Facing tough challenges on a daily basis**
 - **Important activities to deliver aircraft and support to customers.**
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