Identifying the right engineering solutions

R.A. Rodriguez (UK) Ltd is a leading UK supplier of precision aerospace bearings, mechanical power transmission, gearing & linear motion products

Darren Reynolds



Darren Reynolds is Group CEO of RARUK Holdings Ltd and Managing Director of R.A. Rodriguez (UK) Ltd.

Steve Welch: Your Name Job Title and Responsibilities?
Darren Reynolds: I am RARUK Holdings Limited Group CEO and Managing Director of R.A. Rodriguez (UK) Ltd. I am responsible for the overall strategic direction of the business, customer relationships, supplier partnerships, operational performance and ensuring we continue to deliver engineering solutions that support critical UK manufacturing and defence programmes.

SW: Could you tell me a little about your background in the sector?
DR: I have spent almost 40 years working within the engineering and power transmission industry, supporting manufacturers, OEMs and defence contractors with specialised mechanical engineering solutions. My focus has always been on building strong customer relationships, understanding complex engineering challenges and delivering reliable, long-term supply chain support.

SW: Could you provide a brief summary of your organisation and offering to the market?
DR: R.A. Rodriguez (UK) Ltd established in 1968 is a leading UK supplier of precision aerospace bearings, mechanical power transmission, gearing & linear motion products. For almost 60 years, we have partnered with some of the world's most respected engineering manufacturers to provide high-quality products and technical expertise to customers operating in demanding sectors, including defence, aerospace, energy and manufacturing.

SW: Who in the main are the companies you engage with and in what way?
DR: We engage with OEMs, defence primes, defence subcontractors and manufacturing organisations throughout the UK & Europe. Our role extends beyond product supply; we work as a technical partner, helping customers identify the right engineering solutions, improve reliability and support long-term programme requirements.





SW: Do you have a project or case study you could provide some details of?
DR: A recent example is our support of defence and aerospace customers requiring specialist bearing solutions for flight critical applications where reliability, traceability and long-term availability are paramount. Through our global supplier network and technical expertise, we have helped customers mitigate supply chain risks while maintaining programme continuity and compliance requirements.

SW: What will you be featuring on your stand at the Make UK Defence Summit ?
DR: We will be showcasing our capabilities in precision aerospace bearings, gearing and actuation. Particularly, we will be highlighting our thin section bearings, slew bearings and miniature instrument bearings.

SW: What are your reflections on 2026?
DR: For R.A. Rodriguez, 2026 has been a positive year that has seen growing demand from defence and advanced manufacturing customers seeking dependable engineering partners. As programmes accelerate and expectations increase, the focus has shifted beyond simply supplying products to delivering technical support, supply chain assurance and long-term value. This has reinforced the importance of strong manufacturer relationships and a proactive approach to supporting our customers' critical requirements.

SW: What do you see as the key trends in the sector?
DR: Key trends we have observed in the sector include increased investment in UK defence capability and resilience, as well as a greater focus on UK supply chains. There is definitely a growing emphasis on sustainability and cost reduction. We have also experienced an increased demand for highly engineered products with full traceability and compliance.

SW: What are your objectives looking ahead through 2027 and beyond?
DR: Our objectives are focused on continued growth within the defence and aerospace sectors, expanding our bearings portfolio offerings, strengthening supplier partnerships and increasing support for UK manufacturing programmes. We also aim to further develop our technical capabilities to help customers address productivity, reliability and supply chain challenges.

SW: What are the main challenges facing the sector more generally and for you specifically?
DR: For the sector, key challenges include skills shortages, supply chain resilience, increasing regulatory requirements and maintaining competitiveness while scaling production.

For R.A. Rodriguez, the challenge is ensuring we continue to provide exceptional technical support and product availability in an increasingly complex and demanding global supply environment.

SW: How would you sum up your message to the market?
DR: The UK defence sector is entering a period of significant opportunity. Success will depend on collaboration, innovation, resilient supply chains and trusted engineering partnerships. R.A. Rodriguez is committed to helping customers meet these challenges by delivering proven technologies and technical expertise, along with long-term support for mission-critical applications.

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