

EPC-UK is a company keen to offer a dynamic and fulfilling professional future to ex-service individuals with suitable transferable skills. As a signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant, and a Bronze Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Award recipient, we're committed to supporting forces leavers with managerial encouragement, tailored learning & development and an employee investment programme so they can progress a new career within the Drilling & Blasting and Commercial Explosives industry.



From supporting First Line RAF Squadrons to becoming a Lead Mechanical Engineer at EPC-UK

Military fact file:

Name: Alex Hamilton Smith

Rank: Junior Technician

Position: Airframe Mechanic/Technician

Time served: 12 years

We offer an extensive range of employment positions and advancement routes for people with the enthusiasm to adapt their existing service expertise to roles within the quarrying environment, our engineering division, or supporting our logistical and administrative teams.

With a positive approach and an ability to readjust, ex-service individuals wishing to embark on a new career with familiar foundations can find what they're looking for with EPC-UK.

Service career

Alex joined the RAF in 1991 when he was 18 years old. During his 12-year career, he served as an Airframe Mechanic/Technician within First Line Squadron on Jaguar - an Anglo-French jet attack aircraft originally used by the British Royal Air Force and the French Air Force in close air support, and Tornado - a family of multirole combat aircraft, jointly developed and manufactured by UK, Italian and West German teams. Adding to his experience, he also ran a documentation control office whilst working as part of his Tornado squadron.

During his time in the force, Alex established safety as the key priority at all times. He developed strong teamworking capabilities and the knowledge to leverage skills, both his own and those of others, to deliver the most effective results. Demonstrating the capability to think on his feet and adjust to ever-changing situations, Alex nurtured valuable operational credentials that he could transfer to a new career on leaving the forces.



Resettlement journey

Having spent much of his time working in desert locations, Alex felt ready for a change of operational environment. He left the forces after a 12-year service and first gathered new aptitudes and skills as a civilian working in industry and upper tier COMAH sites. At the end of 2020, he started researching opportunities for a new role that could take his career further. Whilst he was unsure of exactly where his professional path would head next, he knew that he wanted to keep working within an engineering field. He saw EPC-UK's Lead Mechanical Engineer role advertised and thought the post would fit well with the knowledge and experience he'd gained planning upper tier COMAH site shutdowns, his 15 years of industry experience, and of course, the skills he'd acquired in the RAF. He hoped together these capabilities would qualify him for a day-to-day engineering and maintenance role that still involved the critical planning work he excelled at.

Encouraged by a reduced commute, a competitive compensation package and extensive scope to achieve professional progression through a series of industry leading training & development programmes, Alex made the move to EPC-UK and has been extremely pleased with the outcome.

Alex has been an integral member of the Bramble Island team for 2 years now and says he would recommend EPC-UK as an employer to other forces leavers, as he's found many of his position's operations and processes to be similar. He's also discovered that the need to place safety first and take a methodical approach to tasks and duties feels reassuringly familiar.

Role and responsibilities

- Coordinating all maintenance activities across the EPC-UK Bramble Island site including the mechanical, electrical and facilities tasks
- Controlling the ShireSystem CMMS
- Overseeing overall project development processes
- Inspecting the efficiency of tools and materials
- Performing diagnostic tests and quality checks
- Operating as a member of the site management team
- Participating in the on-call rota
- Taking responsibility for aspects of process safety on site.





Train to gain

Alex has been impressed with EPC-UK's proven training programme. As there can be some important but adaptable differences between forces and civilian employment, he believes that employers, such as EPC-UK, who have structured development programmes in place, create smoother professional transitions for service leaver employees.

With the management team's support and encouragement, Alex has been studying online to achieve his Mechanical Engineering HND, allowing his educational qualifications to reflect his practical level of experience.

He is also set to qualify with a NEBOSH General Certificate, a Level 3 education and training qualification progressed through the EPC-UK learning & development programme. Furthermore, he has been selected for training on EPC-UK's Supervisor to Manager course, which on completion, will reward him with a CMI Level 5 qualification.

Learning & development

EPC-UK keenly advocates effective and enabling learning & development across all elements of the organisation. Our inhouse team of specialists can deliver Lifelong Learning programmes to those with military experience, designed to develop different sector capabilities and personal skillsets. From commercial explosives and ADR related training courses to pathways for leadership development, our qualifications help to further individuals' expertise, encourage high service levels, and prioritise a 'Zero Harm' mentality across the company.



Prioritising safety and wellbeing



Operating through five divisions; explosives, drilling & blasting, chemicals, energetics, and logistics, EPC-UK is a company formed of skilled individuals with a passion to perform. We constantly ensure that employees' mental wellbeing and physical health is prioritised and offer safety ambassador support, a 'commit to be fit' initiative and mental health assistance as part of our employer role.

Dedicated to our duty of care we support employees and perform business operations through a set of company **SPiRiT** values, which assure that **Safety, Passion, Integrity, Respect, Innovation** and **Teamwork** are central to all that we do.



"EPC-UK is a united team that fully supports the Armed Forces Covenant and actively encourages employees from military backgrounds as they adapt and further develop the relevant transferable skills they've equipped themselves with whilst in the forces. With multiple operational similarities and the scope to advance, our industry presents a strong platform for those with a fitting attitude and desire to progress, so they can excel within a new and gratifying career."

Ben Williams
EPC-UK Managing Director

Next steps

If you are interested in learning more about the positions we currently have available, please scan the QR code or contact:

Julie.Wootton@epc-groupe.co.uk

