



STUDENT BRIEF

# DEVELOP A PROJECT PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN INTEGRATION

Rolls-Royce

## Summary

Rolls-Royce is a global leader in the design and manufacture of advanced propulsion systems, with sustainability at the heart of its future strategy. The challenge is to develop a project proposal to enhance sustainability in the aerospace supply chain, focusing on supplier engagement and accountability. Your output should provide actionable strategies, a clear timeline, and an assessment of risks and benefits, backed by publicly available evidence.

### KEY WORDS

Aerospace supply chain, sustainability, decarbonisation, circular economy, supplier engagement, emissions reduction, project management, regulatory compliance, risk assessment.

### INDUSTRY

Aerospace, engineering, supply chain management, sustainability.

### FOCUS

- Key sustainability challenges in the aerospace supply chain.
- Strategies to engage suppliers in sustainable practices.
- Use of project management tools to measure progress.
- Regulatory and consumer pressures shaping sustainability goals.
- Cost-effective approaches to drive tangible outcomes.



## Brief

I'm a senior programme manager at Rolls-Royce, focused on sustainability initiatives across our aerospace supply chain. As you can imagine, the drive for decarbonisation is transforming the entire aviation sector, and supply chain sustainability has become a critical priority. It's not just about meeting net-zero targets; it's about maintaining our competitive edge in a market where regulators and customers are increasingly scrutinising environmental performance.





Right now, one of our biggest challenges is how to bring our suppliers along on this journey. Many of them are smaller businesses with varying levels of sustainability maturity. Some are pioneering emissions reductions or circular economy models; others are barely getting started. The question for us is how to engage and support them effectively, while also holding them accountable.

At the same time, we're under pressure to manage costs and maintain operational efficiency. Sustainability initiatives can't come at the expense of delivery timelines or affordability, especially in a market recovering from the disruptions of COVID-19. Balancing these competing priorities is complex, and it's where we need fresh thinking.

What I want from you is a well-structured project proposal for improving supplier engagement and accountability in sustainability. You'll need to examine the specific sustainability challenges facing the aerospace supply chain and identify strategies for addressing them. Look at what's worked in other industries too—automotive, for instance, has useful parallels in terms of supply chain complexity and decarbonisation efforts.

You should also consider how to track and measure progress. What project management tools or frameworks could we use to ensure initiatives are delivering results? Be realistic about costs and timelines—if a recommendation is expensive, show how it could deliver long-term value.

Finally, think about the broader context. Regulations around carbon reporting are getting stricter, and consumer expectations around sustainability are rising. How do these pressures shape what Rolls-Royce and our suppliers need to deliver?

A strong proposal will include clear actions, a timeline, and an analysis of risks and benefits. Be specific—what should we actually do, and why? Avoid generic claims like “engage suppliers more” or “reduce emissions” without showing how. And make sure your arguments are grounded in evidence from credible, publicly available sources.

Looking forward to seeing your perspective on this.

