



# Composites without Compromise

Ainsley Fraser visits Scanfiber's newly opened UK office in Berkshire, to find out about the company, its plans and its products...

Whenever and wherever forces are engaged in active operations – let alone in two theatres at the same time – meeting new and challenging equipment requirements on the ground attracts a much greater sense of urgency. The resultant exponential increase in supply chain activity also focuses attention on new and developing technologies – and the agile, innovative, often small specialist companies which are able to respond to needs with effective, viable solutions.

The growing inventory of equipment that goes with modern warfare comes at a weight – not just a price. In addition, the latest weapons, high velocity rounds and metal jacketed bullets are pushing the boundaries of ballistic protection to the limit as well – and land mines and IEDs now present another critical dimension to the

threat levels which armour must withstand. Across all three services therefore, there is a secondary mission in the supply chain ... to reduce weight and optimise payload – but without compromising protection, capability or functionality.

Eighty per cent of Danish advanced composite armour specialist, Scanfiber's global defence business is currently focused on land systems requirements – with the remaining activity split equally between naval, airborne and building applications. It is at the forefront of the sector with the development of next generation materials – and indeed, such is now the demand for its composite products in the UK that it has just opened an office in Berkshire. It also expects shortly to announce at least one strategic alliance with a UK land systems supplier to provide in-country

