

AEROSPACE MEETS HIGH TECH – December 7th, 2020

“Far-Reaching Chain Integration”

Matthijs Punter, Researcher Data Science & Smart Industry at TNO Delft, was Chairman of this workshop.

The workshop Aerospace meets High Tech “Far-Reaching Chain Integration” had over 30 attendees. Purpose: *“There are various models / examples of far-reaching chain integration. What can you do as a company to respond to this?”* The attendees got more information and an overview about this subject.

Roland Grimm, Program Manager at Brabant Development Agency, welcomed the participants and Matthijs Punter introduced the topic. After this a more in depth presentation was given by Toine Verbruggen, Senior Vice President Procurement GKN Aerospace, about “The digital challenges and Status of a major first tier supplier within Far-Reaching chain integration”.

In the workshop the participants explored future supply chain collaboration initiatives, driven by new digital technologies. GKN Aerospace demonstrated the importance of collaboration with suppliers through new digital tools. There is a shift of focus from the exchange of order information (which is often the start of digitalizing supply chains) to improving the overall visibility and the long-term sharing of data during a products lifecycle. With component manufacturing being outsourced to suppliers, suppliers need to address asset liability and maintenance. But how to maintain digital records over a digitalized supply network, for the many years a product is in service? This is clearly a challenge for the industry as a whole.

Suppliers on the other hand are investing in new digital solutions to improve their factory planning and data sharing in the supply chain. The Smart Connected Supplier Network (SCSN), initiated by Brainport Industries, is an example of such a development. The potential to use this initiative to streamline communications for the aerospace industry was explored in more detail. New approaches beyond traditional EDI and platforms are needed to ensure the secure and controlled exchange of data. New approaches for ‘data sovereignty’, such as the International Data Spaces Association standards adopted by SCSN, can be an enabler for such controlled data sharing between high-tech suppliers and the aerospace industry.

The NAG is happy to make the recording of the workshop available to those who were unable to participate or who would like to listen to the recordings again.