Statement from Destinus

Destinus began as an aerospace company developing advanced flight and propulsion technologies. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine changed Europe's security priorities, and it changed ours. In 2022, we made a deliberate decision to apply our engineering to Ukraine's defence. We stand by our choice.

Today, Destinus is a European manufacturer of strike and interceptor systems, headquartered in the Netherlands, with engineers, technicians, and production specialists from many countries, including Ukraine, working across Europe. As our work has grown, so have the structures that govern it. We have also come in for targeted criticism from parties that wish to diminish our contribution to Europe's defence.

Europe must take greater responsibility for its own security, alongside its allies. Ukraine has shown what that demands: not only technological innovation, but the industrial capacity to produce, deliver and support defence systems reliably, in the quantities and at a cost armed forces can sustain. Building that capacity in Europe strengthens its ability to meet its own defence needs and to contribute to the security of its allies.

That is what Destinus is building. Our systems are shaped by close cooperation with the military users who depend on them, and by testing and feedback from the field. We are investing in the people, technologies, and production capacity to support European defence over the long term.

We started as a small team responding to an urgent need. As our work has grown, so have the standards and structures that govern it. Developing and testing in a country at war can never be risk-free, and growing quickly has brought difficult decisions, technical setbacks, and lessons. Protecting civilians, safeguarding our employees, and respecting the law are responsibilities we take seriously. Supporting Ukraine does not place us above scrutiny. It makes those responsibilities more important.

We want Russia's war to end in a just and lasting peace that protects Ukraine's sovereignty and security, and a Europe able to deter future aggression. Credible defence, backed by a strong European industrial base, is essential to both.