

## **From Insight to Impact: How Origin Safety is Thriving Through the SCRDS**

As a growing safety engineering SME specialising in consultancy for the civil and defence sectors, Origin Safety has found the South Central Regional Defence & Security Cluster (SCRDS) to be a powerful catalyst for insight, collaboration and commercial opportunity.

Founded in 2018 by Neil Barton and Stuart Mackrell, the Hampshire-based business was among the first to join the SCRDS and has been actively involved ever since. Both founders attended the formal launch of the cluster in November 2024 and have continued to engage with its events and wider network.

Neil shared how valuable the SCRDS has been in helping Origin Safety stay informed about both current and upcoming defence projects – ranging from real-world applications to cutting-edge research initiatives.

“This insight has enabled the business to better align its services with sector needs and anticipate future opportunities,” said Neil, “The events have been extremely helpful in keeping us informed and strategically focused.”

One of the most impactful aspects of the SCRDS, Neil explained, has been the opportunity to connect with other SMEs operating in the defence space. These peer-to-peer conversations have helped validate Origin Safety’s approach, while also offering practical advice and reassurance.

“It’s reassuring to know we’re not alone in the challenges we face – and we’ve learned a lot from others,” said Neil.

Importantly, the cluster has also delivered direct commercial value. Following one SCRDS event, Origin Safety received three enquiries for safety support, two of which converted into contracts.

“This is a clear demonstration of the value the Cluster delivers – not just in knowledge-sharing, but in real business outcomes” said Neil.

Beyond winning work, the SCRDS has introduced Origin Safety to other SMEs with complementary services – opening the door to future collaboration and strengthening its supply chain.

Origin Safety’s experience highlights the SCRDS’s role as a catalyst for SME growth in the defence and security sector. From strategic insight to commercial wins and collaborative partnerships, the cluster has proven to be a vital resource.

“We strongly support the continued activity and development of the SCRDS,” Neil added, “it plays a highly effective role in connecting organisations, sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration.”

To find out more about Origin Safety, visit [www.originsafety.co.uk](http://www.originsafety.co.uk)