# RAF deploys StormShroud drone to boost stealth and counter Russian threats



The Royal Air Force (RAF) has announced the operational deployment of its latest unmanned aerial vehicle, the StormShroud, which entered service on April 2. Designed to operate alongside advanced fighter jets such as the F-35 and Typhoon, the StormShroud drone effectively enhances the stealth capabilities of these aircraft by jamming enemy radar systems, thereby rendering them less detectable during missions.

Manufactured in Luton, Bedfordshire, the StormShroud is equipped with Leonardo's BriteStorm electronic warfare suite, allowing it to disrupt enemy radar from considerable distances. This capability enables stealth attacks by obscuring the presence of RAF fighter jets, thereby increasing their survivability and overall operational effectiveness. The Times reported on the technological advancements embodied by the new drone.

On a recent visit to the defence contractor’s headquarters, Sir Keir Starmer, the leader of the Labour Party, was introduced to the StormShroud’s features and functions. He referred to the BriteStorm system as "really inspiring" and reiterated the UK's commitment to counter threats posed by Russia, asserting a determination to "stand up to Putin and ruthlessly protect UK and European security." Sir Keir described the StormShroud as an "incredibly forward-looking piece of kit and capability that will help us as we go forward."

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton characterised the introduction of StormShroud as a "seminal moment" for the RAF, emphasising its potential to revolutionise various military operations. He noted that autonomous collaborative platforms like the StormShroud would enhance intelligence gathering, strike missions, and logistical support for the RAF in the modern battlefield.

An RAF spokesperson reported that the StormShroud will be instrumental in supporting F-35B Lightning and Typhoon pilots by significantly blinding enemy radar systems. This feature not only raises the survivability of crewed aircraft but also fits into a broader strategic framework that the RAF is pursuing, which involves integrating advanced technologies into its operational capabilities.

The development of the StormShroud drone has drawn from insights gained during the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, alongside lessons from other operational theatres worldwide. The RAF’s commitment to exploring autonomous collaborative platforms is aligned with its aim to stay at the forefront of technological advancement in military operations.

The spokesperson further elaborated that embracing a mixture of crewed and uncrewed systems represents a more agile and cost-effective military strategy, reducing risks for pilots during combat in hostile environments. The advancements of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), exemplified by the StormShroud, are seen as critical in modern warfare, as evidenced by their impact in conflicts from Ukraine to the Middle East. In response to a rising threat landscape, the StormShroud is envisioned as a strategic deterrent for the UK and its NATO allies.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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