

**Cobham plc**  
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## **Cobham Appoints Chairman Designate**

Cobham plc ('Cobham' or 'the Group') announces the appointment of John Devaney as an independent Non-executive Director and Chairman designate with effect from 1 February 2010. Mr Devaney is currently executive chairman of National Express plc, a position held since April 2009 and non executive chairman of the National Air Traffic Services Ltd, a position held since 2005.

Mr Devaney will be appointed Non-executive Chairman of Cobham in succession to David Turner at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting to be held on 6 May 2010, by which time he will have relinquished his executive responsibilities at National Express plc.

David Turner, Cobham Chairman commented:

'After conducting a thorough search for the right candidate, we are delighted that such an experienced and qualified industrialist is joining the Board. He will bring extensive business and leadership experience to Cobham and will make a significant contribution to the further development and growth of the Group.'

Commenting on the appointment, Andy Stevens, Cobham Chief Executive Officer said:

"I welcome the appointment of John and look forward to working with him. He has managed businesses across Europe, the UK, Canada, Japan and the USA, including companies that have high technology content and he has proved himself as a Chairman."

John Devaney commented:

"I am extremely pleased to be joining the Board of such a well respected British engineering company. I have followed the development and growth of Cobham with interest and I'm very much looking forward to working with the Board and the shareholders."

Cobham confirms that there are no further disclosures to be made under rule 9.6.13 of the Listing Rules.

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### **ENQUIRIES**

Andy Stevens, Chief Executive Officer	+44(0)1202 857526
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Julian Wais, Director of Investor Relations	+44(0)1202 857998
Susan Ellis, Senior Communications Adviser	+44(0)7836 522722

### **NOTES**

Cobham's products and services have been at the heart of sophisticated military and civil systems for 75 years, keeping people safe, improving communications, and enhancing the capability of land, sea, air and space platforms. The Company has four divisions employing more than 12,000 people on five continents, with customers and partners in over 100 countries and annual revenue of more than £1.4bn / \$2.1 billion.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Born in Blackburn, John F Devaney, aged 62, graduated in mechanical engineering at Sheffield University and is also a graduate of the Advanced Management Programme at the Harvard Business School.

Devaney is currently Executive Chairman of National Express plc, the passenger transport group, and Non-Executive Chairman of NATS, the National Air Traffic Services. He has just stepped down from his role as Non-Executive Director of Northern Rock. He is perhaps best known for his chairmanship of the Board of Marconi plc, later renamed Telent. This was a very high profile corporate restructuring and subsequent sale of the distressed technology and telecommunications group.

Devaney's executive career was built in engineering companies within the Varsity Group. He was President of Perkins Engines in the mid-1980s, and he went on to be president of Kelsey-Hayes, the automotive components manufacturer. For more than four years he was based in the US. He was subsequently Chief Executive of Eastern Electricity, the largest regional electricity company in the UK at the time. Following its acquisition by Hanson he was appointed Executive Chairman.

In the course of his career he has run businesses across Europe, the UK, the US Canada and Japan. He is well known as a highly experienced and capable chairman. He brings a wealth of experience, including of the US and of working with technology and engineering-based businesses.