## Welcome to SAFE Europe 2024

17th March 2024

Welcome to the 28<sup>th</sup> SAFE Europe symposium held this year in Carden Park, Cheshire. We have 209 delegates representing 19 countries, which is certainly a record number in the 20 years since I first attended SAFE, and around the highest we have ever had.

Although about half of our delegates are understandably from the UK, we do have delegates from as far afield as Australia, Japan, Singapore, Canada and the USA. A quarter of our delegates this year are serving military, with I am sure a similar number of veterans.

This mixture of nationalities, industries, military end users, and suppliers is what makes SAFE a unique and valuable event for all of us. The committee are very happy to welcome you all here, for what we are sure will be another very successful symposium.

As a volunteer led and organised association it is really valuable to have a number of long serving members on the committee, without them the event wouldn't run as smoothly as it does. We are also happy to see the current SAFE Association President, Nicole Stefanoni, who has attended this event many times before.

We are very happy to see you all here and wish you all a productive few days at this year's SAFE Europe Symposium.

Pete Marston

Chair, SAFE Europe