

The Aeronautical Factory of the Future

After almost two years of works and thanks to an investment of 70 M€, the STELIA Aerospace plant in Méaulte becomes today one of the most modern plants in Europe, benefiting from leading-edge infrastructures and implementing new work processes, therefore creating the Aeronautical Factory of the Future.

In a market of growing competitiveness and with increasing customer requirements, all the teams on the site mobilized during two years in order to take up a real challenge in terms of industrial organization, work organization and change management, in particular with the introduction of digitalization within the production units.

Following the extension works, the production surface now covers 1.2 million sq. feet (115,000 sq.meters), and **each aircraft programme is being located in one building**, together with all the relevant teams, organized in pulsed and/or moving lines, therefore enabling to reduce the production cycles.

The factory boasts **new leading-edge production tools**:

- *Over 35 robots and automatic riveting machines;*
- *3 moving lines, dedicated to the A320 programme (at a rythm of 1in/min, enabling the delivery of 15 fuselages/week);*
- *Digital tools on the work stations: production monitoring (Andon, Advance_Delay, Logistic call), 3D instruction manuals on touchpads, augmented reality for assembly activities and quality control.*

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Special attention is given to **Change Management**:

- *A new agreement in terms of working hours;*
- *New support teams on the field, closer to the customers and operators;*
- *Lean Manufacturing training sessions ;*
- *Regular feedback and returns of experience during the test-phase.*

The combination of these tools and processes will allow a more balanced industrial organization, as well as the optimization of flows and performances, and will enable STELIA Aerospace to **increase its productivity by 15%** and **reduce its assembly cycles by 20 to 30%**, at a time where **7,000 A320 aircraft have already been delivered.**

The Aeronautical Factory of the Future will therefore enable STELIA Aerospace to take up a triple challenge in the coming years:

- Manage the **ramp-up** of its customers, with their high quality and delay requirements ;
- Maintain its position as a **key player** on the aerostructure field and conquer new markets ;
- **Secure jobs** on its historic sites.

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Méaulte: the group's biggest and oldest site

Located in Picardie, in the Hauts-de-France region, close to the Albert-Picardie airport, the STELIA Aerospace site in Méaulte is the biggest and oldest site of the group, founded in 1924.

With a total surface of 49 hectares including 11.5 hectares (1.1 million sq.feet) of production surfaces, the Méaulte site designs and manufactures the front fuselage sections for the entire Airbus family, large composite parts and specific aerostructure sub-assemblies for Airbus and Bombardier. In 2016, 740 front fuselage sections were delivered.

Since 2016, Dominique DURAND is the Head of the site, which employs some 1,600 people – one third of the group's employees in France.

The Henri Potez Lycée, a vocational private school belonging to STELIA Aerospace and celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, is hosted by the IndustriLab innovation platform. It therefore benefits from high level infrastructures and the synergies offered by this regional innovation platform.

The Lycée trains aeronautical professionals in the following specialties:

- CAP in Industrial Metalworking (Réalisation en Chaudronnerie Industrielle / RCI)
- Aeronautical Technician Vocational Baccalaureate, with a Structures option (dual apprenticeship during the last year)
- CAP in Composites and processed plastics (one year specialization, after the CAP RCI or or the Vocational Baccalaureate).

The *IndustriLab Innovation platform*, covering some 30,000 sq. feet (9,000 sq. meters) adjacent to STELIA Aerospace, aims at fostering innovation and bringing together research and business specialists, while enriching the industry training system. STELIA Aerospace has invested in Industrielab over 5 million euros for leading-edge tools, mainly advanced robotics, and has 25 research engineers and technicians located there.

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STELIA Aerospace, one of the world leaders for aerostructures, pilot seats and First and Business class passenger seats

With a turnover of 2.1 billion euros and 6,600 employees worldwide, including 4,500 in France, STELIA Aerospace is one of the world leaders in the field of aerostructures, pilot seats and First class and Business class passenger seats.

Led by its CEO Cédric GAUTIER, STELIA Aerospace is a key player in its fields of activity, capitalizing on its expertise and competence, building on its industrial excellence and its forces on each of its production sites.

Location of STELIA Aerospace sites:

STELIA Aerospace has 5 sites in France:

- *Toulouse* (Haute-Garonne): headquarters, central functions and design offices ;
- *Rochefort* (Charente-Maritime): fuselage parts assembly, manufacturing of pilot seats and First class and Business class passenger seats;
- *Méaulte* (Picardie): assembly of front fuselage sections and manufacturing of large composite parts;
- *Saint-Nazaire* (Loire-Atlantique) : manufacturing of complex elementary parts ;
- *Mérignac* (Gironde): assembly, equipment and tests of ATR wings

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As well as 6 subsidiaries worldwide (100% subsidiaries):

- *STELIA Composites* (Salaunes, Gironde, France): high value-added composite activity for the European market ;
- *STELIA Aerospace Tunisie* (Tunis, Tunisia): hull assembly and manufacturing of small elementary parts;
- *STELIA Aerospace Maroc* (Casablanca, Morocco): composite activity;
- *ACAM* (Casablanca, Morocco) : assembly of sub-assemblies, profiles and bent pipes;
- *STELIA North America* in Lunenburg (New-Scotland, Canada) : high value-added composite activity for the North American market;
- *STELIA North America* in Mirabel (Québec - Canada) : assembly and equipment of fuselages for Bombardier's Global 7000.

STELIA Aerospace Activities:

Aerostructures

STELIA Aerospace designs and manufactures **equipped fuselage sections**:

- Front fuselage sections for all Airbus programmes ;
- Front and central fuselage section for the A320 and A330 as well as the Bombardier Global 7000;
- Wings for the ATR42 and ATR72;
- Specific sub-assemblies such as the central landing gear box for the A350 XWB and the A380, the aft access ramp for the A400M and helicopters tail beams.

In parallel to its assembly activities, STELIA Aerospace develops and manufactures **complex composite and metallic aerostructure parts**, as well as **complex pipe systems**.

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STELIA Aerospace is one of the rare companies able to deliver **complete and fully equipped sections, integrating hydraulic and electric systems (« Plug & Fly »)** :

- ATR wings, fully equipped and tested, up to the final test benches (fuel and flight control tests) ;
- Central fuselage for the Global 7000 and Global 8000, Bombardier's new business jet, fully equipped with systems (electric, hydraulic...);
- Part of the all new Beluga XL front fuselage, fully equipped with systems (electric, hydraulics, air conditioning, oxygen, waste water,...) and cargo-door;
- Aft access ramp for the A400M, fully equipped with functional hydraulic and electric systems (in flight opening / closing).

Business class and First class passenger seats

STELIA Aerospace develops and manufactures a range of innovative seats for airlines' Business and First classes.

Cabin furnishing, in particular the choice of Business and First class seats, is a major differentiating factor for airlines, in constant search of the latest innovations and the best comfort for their seats.

STELIA Aerospace's main customers are Asia-Pacific and Middle East airlines and the seats are mainly provided on B777, B787, A350 XWB, A330 and A30.

Pilot seats

A world co-leader mondial on the field of pilot seats, STELIA Aerospace designs and manufactures pilot seats for all the Airbus family aircraft, as well as some business jets and helicopters.

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