

Brèves de l'industrie aérospatiale – 10 janvier 2022

Industrie Aérospatiale

Aéronautique Française (5 janvier)

L'aéronautique française reprend le chemin de la croissance, d'après le président du GIFAS, Guillaume Faury. Les entreprises du secteur devraient embaucher en France entre 10 000 et 15 000 personnes en 2022, alors que Safran et Airbus Atlantic ont déjà fait savoir qu'ils comptaient recruter en 2022. Un objectif de recrutement vise en particulier les femmes, qui ne représentent encore que 30% des embauches au sein de la filière aéronautique.

Airbus Atlantic (5 janvier)

Airbus has created a subsidiary called Airbus Atlantic, which was officially established on January 1. It consolidates Airbus' manufacturing sites in Nantes and Montoir-de-Bretagne in France with Stelia Aerospace's 10 production facilities around the world. Airbus Atlantic employs 13,000 people in five countries and has estimated annual revenues of €3.5 billion (US\$3.9 billion). It becomes the second largest Tier One aerostructures supplier after Spirit Aerosystems.

L3Harris (5 janvier)

L3Harris has signed a contract with Pakistan International Airlines to provide a new A320ceo full flight simulator to the airline's training centre in Karachi.

PFN (5 janvier)

Saskatchewan-based PFN Group of Companies has divested its holdings in NP Aerospace. PFN's strategy is to now focus on military and defence markets with subsidiary Pro Metal Industries.

Safran (3 janvier)

Safran believes the worst of the crisis in aviation caused by COVID-19 is over and plans to hire 12,000 people worldwide this year to re-build its capacity.

Irkut MC-21 (25 décembre)

Irkut has performed the maiden flight of the first MC-21 to be manufactured with composite wings that are domestically produced with Russian materials. The materials were developed in collaboration with Moscow State University, Rosatom and other institutes. Sanctions imposed on certain Russian industries have prompted the development of these domestic capabilities.

Triumph Group and Boeing (22 décembre)

Triumph Group has been awarded a production contract extension by Boeing Commercial Airplanes to continue the manufacture of hydraulic and actuation equipment for Boeing 737 MAX, 777, 777X, and 767 aircraft. The work will be performed at Triumph's Actuation Products & Services facilities in Clemmons, North Carolina, and Yakima, Washington.

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Exchange Income Corporation (16 décembre)

Exchange Income Corporation (Winnipeg) has acquired Crew Training International, Inc. (CTI), based in Memphis, TN for US\$45 million. CTI specializes in training solutions, mainly to the US Department of Defense, for pilots and sensor operators of manned and unmanned aircraft.

Latécoère acquisition (14 décembre)

Latécoère a conclu avec American Industrial Acquisition Corporation (AIAC) un accord définitif portant sur l'acquisition de Malaga Aerospace, Defense & Electronics Systems (MADES). Cette acquisition est la troisième opération de croissance externe depuis l'augmentation de capital du mois d'août. MADES est une société de fabrication de produits électroniques (EMS) spécialisé dans les cartes de circuits imprimés (PCB) surtout pour les marchés de la défense.

Aviation Commerciale

Allegiant Air (4 janvier)

Allegiant Air has ordered 50 Boeing 737 MAX 7 and MAX 8-200 aircraft and taken options to acquire a further 50. It currently operates 122 A319 and A320 aircraft. The reasons for the decision include near-term aircraft availability and attractive purchase terms versus the competing A220 and A320 families.

Aviation Capital Group (30 décembre)

Leasing company Aviation Capital Group has signed a firm order for 40 A320neo family aircraft together with a tentative agreement for 20 A220s.

Canada Jetlines (28 décembre)

Canada Jetlines, which has attempted to start operations for many years, has taken delivery of its first aircraft, an 11-year-old Airbus A320, and plans to launch operations in spring 2022.

US passenger traffic (23 décembre)

The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) says that on 22 December 2,081,297 passengers passed through its checkpoints. That is almost double the number on the same day in 2020, and 7% more than the 1,937,235 who travelled on that day in 2019, before the pandemic.

Boeing-Airbus/5G (22 décembre)

Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun and Airbus Americas CEO Jeffrey Knittel have urged the Biden administration to postpone the planned deployment of 5G wireless, warning of potential threats to aviation safety. AT&T and Verizon subsequently agreed to a two week delay.

UPS Airlines (21 décembre)

UPS Airlines has placed an order for 19 Boeing 767-300ER cargo aircraft valued at more than \$4 billion. The UPS fleet will grow to more than 300 aircraft excluding any aircraft retirements.

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Airbus A350F orders (20 décembre)

French logistics company CMA CGM Group has placed a firm order for four Airbus A350 freighters. It has established its own air freight operator, CMA CGM Air Cargo. The A350F has also been ordered by Air Lease, Singapore Airlines and Air France.

Qantas orders (16 décembre)

Qantas has provisionally selected the Airbus A320neo family and A220-300 as its preferred option for its single-aisle fleet, potentially taking up to 134 aircraft. It is likely to soon place an order for 20 A321XLRs and 20 A220s pending discussions with employees, and Board approval.

Air France-KLM orders (16 décembre)

Air France-KLM has ordered up to 160 Airbus A320neo-family aircraft, including 100 firm orders, and has signed a letter of intent for four A350Fs. The narrowbody aircraft will be allocated to the KLM, Transavia Netherlands and Transavia France fleets.

Aviation d'affaires

Dassault Aviation (6 janvier)

Dassault Aviation delivered 30 Falcon business jets in 2021, five more than it forecast but four fewer than in 2020 and 10 less than in 2019. Its backlog also grew due in part to it taking orders for the Falcon 10X. It booked net orders for 51 aircraft for a backlog of 55 units at year-end.

Dassault Aviation shipped 25 Rafale combat aircraft in 2021 versus 13 in 2020 and logged net orders for 49 for a total year-end backlog of 86 aircraft.

Comlux USA / A220 (5 janvier)

The first Airbus ACJ TwoTwenty variant of the A220 was delivered from the final assembly line in Mirabel to Comlux Completion in Indianapolis, Indiana, where it will undergo a VIP completion.

Argus International (5 janvier)

According to Argus International global business aviation flight activity in December increased 43.7 percent versus a year ago, with the North American market posting the strongest December on record and European activity up 63.7 percent year-over-year (YOY).

Volato order for HondaJets (4 janvier)

Atlanta-based fractional aircraft provider Volato has ordered 15 HondaJets. It will operate a fleet of 22 aircraft once this latest order is completed.

Jet Aviation (29 décembre)

Jet Aviation handed over its first Boeing 787-8 with a VVIP cabin interior completion to an undisclosed customer. The work was performed at its completion center in Basel, Switzerland.

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Pilatus Aircraft /Sabca (29 décembre)

Later this year Pilatus Aircraft will take delivery of the first PC-12 components made by Sabca in a new factory in Casablanca, Morocco. Sabca has facilities in Morocco and Belgium that manufacture PC-12 fuselages, wings, and flight controls, including installation of electric wiring.

JetNet (22 décembre)

JetNet estimates that just under 700 new business jets were delivered during 2021. This is 11 percent more than in 2020. 2022 deliveries should climb another 12 percent to about 770 jets.

Pratt & Whitney Canada /Amphibian Aerospace Industries (20 décembre)

Amphibian Aerospace Industries (AAI) has selected the P&WC PT6A-67F turboprop engine for its modernized version of the Grumman Albatross, an aircraft last produced in the 1960s.

Greenpoint Technologies (Safran) (17 décembre)

Greenpoint Technologies delivered the first VIP-configured 787-9 to an undisclosed customer. It managed the completion from concept through redelivery, including engineering and interior integration. This is its fifth executive-configured 787 completion.

Défense

Elbit Systems (6 janvier)

The Brazilian government has awarded Elbit Systems a contract to supply additional Hermes 900 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) together with spare parts. Elbit has not disclosed the quantity or value but says that the contract will be performed over a 16-month period.

Lockheed Martin (5 janvier)

Lockheed Martin is preparing to build 105 F-35s for the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. as well as for U.S. allies under the terms of an \$847 million order.

Boeing (3 janvier)

Boeing will develop new systems for F-15 Eagle Super Interceptors flown by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force under a \$471 million contract.

Israeli Defence Ministry (31 décembre)

The Israeli Defence Ministry will buy 12 Lockheed Martin CH-53K helicopters and two Boeing KC-46 tanker aircraft. The first helicopters will be delivered in 2026 and the KC-46s not before 2025.

Airbus Helicopters (28 décembre)

The Spanish Ministry of Defense has ordered 18 Airbus Helicopter H135s to be operated by the Ejército del Aire and the Armada Española. The Ministry of Interior has ordered 18 H135s to be operated by the Policía Nacional and the Guardia Civil. Deliveries will start in 2022.

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Airbus Helicopters (27 décembre)

Bavaria's Ministry of Interior has ordered eight Airbus H145D3 helicopters for its police force. The aircraft will replace H135s and based in Munich and Roth. First delivery is planned for 2023.

Airbus Helicopters (22 décembre)

L'armée française commande à Airbus Helicopters 169 Guépard (version militaire du H160) qui permettra de remplacer cinq types d'appareils différents. Le premier lot de 30 appareils sera livré à partir de 2027.

Rolls-Royce/IHI Corporation (22 décembre)

Rolls-Royce and IHI Corporation will jointly develop an engine to power Japan's future fighter aircraft. The demonstrator programme will enable the two nations to develop their future fighter aircraft requirements. Work will start early 2022, with the UK investing an initial £30m in planning, digital designs and innovative manufacturing.

Aery Aviation (17 décembre)

Aery Aviation has acquired 12 Learjet special-mission aircraft (SMA), support equipment and spares bringing its fleet to 26 aircraft. The additional Learjets will allow Aery to expand its SMA services to the Department of Defense, foreign governments, and commercial customers. Aery is modifying three models of Learjet and Gulfstream IV aircraft resulting in more than 12 STCs for wing hardpoints, radomes and other mission-critical systems.

Lockheed Martin / BAE Systems (15 décembre)

Lockheed Martin has contracted with BAE Systems to upgrade F-35 electronic warfare systems.

MRO

AMAC Aerospace (29 décembre)

AMAC Aerospace has acquired UK-based Gamit, a provider of material and logistics support, technical services, and online digital records to MROs, airlines and business jet operators.

Drones - Advanced Air Mobility

EHang (4 janvier)

EHang has received the first order for its VT-30 Autonomous Aerial Vehicle. Japan's Okayama Kurashiki Mizushima Aero & Space Industry Cluster Study Group (MASC) will explore use cases for the two-seat eVTOL aircraft, as well as EHang's EH216 model.

Embraer Eve Urban Air Mobility (21 décembre)

Eve Urban Air Mobility plans to go public later this year via a merger with Zanite Acquisition Corp, a special purpose acquisition company. Backers include SkyWest and Republic Airways. They and lessor Azurra have placed provisional orders for up to 500 of Eve's eVTOL aircraft.

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Bristow (16 décembre)

Helicopter operator Bristow has launched a collaboration with Overair, marking its fourth such agreement with an advanced air mobility vehicle developer. The Houston-based transportation group said it has “pre-ordered” between 20 and 50 of Overair’s Butterfly, a five-passenger eVTOL with 100-mile range that is expected to be FAA certified in 2025.

Spatial

Raytheon Technologies (18 décembre)

Raytheon Technologies has received a \$67 million contract from the US Space Force for the testing of its Electro-Optical Infrared Weather System prototype, designed as a successor to the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program.

Innovation

Honeywell Aerospace (6 janvier)

Honeywell Aerospace is investing heavily in Additive Manufacturing (AM). Two areas of focus for AM are enhancing part design freedom and accelerating development. Honeywell has established a dedicated AM design team and three laboratories to work on rapid prototyping.

GKN Aerospace hydrogen propulsion powertrain (4 janvier)

The leader of the H2GEAR collaboration, GKN Aerospace, is developing a complete 1MW powertrain sized around a notional 19-seat aircraft. It includes hydrogen storage, fuel cells, power management system and electric motor. The original objective was to begin ground tests in 2026 but GKN is now saying that it needs better definition of the aircraft that the system is intended to power because of the level of integration of the power train and the aircraft.

GE Aviation Czech (28 décembre)

In partnership with the Czech Technical University in Prague (CVUT), GE Aviation Czech will test the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in its new Catalyst turboprop engine. The goal of the research is to allow the Catalyst to use 100 percent SAF within 18 months.

Air New Zealand (21 décembre)

Air New Zealand has outlined plans to eliminate carbon emissions on its short-haul domestic network. It has invited proposals for zero emission/novel propulsion aircraft. “Novel propulsion” includes hydrogen/battery electric, hydrogen combustion, or electric. Its turboprop fleet comprises 23 De Havilland Dash-8 Q300s and 29 ATR 72-500/600s.

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