



Thales and Liebherr to form partnership for on-board Power Optimized Architectures

Paris Air Show, June 18, 2009 – Thales and Liebherr are pleased to announce the signature of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to create a partnership covering a range of business and research initiatives within the field of Power Optimized Aircraft.

Liebherr and Thales will drive a first joint innovative R&T program called “GETI”^{*} which will be co-funded by the French Aviation Authority (SDCA). This initiative is launched in the framework of new generation aircraft.

Thales and Liebherr, as tier 1 suppliers, have a joint ambition for supporting airframers within “Power Optimized Aircraft” architectures by delivering innovative solutions for the technology development of greener aircraft.

Jean-Marc Alias, Head of Electrical Systems activities for Thales aerospace said, *“With Liebherr Aerospace we have the same understanding of our customers’ key requirements. Our technology developments which include the On-Board Power Management Centres are driven by the cost-effective solutions we deliver to our customers and end-users.”*

“By bringing together our specific competencies we are able to strengthen our powers of innovation in order to optimize the transformation of pneumatic systems into a more electrical system”, explained André Benhamou Liebherr-Aerospace Toulouse President. *“We are taking onboard the challenge of the Power Optimized Aircraft which is a nose-to-tail systems optimization of on-board power architecture. This is an important step, since it enables benefits in terms of weight savings and reliability improvements”,* he added.

The partnership has an open approach to breakthrough innovation in the optimization and application of technology. This approach is totally consistent with the recently published CORAC^{**} and ACARE^{***} road map.

The alliance’s ambition is both to support airframers at the earliest stages of aircraft conception phase and also to federate other partners

^{*}Gestion dynamique de la puissance Electrique et de Gestion Thermique

^{**} Conseil d’Orientation de la Recherche en Aéronautique Civile

^{***}ACARE is the “Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe” and is an aerospace technology-focused platform. Its members are all European stakeholders in the fields of aeronautics and air transport: industry players, research centres, academia, airports, airlines, regulators, the European Commission and Member States. ACARE’s ultimate objective is to define a mid- to long-term aeronautical research agenda, which is then rolled out in a coordinated, harmonised manner by its members. The deliverables are aimed at maintaining the competitiveness of the European aerospace industry and meeting the needs of society at large.



About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Aerospace, Space, Defence, Security and Transportation markets. In 2008, the company generated revenues of 12.7 billion euros with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 25,000 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers as local partners. www.thalesgroup.com

About Liebherr

Liebherr-Aerospace SAS, Toulouse (France), is one of nine divisional control companies within the Liebherr Group (more than 32,000 employees with 2008 revenues of € 8.4 billion) and coordinates all activities in the aerospace and transportation systems sectors.

With over four decades of experience, Liebherr is a leading supplier of systems for the aviation industry. The range of aviation equipment produced by Liebherr for the civil and military sectors includes flight control and actuation systems, as well as landing gear and air management systems. These systems are installed in wide-bodied aircraft, commuter and regional aircraft, business jets, combat aircraft, military transporters, military training aircraft, civil and military helicopters. .

Liebherr's aerospace and transportation systems division employs over 3,700 people. It has three aviation equipment production plants at Lindenberg (Germany), Toulouse (France) and Guaratinguetá (Brazil). These production sites offer a worldwide service with additional customer service centers in Saline (Michigan/USA), Seattle (Washington/USA), Wichita (Kansas/USA), Montreal (Canada), Hamburg (Germany), Moscow (Russia), Dubai (UAE), Singapore and Shanghai (People's Republic of China). A new Liebherr production site is currently under construction in Nizhny Novgorod (Russia).

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