

KEY INFO IN  
**10**  
POINTS

**FRENCH  
AEROSPACE  
EXCELLENCE**

# 1 A KEY SECTOR IN FRANCE

In 2017, France's aerospace sector was worth €64.2 billion, up 6% from 2016. This key component of the French economy has a total order book of €68.3 billion. Exports account for 85% of sales and 76% of orders. (French Aerospace Association (GIFAS), 2018)

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# 2 RESOUNDING COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

France's aerospace industry generated a trade surplus of €27 billion in 2018, making it the country's leading sector abroad, with 11.9% of all exports (French Customs Authorities). France is the world's second largest exporter of aerospace products, with a 15.9% share of the export market in 2017. (UN Comtrade)

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# 3 MANY HIGHLY SKILLED JOBS

There were 190,000 employees in the aerospace sector in late 2017, up 2,000 from 2016, with 12,000 new recruits during the year. Many of these jobs are highly skilled, including senior technicians (22%) and engineers and managers (42%). Permanent contracts were given to 72% of new employees. (GIFAS, 2018)

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# 4 GLOBAL LEADERS CHOOSE FRANCE

Thirty-eight foreign investment projects were identified in France in 2018 in the aerospace, naval and railway equipment sector, with more than 1,900 jobs being created or maintained. What's more, American firm Boeing has joined the EMC2 innovation cluster in Nantes and the Boeing French Team is now made up of 17 privileged French suppliers.

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# 5 THE PARIS AIR SHOW

The International Paris Air Show at Le Bourget airport is the world's leading aerospace trade show, with 2,381 exhibitors from 48 countries in 2017. A total of €150 billion in orders were announced at the latest show, which attracted nearly 142,000 professionals and more than 180,000 members of the public. The 53rd International Paris Air Show will take place from June 17-23, 2019.

# 6

## A THRIVING ECOSYSTEM

France has a rich ecosystem supporting the success of aerospace firms, particularly around Toulouse in the Occitanie region, which boasts 850 companies and 68,000 jobs in the sector. Initiatives in France are coordinated by three innovation clusters: Aerospace Valley (Occitanie and Nouvelle-Aquitaine regions), Astech (Ile de France / Paris region) and SAFE Cluster (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur). The French Aerospace Association (GIFAS) is made up of 400 companies as well as innovation clusters from the aerospace sector.

# 7

## BUOYANT R&D SPENDING

R&D expenditure in the sector totaled €3.5 billion in 2016. Aerospace is the second largest manufacturing industry for domestic business enterprise R&D (BERD) expenditure after the automotive industry (€4.1 billion), accounting for 11% of all BERD expenditure in France. (Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research, 2017)

# 8

## ELITE TRAINING PROGRAMS

France's network of Aerospace Engineering Schools (GEA) comprises the National School of Civil Aviation and ISAE-SUPAERO (both in Toulouse), along with the National School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (ISAE-ENSMA) in Poitiers.

# 9

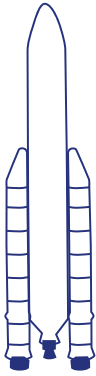
## GROWING TECHNOLOGICAL PROWESS

France and its manufacturers are driving a number of high-tech projects, including the forthcoming nEUROn European military drone; Pop.Up Next, the pilotless flying taxi developed by Airbus in partnership with Italdesign and Audi; the Open Rotor demonstrator engine from Safran, developed as part of the European Clean Sky research program; and the ANGELS nano-satellite designed by CNES and Nexeya.

# 10

## INDUSTRY OF THE FUTURE

Growth in the Industry of the Future depends on digitization. In 2017, the Stelia Aerospace group invested €70 million in reorganizing the production flow of its Méaulte facility (Hauts de France), which manufactures fuselages and aircraft spikes. The new organization has led to productivity gains thanks to the use of robotics and process digitization. In 2018, Latécoère opened a connected, digitized and fully automated smart factory in Toulouse (Occitanie), which produces aircraft doors.

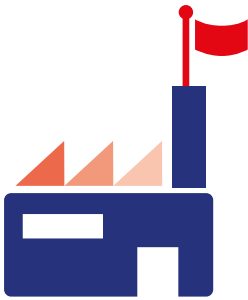


**FRANCE  
#2  
IN THE WORLD  
FOR AEROSPACE  
EXPORTS**

(UN COMTRADE)

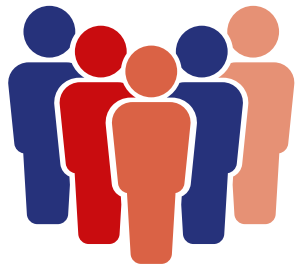


(INSEE)



**#1  
HOST COUNTRY FOR  
FOREIGN INVESTMENT  
PROJECTS IN INDUSTRY  
IN EUROPE**

(EY)



**MORE THAN  
190,000  
PEOPLE  
EMPLOYED IN THE  
AEROSPACE SECTOR  
IN 2018**

(GIFAS)

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