

# FRENCH AEROSPACE EXCELLENCE

KEY INFO IN

**10**

POINTS

# 1

## ▶ A KEY SECTOR IN FRANCE

In 2016, France's aerospace sector was worth €60.4 billion, up 3.6% from 2015. This key component of the French economy has a total order book of €73.1 billion. Exports account for 86% of sales and 77% of orders. (French aerospace association GIFAS, 2017)

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# 2

## ▶ RESOUNDING COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

France's aerospace industry generated a trade surplus of €17.4 billion in 2017, making it the country's leading sector abroad, with 12% of all exports (French Customs Authorities). France is the world's second largest exporter of aerospace products, with a 16% share of the export market in 2016. (UN Comtrade)

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# 3

## ▶ MANY HIGHLY SKILLED JOBS

There were 187,000 employees in the aerospace sector in late 2016, up 2,000 from 2015, with 10,000 new recruits during the year. Many of these jobs are highly skilled, including senior technicians (25%) and engineers/managers (45%). Permanent contracts were given to 84% of new employees. (GIFAS, 2017)

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# 4

## ▶ GLOBAL LEADERS CHOOSE FRANCE

Canada's Bombardier has set up business in the north of France; American firm Boeing has joined the EMC2 innovation cluster in Nantes; and Japanese company NTN decided in 2018 to expand operations at its site in Alès (Occitanie region).

## 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.

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## 6 ▶ A THRIVING ECOSYSTEM

France has a rich ecosystem supporting the success of aerospace firms, particularly around Toulouse in the Occitanie region, which boasts 700 companies and 85,000 jobs in the sector (Invest in Toulouse). 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).

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## 7 ▶ BUOYANT R&D SPENDING

R&D expenditure in the sector totaled €3.6 billion in 2015, equating to 6% of sector sales. Aerospace is the second largest manufacturing industry for domestic business enterprise R&D (BERD) expenditure after the automotive industry (€4.4 billion), accounting for 11% of all BERD expenditure in France. (French government figures, 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.

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# 9

## ▶ BUOYANT FOREIGN INVESTMENT

In 2017, 34 foreign investment projects were recorded in France in the aerospace, naval and railway equipment sector, creating or saving a total of over 1,700 jobs. A total of 386 investment decisions have been made in the sector since 2005, creating or saving more than 27,800 jobs. (Business France)

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# 10

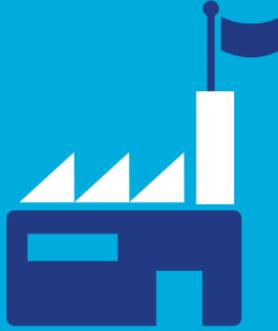
## ▶ GROWING TECHNOLOGICAL PROWESS

France and its manufacturers are driving a number of high-tech projects, including the forthcoming nEUROn European military drone, and the CityAirbus pilotless flying taxi from Airbus, as well as the LEAP engine made from composite materials developed by Safran Aircraft Engines (formerly Snecma) and General Electric (GE), which had an order book worth €6.25 billion after the first day of the 2017 Paris Air Show.



For further information, please visit:  
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**FRANCE: EUROPE'S**

**#1**

**DESTINATION  
FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT  
IN INDUSTRY**

(EY, 2017)



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

**(UN COMTRADE, 2017)**

ACCESS TO A MARKET OF  
**67**  
MILLION CONSUMERS  
AND GATEWAY TO THE EMEA



(INSEE, 2018)

**PARIS AIR SHOW**



**#1**

**AEROSPACE TRADE  
SHOW IN THE WORLD**

**(SIAE.FR)**



**La FRENCH FAB**

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