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# Attractiveness of France Attractiveness of France Aerospace

The French aerospace industry: a history of intense collaboration with the biggest international parts manufacturers.

If France has a highly dynamic aerospace industry, led by Airbus, the world's leading aircraft manufacturer in 2003, it is because of the underlying bedrock of world class subcontractors. To design its new A380, Airbus needs the skills and technical mastery of a host of external participants, all at the leading edge of their respective fields. It is through reliance on their technological expertise in fields as varied as embedded IT, guidance and detection systems or even the aircraft's interior fitting, that Airbus has been able to develop such a sophisticated aircraft. A strong international culture, a network of leading international suppliers working on developments: the French aerospace sector offers wonderful investment opportunities. The figures say it all... 50 parts manufacturers from all over the world

## Number 1 global competitiveness cluster

More than 130,000 people work in the French aerospace sector

16% of sector turnover dedicated to R&D

2 billion euros in turnover in exports for French aerospace parts manufacturers

are working on the A380 design, including the largest American companies in the sector. Two examples of this success: in 2005 American Leach International invested further in its Lorraine site and Rockwell Collins extended its site at Toulouse.

manufacturer and its five models have conquered almost 75% of the market in value terms. The design of these aircraft relies on international teamwork: some thirty companies, mainly North American, are working on the Falcon project.

as Boeing and to companies in other sectors. This Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing (CADM) software has been a great success on the world market. - ONERA, the leading French aerospace research establishment, has played a major role in all the major programmes that have made France a leader in the aerospace sector: the Mirage, Concorde, Airbus and Rafale aircraft and the Ariane space launchers.

### BUSINESS AIRCRAFT: FRANCE IS WELL-ESTABLISHED ON THIS FLOURISHING MARKET

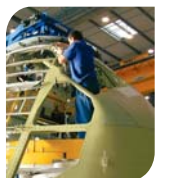
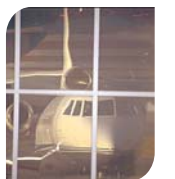
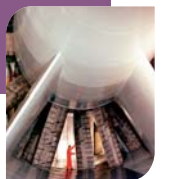
The market in small business jets is growing rapidly, with annual orders rocketing from 350 to almost 800 aircraft and an annual sales tag of around 12 billion dollars. French and European companies are well placed at the heart of this booming aerospace sector: Airbus with its ACJ range is enjoying sales success ahead of its rival Boeing, while Dassault Aviation's market status is assured. 1,600 Falcon aircraft have already been produced by the French

### FRENCH INNOVATIONS AND SUCCESSES

Today, French aerospace companies on average dedicate 16% of their turnover to R&D, which places them on the top rung worldwide in research and development expenditure (as a percentage of turnover) and gives them a very strong capacity for innovation. - An example: the CATIA (Computer graphic aided threedimensional interactive application) software, created by Dassault Aviation in the 1970's for use in-house. The company Dassault Systèmes, in partnership with IBM, sold it to aerospace manufacturers such

### RESPECTED TRAINING

France is also particularly well placed on the international stage in terms of skills and technical and scientific training. It is ranked number two in countries producing the most graduates and post-graduates (aged 20-29) in science and technology, with a network of well respected higher education establishments and universities, including Sup'Aéro (ENSAE), ENSICA, ENAC and ENSMA.



"We could have located our R&D centre in two sites in Hamburg and London. We chose Toulouse, Europe's only global aerospace centre."

Pierre Larregle, Operations Director, Axess Europe.