



FIGEAC AÉRO INAUGURATES ITS FULLY AUTOMATED, CONNECTED AND COMPUTERISED PRODUCTION PLANT

A Plant of the Future for the production of parts for the Safran group's LEAP programme

On Thursday 28 March 2019, the European leader in aerospace sub-contracting, FIGEAC AÉRO (ticker code FGA), in the presence of Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Minister of State, attached to the Minister of Economy and Finance and Olivier Andriès, CEO of Safran Aircraft Engines, opened its new production plant for the manufacture of motorised parts for the 3 versions of Safran's LEAP program located at the Figec site. The fully automated plant, a strategic investment for the Group, is one of the most modern in Europe.

This new generation plant with floor space of 7,500 m² combines automation and innovative processes with capacity for 12 automated in-line machining units, an automated washing and non-destructive inspection unit for all parts, an automatic 3-dimensional part control system, and a robotised line for assembling parts on casings.

Fast-growing production set to exceed 1,200 casings per year within the next 2 years

Since 2016, this new site has been expanding by incorporating new machines to support the ramp-up of Safran and input new technological processes to enhance performance. This 4.0 plant was built further to a robust sales drive that resulted in 2 long-term agreements valued at \$US540m and an ambitious 4-year investment strategy (2015/2020) to the tune of €37m. The plant currently produces 20 casings a week. Within the next 2 years, at maximum capacity, the Group aims to produce 1,200 casings a year.

The streamlining of spaces and processes is the bedrock on which the technologies of the "industry of the future" will be built. Such technologies play a crucial part in meeting quality and productivity objectives and optimising processes in real time. To implement the process, an SPC (Statistical Process Control) solution is used to calculate the real-time capability of processes, identify any problems and exploit production data more effectively.

Any problems are detected earlier, manufacturing conditions can be corrected upfront and predictive maintenance work carried out to prevent any malfunctions. In a dedicated space,

operators use information recorded on RFID chips to identify the appropriate tool, determine the degree of wear and tear, and estimate the lifespan. The tools are then routed by a conveyor system to the machine tools. In this way, only those tools required for the machining process are loaded in the dedicated centres. And tool stocks are streamlined.

"With the introduction of innovative technologies, we are putting industrial excellence at the heart of our growth strategy," explained Jean-Claude Maillard, Chairman and Founder of the FIGEAC AÉRO group. "This new generation plant includes the only production tool of its kind in Europe, providing operators with comfort and safety in order to increase productivity, enhance production reliability and so improve our working capital requirements."



*From left to right: **Olivier Andriès**, CEO of Safran Aircraft Engines; **Agnès Pannier-Runacher**, Minister of State, attached to Finances; **Jean-Claude Maillard**, Chairman and Founder of Figeac Aéro*

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ABOUT FIGEAC AÉRO

The FIGEAC AÉRO Group, a leading partner of major aerospace manufacturers, specialises in the production of light alloy and hard metal structural parts, engine parts, landing gear parts and sub-assemblies. An international group with a workforce of nearly 4,000 employees, FIGEAC AÉRO operates in France, the United States, Morocco, Mexico, Romania and Tunisia. In the year ended 31 March 2018, the Group reported annual revenue of €371 million.

FIGEAC AÉRO

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