New Aeronautic Suppliers Village opens in Andalusia

The Aeronautic Suppliers Village (ASV) at the Technological Park of Andalusia in Seville, Spain was officially inaugurated this past month on May 20 by the Minister of Economy, Innovation, Science and Employment of Andalusia, Antonio Ávila. The ASV model is the first one of its kind developed in Spain and has the capability to host up to 80 firms and 500 employees. Currently, its main focus is to allow national and international aerospace companies to be located close to the A400M Final Assembly Line (FAL) suppliers.


Carbures Teaches Others to Go Lean

Carbures, a Cadiz, Spain-based supplier of carbon structures for the aerospace industry plans to open a lean manufacturing center this July in Greenville, SC. With a goal of optimizing resources and to improving workflow for participating companies, the company plans to offer a lean manufacturing training for the aerospace, automotive and other industries in the Southeast.

Carbures’ clients currently include Airbus and Airbus Military, Aernnova, Aciturri and Alestis Aerospace. With the opening of this facility Carbures hopes to become a supplier of Boeing and other aerospace companies and even the automotive sector established upstate.


Carbures CEO Ivan Contreras (Photo/firmFOTO)
Andalusia hosts the Aerospace and Defense Meetings 2012

The Aerospace and Defense Meeting (ADM) 2012, the largest international business convention devoted to the aerospace industry took place in Andalusia, Seville between this past month between May 14th and 17th. During those four days, 288 enterprises, aerospace institutions and related associations gathered in Seville to hold more than 6000 meetings.

With approximately 700 registered professionals in attendance at the conference, core ADM activities at the Exhibition Centre of Seville (FIBES) included professional meetings; thematic workshops, where companies and professionals discussed the future of the aerospace sector; and networking events, attending companies had the chance to meet potential partners for business opportunities.


Andalusia, a region in Spain with tradition in the aerospace industry.

Andalusia, the largest region in Spain is way more than flamenco, fiesta and tapas. The region also has a lesser-known history in the aerospace industry that spans more than a hundred years. In the last decade alone, the regions has seen an increase in productivity, diversification, specialization and turnover for this sector.

Andalusia has become the ideal place for companies to invest, and engage in top level aerospace business in Europe. Proof of the region’s ever-increasing relationship with the sector comes in the form of the technology parks that have been developed in the region. As result of these developments, even more projects are currently in the works including the final assembly line of the Airbus A400M and the Centre for Advanced Aerospace Technologies (CATEC)

Link: http://www.aero-mag.com/features/181/20125/1379/
For drones, the sky is the limit

The industry of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, UAVs, also known as drones is experiencing a significant growth and has excellent prospects, as their technology is being constantly perfected, their efficiency and capabilities are improved and their uses keep expanding.

The UAV industry is a top technology industry where innovation, research and development are essential. Historically, drones have been known for its military feats. However, due to these crafts' capabilities to survey huge expanses of land, these crafts also are capable of offering a seemingly endless number of uses for non-military companies.

The world leader in UAVs is the United States with huge players like Northrop Grumman, General Atomics, Lockheed Martin or Insitu by Boeing. The U.S. is followed by Israel and Spain. Spain has a growing cluster of companies in this sector and has just approved and planned two UAVs Excellence Centers: one for civil uses and one for defense and security. Research and development will be carried out there extensively.

For UAVs, truly, the sky is the limit.


Airbus Military: a Very European Success Story

One of the two most important aeronautical companies in the world, Airbus Military, has a city-sized technological complex in Seville, Spain where it is quite normal to hear three or four languages being spoken at once. This is a multinational European business – one whose own bosses and workers acknowledge would never have existed without European unity. Now, it is competing for hegemony in the global aeronautics market.

At the helm of this collective effort, and among the giant planes being worked on is the four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft A400M; the signature aircraft of the consortium’s military division. Assembly started in the first quarter of 2007 and the A400M’s maiden flight was carried out from Seville on December 11, 2009.

Link: http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2012/jan/25/europa-airbus-military-european-business
**Spain to be part of NATO’s missile defense shield**

Spain’s agreement to port four Aegis ships at Rota’s naval station is crucial for the deployment of NATO’s missile defense system. The program is being implemented in four phases, beginning this year and ending in 2020. So far, Romania, Poland, Turkey and now Spain have agreed to participate by hosting land-based radars or missile sites or porting Aegis ballistic-missile-defense-capable ships carrying interceptor missiles. Beyond missile defense, the secretary said, the Aegis destroyers will perform other missions, including participating in standing NATO maritime groups and joining in naval exercises, port visits and maritime security cooperation activities.

Participating in this system will bring to Spain cutting edge technology and will increase the cooperation between US and Spanish service members. For Rota’s naval station it will mean 1100 military staff and their families, which will bring 1000 new jobs.


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**Andalusia, a growing aeronautics cluster in Europe**

Andalusia, the southern region of Spain is well known worldwide for its arts, its history and its ancient culture. However, the lesser-known Aeronautical Industry has been a traditional sector for the economy of Andalusia since the 1920’s and we are close to celebrating a century producing aircrafts. Andalusia, together with the region of Madrid makes the third-largest aeronautic cluster in Europe after Hamburg in Germany and Toulouse in France.

As a place to set up operations, Andalusia, Spain offers a number of advantages for the aeronautic sector including being one of only a few places in the world with the capability of designing, building and assembling aircrafts. Andalusia also strategically located in the southernmost tip of Europe and close to Africa; only 9 miles in some points. Several aerospace and technology end user contracts are being signed with African countries and Governments, and we can be a launching pad thanks to our technology and security effect.


Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey

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Photo: Mike Thorn.
The Andalusian Aeronautical Sector at the Forefront of International Industry

During the last few years, Andalusian aeronautical companies have developed a very important role in the international market. Innovation and specialization have been the two most important aspects in the development of their activities, and presently, there are three Tier One suppliers with a major Andalusian presence: the Andalusian consortium Alestis Aerospace, Aernnova and Aciturri.

Here are some examples of aeronautical companies established in Andalucía:

AEG. Aircraft repair and maintenance. One of its six branches is located in Seville.
Aernnova Andalucía. One of the three Tier One companies working with the leading aeronautical manufacturers. Based in Aerópolis (Seville).
Aerotecnic-Mecatecnic. It works for leader companies such as Airbus Military, Alestis, Grupo Aciturri, Aernnova and CESA. Located at the Aerospace Technological Park of Seville.
Aerosur. It is specialized in assembly and integration of major aerostructures. It is other Tier One company.
Aertec. An Andalusian engineering and consultancy firm specializing in the aeronautical industry.
Airgroup. It makes modules and metal components for aerospace sector.
Alestis Aerospace. It is the leading Andalusian Tier One supplier. It has a staff of 1,645 employees and three plants in Andalusia: Seville, Puerto Real and Puerto de Santa María.
CESA. It is currently a European leader for the design, development, production, maintenance for aeronautical systems.
Consur. It carries out management of machining jobs for machining jobs for large aeronautical parts of the leading aircraft manufacturers.
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