

Poland – ILA 2012's Partner Country.

The Republic of Poland is the official partner country of the International Air Show ILA 2012. Under the aegis of the Polish Ministry of Economics and the Polish Agency for Information and Foreign Investment (PAIIZ), Germany's neighbor will be represented at the Berlin Air Show with its biggest display to date. Poland's aerospace industry will be introducing itself as a modern, fast-developing sector, which offers outstanding opportunities for customers and investors from around the world. The focus is on existing industrial production and on research and development within the industry.

Waldemar Pawlak, Deputy Prime Minister and Economics Minister of the Republic of Poland: "We are delighted that Poland has been chosen as the partner country of the Berlin Air Show 2012. We see this as recognition of the Polish aviation industry's potential and of the country's rapid and stable economic progress. I am sure that many Polish exhibitors representing this sector, one that is of great importance to us, will be hosting impressive displays at the ILA. I know from talks with numerous foreign investors that Poland's international reputation is the result of its industry performing to high standards and due to the creativeness of Polish engineers and specialists. German companies who invest in Poland also value the new development potential of our country. "

Dietmar Schrick, Chief Executive of the German Aerospace Industries Association (BDLI): "Poland is an outstanding choice for next year's partner country at the ILA. This is confirmation yet again of the ILA Berlin Air Show's role as a pan-European exhibition venue for the aerospace industry and as a gateway to the modern countries of the East. It is also a recognition and appreciation of cooperation with Polish companies which in recent years has continued to expand. We also anticipate that participation by our Polish neighbors will result in further joint ventures and ties between our two countries evolving at all levels, for which the ILA 2012 surely offers the ideal platform."

Poland has attended the bi-annual air show ever since the ILA moved to Berlin in 1992. Last year, more trade visitors than from any other foreign country travelled from Poland to Berlin, which for many who represent this trade fair audience is only a short distance away. The ILA grounds are only about 80 kilometers from the Polish border. Since the introduction of the partner country concept Poland's predecessors at the ILA have been Russia in 2006, India in 2008, and Switzerland in 2010. The ILA 2012 will be taking place from 11 to 16 September at Berlin ExpoCenter Airport, the new exhibition grounds directly adjacent to BER, the capital's new airport.

Structure and spectrum of expertise of the Polish LRI:

Around 90 per cent of the Polish aviation industry's manufacturing plants are members of Aviation Valley (Dolina Lotnicza). This industry association was founded on 11 April 2003 by the aviation industry's largest manufacturers, suppliers and companies in southeast Poland. Over the course of eight years its membership has risen from 18 to 84 companies, with a current workforce of more than 23,000. Aviation Valley is one of Poland's largest industry clusters and Central and Eastern Europe's leading center for aviation. The employer's association has contributed significantly to southeast Poland becoming one of the aviation industry's leading regions in Europe.

Total sales of products by this cluster exceed EUR 1.5 billion. The industry is experiencing rapid growth and from 2003 to 2008 its turnover increased four-fold. This economic upturn is also due to foreign investment. Thus deliveries to the foreign owners of Polish plants currently account for most of the industry's sales.

Major industrial sites

WSK PZL-Rzeszów, Poland's largest manufacturer of components for aircraft engines, belongs to the US corporation United Technologies Corp. Based in Rzeszów, it has built engines for the F-16. The plant in Rzeszów also makes metal panels, precision cast metal parts, and gearboxes which the majority of Pratt & Whitney engines employ.

In 2007 PZL Mielec was also taken over by Sikorsky Aircraft, following which the US company designated Mielec for production of its Black Hawk helicopters. In late 2009 Sikorsky announced that the first helicopters with Polish parts were being put into service. In January 2010 the decision was taken to privatize PZL Świdnik, another large helicopter plant. It was taken over by the Anglo-Italian helicopter company Agusta Westland, which had already been collaborating with the factory near Lublin for 13 years.

Components made by Goodrich in Krosno are used to build the undercarriages of the entire Boeing range, including the Boeing 777 and F-16 fighter jets. Undercarriages from Krosno are also fitted to Gulfstream jets and airliners from the Canadian company Bombardier. Components have also been exported to Japan. The Goodrich plant in Podkarpacie has also been contracted to manufacture a number of components for the undercarriage of the new mega-airliner, the Airbus A380.

One of the best-known companies to have recognized the potential of Aviation Valley is MTU Aero Engines, one of the world's leading manufacturers of engines for use in civil and military aviation. This company has built a modern manufacturing plant and research center in Jasionka near Rzeszów. In addition to MTU Aero Engines, other companies which are well known in Germany also belong to Aviation Valley. They include the optical components manufacturer B&M OPTIK and the shipping company M&M air sea cargo S.A. Major foreign investors also include Hispano Suiza (Sędziszów), Aero (Kalisz), Gardner (Tczew) and Creuzet (Sędziszów).

Focus on research

Research and development is of great importance to Aviation Valley. The association is also a founder member of the Center for Advanced Technologies AeroNet - Aviation Valley. This center is a consortium made up of Poland's six largest technical universities, from Warszawa, Lublin, Łódź, Rzeszów, Częstochowa and Gliwice, as well as other technical colleges and institutions. They include the University of Rzeszów, the Aerospace Institute, the Air Force Technical Institute as well as the two institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Institute for Fluid-Flow Machines, Institute for Basic Technical Problems). The consortium's main task is to conduct scientific research and development and to introduce innovative aviation technology solutions.

Aviation Valley is also a founder member of the Polish Aerospace Technological Platform, whose aim is to intensify cooperation and strengthen the involvement of Polish aerospace companies and universities in relevant European research projects.

The association's objective: greater involvement at international level

Aviation Valley is one of three leading institutions of the European Aerospace Cluster Partnership (EACP), to which aerospace clusters from EU member states belong. Aviation Valley continues to move forward, and is constantly establishing new contacts with numerous aviation industry institutions. Thus,

for example, at ILA 2010 Aviation Valley signed a cooperation agreement with the Berlin Brandenburg Aerospace Alliance (BBAA).

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