Aircelle's SLCA subsidiary develops a new service offering

Plaisir, France, April 2, 2008 – The SLCA subsidiary of Aircelle has expanded its engineering services for customers, utilizing the company's expertise in aerostructures. As a result of this initiative, the company has presented 23 potential actions for Airbus in the framework of weight reduction studies for aerostructures on the new A400M military transport.

To support SLCA customers’ research in terms of weight and production costs, SLCA has evolved this new engineering service, benefiting from the experience it has gained since 1980.

Airbus called on the know-how of SLCA's design bureau, located at Plaisir near Paris, to define concepts that could reduce the mass of one identified A400M aerostructure component by 100 kg. The service provided by SLCA is being performed in three phases:

- Analysis of the component's definition and the existing calculations,
- Propositions for potential weight reduction,
- Consolidation of the propositions selected by Airbus.

SLCA has completed the first two phases. At this stage of its evaluations, the objective of a 12 percent weight reduction sought by Airbus for the SLCA-evaluated aerostructure component is confirmed.

Airbus has recognized the quality of this work and the relevance of SLCA's proposed solutions, underscoring the company's know-how in complex aerostructures produced with composites.

An industrial expert in composite materials for 25 years, SLCA, a subsidiary of Aircelle and a member of the SAFRAN group, is a partner with the leading names in aeronautics. Its business lines today focus on the project management, design and production of complex composite material aerostructures, such as the belly fairings of the A330-340 Airbus or the engine cowls for Eurocopter NH90 helicopters. The head office of SLCA has always been located in Florange (57) in the buildings of the production plant. The company has a second site in Plaisir in the Paris region for executive management as well as the engineering, commercial and purchasing divisions.

Aircelle is one of the leading players in the worldwide nacelle market for aircraft engines. A member of the SAFRAN group, it employs approximately 3,500 persons at seven sites in France, the United Kingdom and Morocco. Aircelle is present on the majority of programs now in development, and offers a full product line for engines that range from small powerplants used on regional jets and corporate aircraft to high-thrust engines on the largest airliners.

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