A new Aircelle industrial role: bypass ducts for the Silvercrest business jet engine

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Aircelle will produce a key component for the Silvercrest business jet engine, providing the company with an industrial role on a new-generation powerplant that is now entering its ground test phase. To be supplied by Aircelle is the Silvercrest's bypass ducts – which are part of the basic engine hardware, and serve the function of directing air from the jet engine's very-high-efficiency fan to its mixed flow nozzle.

The Silvercrest bypass ducts are elaborate components that include removable panels for maintenance access to the core engine. Aircelle's supplier role on Silvercrest was announced at this week's National Business Aviation Association's (NBAA) Annual Meeting and Convention in Orlando, Florida. The Silvercrest is a product of the Snecma propulsion systems company, which – along with Aircelle – is part of the Safran group. Laurence Finet, the Silvercrest program General Manager at Snecma, told journalists that the first complete engine has begun ground development testing at the company's Villaroche facility near Paris.

Three other development engines are under construction, and a total of eight Silvercrest powerplants will be used for testing and certification. Finet said in-flight evaluations are planned in 2013 using a Silvercrest to be installed on Gulfstream G2 testbed aircraft operating from the Istres Flight Test Center in southern France. Silvercrest is designed for 9,500-12,000 lb. thrust ratings, and has been sized for mid- and high-end aircraft in the business jet super-midsize, large and long-range categories.

It was selected last May by Cessna to power its new Citation Longitude twin-jet business aircraft, expected to enter service in 2017. Aircelle will produce a key component for the Silvercrest business jet engine, providing the company with an industrial role on a new-generation powerplant that is now entering its ground test phase. To be supplied by Aircelle is the Silvercrest's bypass ducts – which are part of the basic engine hardware, and serve the function of directing air from the jet engine's very-high-efficiency fan to its mixed flow nozzle.