Press release
Aerospace Valley, Midi-Pyrénées & Aquitaine: the largest delegation of companies in the hall dedicated to SMEs

At the 51st edition of the Salon du Bourget air show (15th–21st June, 2015), the Midi-Pyrenées and Aquitaine regions along with their development and innovation agencies Madeeli and Aquitaine Développement Innovation (ADI), the Midi-Pyrenées Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and the Aerospace Valley world competitiveness hub will be in attendance under a common banner in Hall 4, the hall devoted to small and medium businesses.

A 1,450 square metre pavilion will host the largest delegation in the show, comprising 140 regional companies. The operation is financially backed by the Midi-Pyrenées & Aquitaine regional councils and the Aerospace Valley nexus.

With a focus on boosting the attractiveness of their regions and assisting the international development of their companies, Midi-Pyrenées and Aquitaine have been regular participants at the Salon International de l’Aeronautique and de l’Espace (SIAE) at Le Bourget since 2003. This world famous air show is known as the industry’s leading event.

As in previous editions, there will be a host of events taking place in the Aerospace Valley pavilion: visits from regional, ministerial, and international delegations, breakfasts over a theme, press conferences, sealing of industrial partnerships, and this year’s special, Aerospace Valley’s 10th anniversary celebration.

The Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées regions are providing financial backing for the collective promotional space and for the participation of the SMB exhibitors. Aerospace Valley and Madeeli are in charge of publicity and of the schedule of events in liaison with their Aquitaine counterpart, ADI. The Midi-Pyrenées Chamber of Commerce & Industry is sponsoring the collective initiative, managing relations with the show management, and preparing the company stands in collaboration with the stand contractor.

New feature for 2015: Cité de l’Espace and the Aeroscopia air museum will be making guest appearances in the Aerospace Valley show area at Salon du Bourget 2015, enlivening the pavilion during the public opening days (19–20–21st June, 2015). The aim is to promote the aerospace business and trades to young visitors. These appearances will be an opportunity for both institutions to show their expertise in bringing science to the masses.

Cité de l’Espace was opened in 1997 and is today’s leading establishment for bringing an understanding of space and astronomy to the public at large. Cité de l’Espace interacts closely with French, European, and international space organisations as well as with the space industry, public education, universities, and other institutes of higher learning. It covers five hectares (12.5 acres) and welcomed its five-millionth visitor in 2014.

Aeroscopia is the new flight museum based in Blagnac, near Toulouse airport. This showcase of the area’s rich aeronautical heritage, a living, “hands-on” memory, creates a link between the past, present, and future of aeronautics. Its mission is not only to preserve and show off iconic aircraft but also to impart the aeronautical culture.

During the show’s first days, the two regional councils, the two development and innovation agencies, the Midi-Pyrenées Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Aerospace Valley will all have their chairmen in attendance, leading the regional delegations.

An on-site press conference is scheduled for Tuesday, 16th June, 2015 at 11am.
World Competitiveness Cluster Aerospace Valley

With over 820 members located in Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrenées and representing all aspects of the aerospace and onboard systems sector, this worldwide competitiveness hub clearly stands out as a centre of excellence.

Since its creation just ten years ago, in 2005, Aerospace Valley has lent its accreditation or approval to 754 projects and financed 381 joint research projects. The projects are sponsored by companies (ranging from SMBs to corporations), universities, public or private laboratories and represent a total funding of some one billion euros of which 420 million euros comes from the state.

But the biggest success, over and above the hundreds of projects devised and implemented by the members of the centre, is the creation of a platform for exchange and collective conception, where parties can find each other and put their heads together in a technological perspective on the sector’s big issues.

Besides stimulating collaborative research projects, Aerospace Valley has over the last three years moved forward into a new era, in which it focuses efforts on converting research and development into economic growth. The hub places special emphasis on support for small and medium businesses, assisting in their growth and providing resources that allow them every chance of achieving it.

Aerospace Valley in a nutshell
- Europe’s No.1 employment catchment area in the sector, with 123,800 jobs across 1,600 sites
- One third of the French aerospace workforce, half of whom are in the space sector
- 8,500 researchers
- France’s foremost higher learning centre (two of France’s three aeronautics schools)
- 820 members, 466 of them SMBs
- 754 cooperative R&D projects accredited or approved (joint operations involving major groups/SMBs/labs) and 381 projects financed, for a total of one billion euros
- The Aerospace Valley association has been chaired since September, 2011 by Agnès Paillard, who is also Airbus Group VP in charge of the Avion Electrique France programme and Chairman of France’s intellectual property office, INPI.

The delegation catalogue can be supplied on request

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