b. Responsible Suppliers

I. Introduction

Approximately 24,000 suppliers from more than 100 countries supply parts, components, systems and services to the Company. In 2018, the overall external sourcing volume of the Company was valued at around €52 billion and shared between Divisions and purchasing commodities as follows:

- Commercial Aircraft: 84%
- Helicopters: 5%
- Defence and Space: 11%
- Indirect Goods & Services: 16%
- Cabin & Cockpit: 3%
- Product Related Services: 4%
- Not Assigned: 8%
- Production Material & Parts: 5%
- Propulsion Systems: 40%
- Structure & Airframe: 14%
- Systems & Equipment: 10%

Whilst the Company’s products and services are sold all over the world, the majority of its supply chain is based in Europe and OECD countries.

However, in the past few years, the supply chain has become concentrated and more international. The Company has identified local sourcing in Asia as one of its leading long-term objectives. In addition, and due to increasing consolidation within the aerospace and defence sector, larger work packages are being placed with a smaller number of lead suppliers.

The Company’s global sourcing footprint is represented as follows based on Tier1 and subtiers data:

II. Governance

Responsible sourcing and supplier management

The Company strives to make environmental and societal responsibility a core element of its procurement process, managing the relationships with suppliers through sourcing strategy, supplier selection, contract management, supplier monitoring and development.

The Company’s suppliers must comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the countries in which operations are managed or services provided. In addition, wherever suppliers are located, all business should be conducted in compliance with the Airbus Supplier Code of Conduct.


This Supplier Code represents the group-wide values and principles in line with internationally recognised standards and conventions (such as OECD and ILO). It has been developed with the International Forum on Business Ethical Conduct (IFBEC).

Responsibility and sustainability activities in the supply chain are managed by the Procurement R&S department together with divisional representatives and a network of focal points from the different purchasing commodities. The Head of Procurement R&S department is part of the Procurement Leadership Team (PLT).

The central Procurement R&S department manages integrity topics and awareness within the Procurement function and deploys the corporate Supplier R&S programme with related supplier due diligence actions. The Supplier R&S Programme Manager is also part of the corporate cross-functional group, the R&S Network.

In response to legislative developments and new regulatory requirements, Airbus launched in 2017 the Supplier R&S programme, a transverse governance structure for environmental, human rights, health and safety issues. It is based on the following key elements and principles of due diligence following the OECD framework on responsible business conduct:

- Supply base risk mapping
- Supplier assessment/audits and development plans
- Supplier engagement and contractual requirements
- Policies, tools and reporting

For anti-corruption topics in the supply chain, the Procurement department cooperates closely with the Legal & Compliance department.

III. Risk Management

The Company’s direct procurement-related risks are embedded into the Company’s ERM system. A specific risk category regarding R&S-related risks in the supply chain has been integrated into the risk management plan.

a) Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Company may not obtain sufficient visibility and information from its supply chain in regards to compliance with environmental, human rights, health and safety laws and regulations and a supplier’s adaptation of international sustainable development goals.

In the event of an industrial accident or other serious incident in the supply chain, or any problems of the supplier to fulfil its operational or product compliance, this may also have a significant adverse effect on the reputation of the Company and its products and services. The Company’s reputation may also be affected by the public perception of social and/or environmental impacts of its supply chain’s industrial operations on local environments, communities, biodiversity and the general public’s health.

b) Supplier’s Impact on Local Environment

From the extraction of raw materials to the manufacturing of parts delivered to the Company, a supplier’s industrial operations may have significant environmental impacts on the local environment where the activity is performed, with possible impacts on air, water, soil, biodiversity; workers’ occupational health and safety and on the general public’s health.

c) Disruption Risk

In the event that a supplier fails to comply with environmental, human rights, health and safety laws and regulations, even if caused by factors beyond its control, that failure may result in the levying of civil or criminal penalties and fines against the supplier. Regulatory authorities may require them to conduct investigations and undertake remedial activities, curtail operations or close installations or facilities temporarily to prevent imminent risks.

In response to above a) to c), the Company deploys responsible sourcing activities and specific supplier due diligence actions in frame of the corporate Supplier R&S programme.

d) Risk of Product Non-Compliance

The various products manufactured and sold by suppliers must comply with relevant environmental, human rights, health and safety laws and regulations, for example those designed to protect customers and downstream workers, and those covering substances and its contents, in the jurisdictions in which they operate. Even if a supplier seeks to ensure that its products meet the highest quality standards, increasingly stringent and complex laws and regulations, new scientific discoveries, delivery of defective products or the obligation to notify or provide regulatory authorities or others with required information (such as under the REACH regulation) may force it to adapt, redesign, redevelop, rectify and/or remove its products from the market. Seizures of defective products may be pronounced that could prevent delivery to Airbus.