Welcome Canada to Airbus' world of partnership

We at Airbus were privileged this week to be invited to extend our 50-year-old European cross-border partnership to Canada, one of the world's leading aerospace nations. My Airbus colleagues and I have a deep understanding of the importance of such a relationship and the shared responsibility it implies. Indeed, at Airbus, striking international partnerships is in our DNA.

Our company was founded some five decades ago when a number of smaller but extremely capable aerospace manufacturers came together to build the world's first wide-body twin. This project led to greater things than our founders could ever have foretold: today, we have become a truly global competitor with a comprehensive and successful product range. And we enjoy deep, long-lasting ties with our suppliers and customers around the world, and with the many communities in which we do business.

So we are honored to have been sought out to partner on this great new aircraft program - the C Series – with Bombardier. For that, Airbus will acquire a majority stake in the C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP). We are very excited about this opportunity, which brings together two complementary product lines of single-aisle aircraft – the Airbus single aisle family that we manufacture in Europe, China and the U.S. – and the profoundly innovative C Series aircraft from Bombardier.

The teaming of Airbus and Bombardier will bring to the C Series what it urgently needs: production cost savings by leveraging Airbus' operational and supply chain expertise and Airbus' global reach and scale to accelerate the C Series' commercial success.
This will reinforce the program and its industrial operations in Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. It will also give the world's airlines even greater confidence in the C Series. And, once all approval processes are behind us, the full power of Airbus' worldwide brand and marketing forces will be harnessed to sell the C Series. Thus, our partnership will ensure that the C Series realizes its full potential, unleashing market success and providing production for many years to come.

At Airbus, we believe that working together is the way of the future. It brings greater returns for all – growth, competitiveness and jobs. In a world of global industrial cooperation no-one can achieve results alone. At Airbus, we know what this means. Hence, we are looking to build long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with Canadian communities, suppliers, and aerospace workers.

Canada is now set to become the fifth "home country" in the Airbus family – the first outside of Europe. Facilitated by the break-through free trade agreement CETA between Canada and the EU, this marks an important milestone in Airbus' commitment to invest in and expand its footprint across Canada for the long term, from coast to coast.

To be sure, the headquarters of CSALP – along with most engineering services, research & development as well as manufacturing and assembly activities – will remain in Quebec.
A second Final Assembly Line at our US facility in Mobile, Alabama, will serve the world's single largest market for this aircraft.

Beyond the C Series, Canadian aerospace suppliers will have great access to the Airbus global supply chain – one worth $82 billion in contracts annually – extending across all of Airbus' business lines and products, in both civil and military aviation.

And we at Airbus are grateful for the opportunity to work even more closely with Canada's world-renowned innovation and technology eco-system.

Which brings me back to my first point: partnership is in Airbus' DNA. The agreement we have announced is a commitment to Canada and its industry – from small to large businesses in Quebec and across the country. We look forward to this being a long, shared story of success.

So, on behalf of all 130,000 Airbus employees around the world: thank you Canada… for welcoming us to our newest home. We can't wait to get to work alongside you on the C Series!

Tom Enders
Chief Executive Officer

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