



PRESS RELEASE

Safran and Albany inaugurate third composite fan blade production plant for LEAP engine, in Mexico

Querétaro (Mexico), February 21, 2018

Safran and Albany inaugurated today, in Mexico, a third joint manufacturing plant to make composite parts for the LEAP aircraft engine. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Francisco Domínguez Servién, Governor of the State of Querétaro, Gerardo Ruiz Esparza, Mexico's Minister of Communications and Transport, Philippe Petitcolin, Chief Executive Officer of Safran, Olivier Andriès, Chief Executive Officer of Safran Aircraft Engines, and Joseph Morone, President and Chief Executive Officer of Albany International Corp.

This third joint plant is similar to and complements the two existing plants in Rochester, New Hampshire (United States), and Commercy (eastern France), inaugurated in 2014. It involved a total investment of about US\$100 million and delivered its first parts in October 2017, primarily making 3D woven composite fan blades for the LEAP engine from CFM International*. As the LEAP program develops, this plant will also make guide vanes. The investment needed to add this capability will start this year, with delivery of the first parts expected in January 2019.

The new joint Safran/Albany plant in Mexico currently has nearly 230 employees, operating in a facility with 31,000 square meters (334,800 sq ft) of floorspace. The total workforce is expected to reach nearly 600 by 2021, to handle annual production of more than 20,000 composite blades and 31,000 outlet guide vanes.

Located in the Querétaro Aerospace Park, this newest plant benefits from its proximity to other facilities, including Safran Aircraft Engines Mexico and Albany's Machine Clothing plant in Cautitlan. Safran and Albany have been working closely together for nearly 20 years. Through this high value-added partnership, they have developed the 3D RTM (resin transfer molding) process used to produce fan blades and cases for the LEAP engine. The use of 3D woven composites makes a significant contribution to the LEAP's performance, since it offers 15% lower fuel consumption and CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions than previous-generation engines.

"Our selection of the city of Querétaro for this new plant was primarily based on the excellent results logged since the construction of our first plant at this location more than 10 years ago," said Philippe Petitcolin, CEO of Safran. "This location was also confirmed by the relationship of mutual trust we have developed with local authorities and our partner Albany, and our shared vision of the excellent potential for the development of a Mexican aerospace industry. The creation of jobs and associated training programs are at the heart of this project, which also clearly reflects Safran's proactive international development strategy."

Joseph G. Morone, President and Chief Executive Officer of Albany, added, "After building three plants together, Albany and Safran know what collaboration means and what partnership requires. And so we understand, better than most companies, that the culture of collaboration here in Querétaro

**CFM International is a 50/50 joint company between Safran Aircraft Engines and GE.*

is rare by any global standard. And it is this spirit and culture of collaboration that is one of the most important reasons why this plant is right on schedule, and already successfully manufacturing advanced 3D RTM composite parts, and already contributing to the LEAP program.”

The construction of the new Safran/Albany plant in Mexico was announced in 2016 to support the ramp-up in LEAP production, which should reach a peak rate of more than 2,000 engines per year in 2020. Having already recorded over 14,000 orders and commitments, the LEAP is the fastest-selling engine in the history of aviation. Today, more than 210 LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B-powered airplanes are deployed by 33 operators on five continents, and they have already logged over 610,000 flight-hours and nearly 300,000 cycles.

Safran is an international high-technology group, operating in the aircraft propulsion and equipment, space and defense markets. Safran has a global presence, with nearly 58,000 employees and sales of 15.8 billion euros in 2016. Working alone or in partnership, Safran holds world or European leadership positions in its core markets. Safran undertakes Research & Development programs to meet fast-changing market requirements, with total R&D expenditures of 1.7 billion euros in 2016. Safran is listed on the Euronext Paris stock exchange, and is part of the CAC 40 and Euro Stoxx 50 indices.

In February 2018, Safran took control of Zodiac Aerospace, significantly expanding its aircraft equipment activities. Zodiac Aerospace has 32,500 employees and generated sales of 5.1 billion euros for its fiscal year ended August 31, 2017.

For more information : www.safran-group.com and www.safran-aircraft-engines.com / Follow @Safran and @SafranEngines on Twitter 

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Albany International is a global advanced textiles and materials processing company, with two core businesses. Machine Clothing is the world's leading producer of custom-designed fabrics and belts essential to production in the paper, nonwovens, and other process industries. Albany Engineered Composites is a rapidly growing supplier of highly engineered composite parts for the aerospace industry. Albany International is headquartered in Rochester, New Hampshire, operates 22 plants in 10 countries, employs 4,400 people worldwide, and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (Symbol AIN). Additional information about the Company and its products and services can be found at www.albint.com.