

## PRESS RELEASE

First metal cut on the Skylander SK-105  
5 May 2010



### ***Skylander SK-105:***

***Exceptional performances***

***A milestone has been passed with the start of industrialisation  
Strengthened involvement by the Lorraine Region***



All signals are green for the Skylander programme: the aircraft has proved its exceptional qualities, the industrialisation phase officially started on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, the Lorraine Region has confirmed its support for the programme with the plan for repayable advances and is soon to take a share in the capital of GECI Aviation, the parent company of Sky Aircraft, not to mention the increasing interest of operators throughout the world.

## **The Skylander, an aircraft with exceptional performances**

The engineering teams at the Chambley design office, responsible for the development of Skylander, have obtained exceptional performance: a maximum speed of 435 km/hr and a fast climb rate of 2,200 feet per minute, an important safety feature for operations in mountainous regions, a range of 2,500 kms and a 250 m ground run distance for a fully loaded landing. The latest wind tunnel tests have confirmed these performance figures and the technical choices made.

The SK-105 is the perfect answer to the needs of operators looking for an aircraft capable of operating in the most difficult environments, from short, roughly prepared runways. With its 28m<sup>3</sup> cabin, the largest in its category, the Skylander can transport 19 passengers, from 2.7 to 3.0 tonnes of freight, and serves difficult to access areas without airport infrastructures, for a particularly competitive buying and operating price.

The Skylander is now the majority choice worldwide. A vast sales promotion network is in place in about fifty countries. The constantly growing Skylander commercial portfolio now includes over 650 aircraft with about fifty civil and government operators on five continents convinced by its performance and the Skylander's ability to fulfil a very large number of missions: regional passenger transport, inter-island transport, expatriate staff transport, combi-transport, express freight, perishable food transport, medical evacuation, humanitarian missions, parachute drops, liaison missions, pilot training... A portfolio that supports the production plan for 1,500 aircraft between 2012 and 2027.

## **The industrialisation phase is underway**

On Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, the Skylander passed an important stage with the cutting of the first metal at Baccarat Précision in Lorraine.

In the presence of many key figures including the President of the Region, the Mayor of Baccarat, representatives of the economic and institutional world and industrial partners, this event illustrated the Skylander programme's entry into a new phase, industrialisation.

A process that will now accelerate, to reach the next objective, the building of the 4 prototypes needed for ground and flight tests in 2011.



*27th of April: Skylander's First Metal Cut*

The prototypes will be manufactured with the participation of specialised mechanical engineering companies, like Baccarat Précision and other companies specialising in assembling aircraft sub-assemblies. The prototypes will then be assembled at the Sky Aircraft industrial complex in Chambley-Bussières, where the first stone will be laid in summer 2010 and which will eventually form a covered area of over 40,000 m<sup>2</sup>, on a 22-hectare site.

The flight of the 1<sup>st</sup> prototype is planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2011, with certification and delivery to the 1<sup>st</sup> customer during the second half of 2012.

### **The Lorraine Region, the preferred partner for the Skylander programme**

In the context of the industrial development of Lorraine, and in particular, of the Aériades aerospace cluster, the Lorraine Region, alongside Sky Aircraft since its installation at Chambley in September 2008, is confirming its support for the Skylander programme and further confirming its involvement in a structural programme for the whole Lorraine economy.

This week, the regional assembly will rule on crucial support for the Skylander programme, with the granting of a €9 M repayable advance to be followed shortly by a €7 M investment in the capital of GECI Aviation.

This support will complete the Skylander programme financing plan, with the major part now ensured.

### **Engineering and aircraft building at the heart of GECI International group development**

Since its creation, in 1980, the GECI International group has made a name for itself by the motivation and integrity of its teams, their dynamism, their ability to innovate, their command of complex technologies and ability to run large scale projects. Engineering is more than ever at the heart of the development of GECI International. Over 900 engineers and employees respond daily to the challenges of a constantly changing world where competition never stops becoming more severe.



*Design office*

As an engineering services partner for the most prestigious industrial companies, GECI International has notably taken part in all of the major aerospace programmes alongside Airbus, Dassault.... Capitalising on its engineering expertise and know-how, GECI International affirms with determination its intention to play a major role in the transport and light turboprop building world with its GECI Aviation subsidiary.

Since February, GECI Aviation, a 94.4 % subsidiary of GECI International, has combined all of the aircraft development, production and marketing activities, with Sky Aircraft, builder of the Skylander SK-105 and Reims Aviation Industries, producer of the F406 at Prunay, in Champagne.

### **About the GECI International group:**

For 30 years, GECI International has stood out as a high technology engineering specialist, with a dominant presence in the aeronautic world. The 900 employees, engineers and researchers, of GECI International work continuously at the four corners of the world to take up today's and tomorrow's technological challenges.

Combining excellence, passion and innovation, GECI International offers, on the one hand, through its GECI Ingénierie branch of activity, a range of expertise and global solutions in the aircraft, transport and infrastructure fields, and on the other hand, through its 94.4% subsidiary GECI Aviation, a range of twin turboprop aircraft: the F406 and Skylander SK-105.

The F406, produced by Reims Aviation Industries, is recognised by operators worldwide as an aircraft that is particularly suitable for surveillance missions. The Skylander SK-105, produced by Sky-Aircraft, capable of operating in extreme environments, is an aircraft with exceptional performances, very economic and without an equivalent in its category.

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GECI International and GECI AVIATION are labelled as “Innovative Business” by Oseo / Anvar

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