



A decisive step taken in the Skylander programme with the selection of the supply chain

Sky Aircraft, a subsidiary of GECI Aviation - GECI International Group - dedicated to developing, certifying and producing the Skylander SK-105, has taken a decisive step in the programme's development, with the selection of its main equipment makers and suppliers.

The Skylander SK-105 is a modern design, multi-purpose twin turbo-prop aircraft capable of transporting 19 passengers or 2.7 tons of freight in a very spacious 28 m³ cabin and operating in extreme environments, on short, roughly prepared airstrips.

Unequaled on the market in terms of cabin space, payload, and modularity, it meets the needs of the regional passenger transport, freight, express freight, perishable goods, combined transport and VIP markets. The Skylander also meets the needs of humanitarian, medical evacuation, pilot training, aerial surveillance, airdrop, and other missions.

Together with its exceptional performance, these characteristics have made the Skylander SK-105 an aircraft awaited expectantly by regional operators around the world, with a commercial portfolio of more than 500 aircraft.

A supply chain mobilised around a promising programme.

The Sky Aircraft teams have worked to gather around the programme companies that are able to ensure a high level of quality, whilst having the industrial capacity necessary to keep up with the scheduled Skylander SK-105 production rate.

The team selected today to participate in the SK-105 programme consists of well-known aeronautics specialists.

Concerning the main systems: the 1,100 HP turboprop engines are being supplied by Pratt & Whitney Canada; the metal propeller blades will come from Hartzell; the avionics, and glass cockpit from Cobham were selected for their reliability and durability under extreme conditions. The Cobham has a production unit in Troyes, in Champagne Ardenne, which should participate in producing the avionics for the Skylander.

The landing gear will be provided by the Heggeman, which is also the supplier for the gear on the Dornier 228; the wheels and brakes will be provided by Beringer, a specialist company that supplies Pilatus aircraft. The windows and windshield will be provided by

PPG and SGS, the environmental control system by Meggit and the fuel distribution and indication by Secondo Mona and Intertechnique. The primary electrical circuit has been assigned to the Leach company, based in the Lorraine.

Sky Aircraft, whose activity is focused on final assembly of the Skylander SK-105 in Chambley, in the Lorraine, has selected its partners for producing the aircraft's parts and sub-assemblies. Among these partners are the major names in the aeronautics industry, including Latecis, Lauak, Figeac Aéro, Mazair, Masa, and Romaéro. These companies are all local subcontractors specializing in aerostructures.

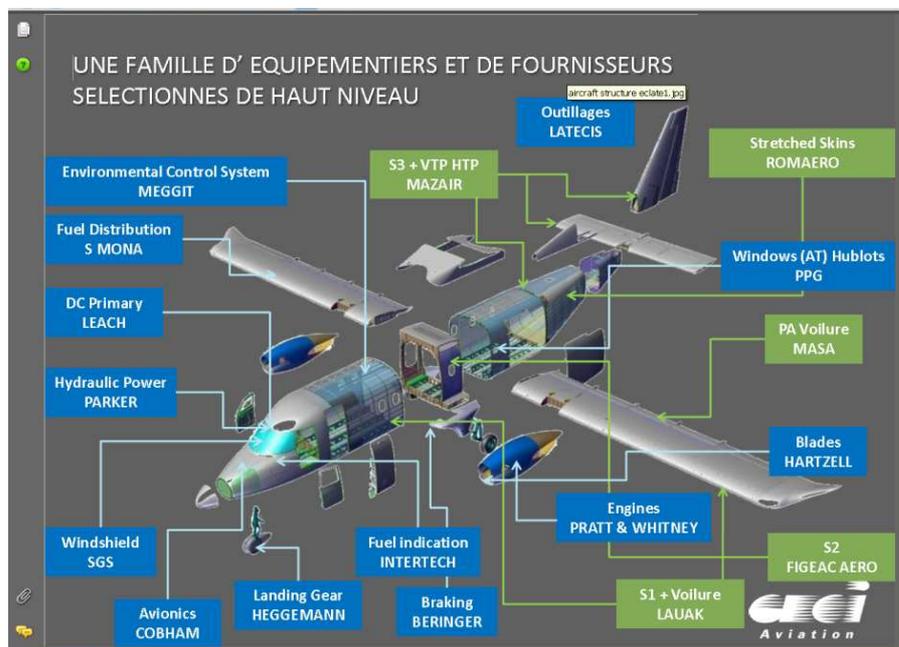
The Skylander's very modern design and industrialisation have enabled maximum automation of the production of parts and a significant reduction in their number. An SK-105 contains approximately 4,000 different structural components, while other aircraft typically have 12 to 15,000, giving the Skylander additional competitive advantages.

GECI Aviation: Aiming for a place among the world's leading 15 aircraft builders

The Sky Aircraft teams, made up of 180 people, mainly engineers and highly qualified technicians, have mobilised to finalise the detailed sets of drawings for each of the aircraft's parts and are preparing to build the two airframes intended for static and fatigue tests and the two test aircraft.

The European government certification process is continuing according to the planned road map.

The assembly site, which in time will include more than 40,000 m² of covered space and where 1,500 aircraft will be produced between 2012 and 2028, will employ more than 300 people by 2013.



With the progress of the Skylander programme and the increase in sales by Reims Aviation Industries, which just launched production of its 100th F406, GECI Aviation, a subsidiary of the GECI International Group, has reconfirmed its ambition to become one of the world's leading 15 builders of civilian aircraft.

About GECI International

For 30 years, GECI International has been a dominant specialist in high technology engineering, with a presence heavily focused on the aeronautics sector. Working in the four corners of the world, the 950 staff, engineers and researchers of GECI International are constantly at the ready to meet the technological challenges of today and the future.

Combining excellence, passion and innovation, GECI International is active on two fronts: GECI Engineering, offering expertise and solutions in the sectors of aeronautics, transport and infrastructures, and its subsidiary GECI Aviation, held at 88.58%, with its range of twin turbo-prop aircraft: the F406 and the Skylander SK-105.

The F406, produced by Reims Aviation Industries, is a world-renowned aircraft, especially well suited for surveillance missions. The Skylander SK-105, produced by Sky Aircraft, is known for its exceptional performance, its ability to operate in extreme environments, and its highly competitive purchase and maintenance costs.

With the success of the F406 on the surveillance market and the Skylander, an aircraft without equal in its category, GECI Aviation plans to play a major role in the light twin turbo-prop world.

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GECI International and GECI Aviation have been classified as "Innovating Enterprises" by OSEO/ANVAR

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