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## **Festive launch for Premium AEROTEC**

### **Over 6,000 employees celebrate in Nordenham, Varel and Augsburg**

### **High-ranking politicians praise the founding of the influential aviation supplier**

Augsburg / Nordenham / Varel, 19 January, 2009 – Premium AEROTEC GmbH celebrated the company launch with simultaneous meetings at its three plants, Nordenham, Varel and Augsburg, having been connected by satellite. Over 6,000 employees were present together with a roster of high-ranking guests topped by the Prime Ministers Christian Wulff from Lower Saxony and Horst Seehofer from Bavaria, as well as the Lower Saxon Minister for Economy Walter Hirche. Premium AEROTEC is part of the EADS Group and started its operations at the beginning of the year as the largest German supplier for aerostructures. The Federal Government's Coordinator of Aerospace Affairs, Peter Hintze, greeted those present, as did EADS CEO Louis Gallois and Airbus CEO Tom Enders. The main speakers for the company were President and CEO Hans Lonsinger, the Chairman of the Joint Works Council, Thomas Busch, and Airbus Deutschland head Gerald Weber.

Hans Lonsinger welcomed all the employees to the new company and emphasised the priority of integrating the former Airbus plants at Nordenham and Varel, as well as the former EADS plant in Augsburg, with its commercial and military aviation activities: "We are now turning three production plants into one single company."

His outlook for the future was optimistic, as the order book for the coming three-and-a-half years is filled well with the existing Airbus and Eurofighter series production programmes. Construction of new facilities for the CFRP production of the Airbus A350 XWB programme has already begun. Setting the course for the future with carbon fibre reinforced plastics has been secured thanks to a 500-million-Euro investment by EADS. Lonsinger added: "We will really get going on

our future programme, the Airbus 350 XWB, as of mid-2010, once production starts at our technologically highly sophisticated facilities."

The head of Premium AEROTEC thanked the government's representatives "for support to the tune of 80 million euros and the 53 million euros respectively that the states of Lower Saxony and Bavaria are investing in continuing hands-on research and development in aviation and material sciences." The processes developed there would not only support the progress of Premium AEROTEC, but also other companies and institutions. Nonetheless, this much is certain:

"As of 1 January, 2009, we have become the number one supplier in our industry in Germany, we occupy the top rank in aerostructures in Europe, and are among the top five world-wide. Our great advantage is that we combine the know-how for structural components both of military as well as of commercial aircraft, and together with our continuing development in carbon fibre technology, we will reach the top position in our industrial sector."

"Transitional agreements have provided the foundations for continued work. A solid framework has thereby been created for the new company, for Premium AEROTEC and for your personal job security," concluded Hans Lonsinger, speaking from Augsburg in an address broadcast to the other locations.

In his speech, held in Varel, Thomas Busch, the new Chairman of the Joint Works Council, reaffirmed the readiness of the entire Works Councils to forge a strong unity out of the three plants. "We, the employees, are this company's most important assets," said Busch. "Our wealth of ideas, our commitment, our energy are what is behind the success of the plants so far. If EADS/Airbus management gives us the leeway, and the management team of Premium AEROTEC gives us the opportunity to develop this new company together with the employees, then we have excellent opportunities on the world market!"

In his interview in Nordenham with presenter Christina Gerlach, the head of Airbus Deutschland, Gerald Weber, succinctly emphasised his commitment to Premium AEROTEC with the words: "This company, and these plants, are really close to my heart!"

Lower Saxony's Prime Minister, Christian Wulff, who also spoke from Nordenham, emphasised that the company's future prosperity would be decisively influenced by its ability to provide CFRP technology in accordance with market requirements. In this context, the course has been set by Lower Saxony and Bavaria towards a common goal. Agreement had been reached only a few weeks pre-

viously between the governments, the municipalities, the industry and major research institutions on the construction and operation of the “CFK-Nord” research centre.

Wulff was convinced: “This State-based global leader among research institutions will be the technological key towards safeguarding and continuing the evolution of technologies in all three Premium AEROTEC plants,” he said, and went on to pay tribute to the efforts on the part of employers and employees to reach the transitional agreements. Thus the breakthrough was achieved by the end of last year: “Work finally will begin now. The baby is born and now quickly must learn to walk.”

In Augsburg, Bavaria’s Prime Minister Horst Seehofer in his speech recalled that turning the three plants into a single separate entity had been accompanied by many ups and downs: “But it has now been done.”

The existence of three scientific research facilities in the immediate area – comprising the DLR Centre for Lightweight Construction Manufacturing Technology and two Fraunhofer project groups – has raised the Augsburg region to the ranks of a leading technology location. Bavaria has provided 53 million euros in support, the city of Augsburg 8.5 million euros. The Prime Minister emphasised the role that Bavaria has always played and will continue to play in the development of aerospace – through to activities in satellite navigation.

Seehofer also pointed to developments in Lower Saxony: “What has been done in the North and what has been done in the South complements each other very well – for the benefit of Premium AEROTEC, too.”

In Varel, the Minister for Economy of Lower Saxony, Walter Hirche, took a look at the years past which culminated in the founding of Premium AEROTEC, noting: “Today, we have come a decisive step closer to securing the economic viability of these locations.”

Hirche was not only convinced that “Premium AEROTEC is in the process of becoming a powerful supplier”, but would soon become a company that would offer “a totally different corporate culture characterised by short and flexible ways of decision-making – ultimately to everyone’s benefit”.

The Federal Government Coordinator of German Aerospace Policy, Peter Hintze, underlined in his address that “the plants in Augsburg, Varel and Nordenham boast exceptionally qualified and highly motivated employees. They combine a

high level of technological competence with a great deal of creativity. That is why I am convinced that Premium AEROTEC is perfectly equipped for the future."

EADS CEO Louis Gallois spoke for the Group: "Since we do live in times of tough competition, the founding of your company as specialists in aircraft structures is certainly the most solid option for EADS, but also for you, as the new subsidiary Premium AEROTEC."

Tom Enders, President and CEO of Airbus, joined the other speakers in wishing the employees, and the company Premium AEROTEC as a whole, both a successful future and a good start with this "Day One":

"Airbus, as your customer – and that is what we are now since the beginning of the year – has already received good quality in the first two weeks, from Nordenham, from Varel and from Augsburg. You are now a Tier-1 supplier. That is a very special partnership and carries its obligations. The strong participation of your company in all Airbus programmes, and the substantial contribution your company is making to the new A350 XWB, provides the solid foundation for the outstanding business prospects of Premium AEROTEC."

*Premium AEROTEC has over 6,000 employees and expects revenues to reach more than one billion Euros for 2009. Premium AEROTEC's core business is the development and manufacturing of metal and carbon composite aerostructures and the corresponding production systems. The company has factories in Augsburg, Nordenham and Varel and is part of the EADS Group.*

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