

Premium AEROTEC delivers the fuselage structure for the 4000th member of the Airbus A320 family

The 'super shell' comes from Nordenham

Nordenham, 07 May 2009 – The handover of the fuselage section for the 4000th member of the Airbus A320 family was today celebrated at Premium AEROTEC's Nordenham plant in the presence of Airbus representatives and Premium AEROTEC employees.

Plant manager Helmut Färber emphasised the importance of the 'single aisle' Airbus A320 family (the A318, A319, A320 and A321) for the Nordenham plant: "We manufacture the section 17 'super shells' for the A320 family and are responsible for the section 15 shells. Overall, the single aisle programme uses around 30% of Nordenham's capacity."

As Airbus's representative, Gerd Dibbern, Head of Single Aisle Structure Assembly in Hamburg, thanked the team at Premium AEROTEC: "Nordenham continues to stand for the highest level of quality and on-time deliveries, and I would like to use this handover of the super shell for the 4000th member of the A320 family as an opportunity to emphasise that we truly rely on Premium AEROTEC!"

The Airbus A320 made its maiden flight in 1987 and has been used to operate scheduled services since 1988. The mass production of this aircraft model, the family of which was later expanded to include the longer A321 followed by the shorter A319 and A318 models, has seen the introduction of numerous innovations, including the pioneering use of 'fly-by-wire' control systems in commercial aircraft. The 100th Airbus A320 was delivered in 1989 and the 1000th single-aisle machine followed in April 1999. The aircraft in the A320 family now no longer all come from the Airbus final assembly lines in Hamburg and Toulouse; since autumn 2008, there has also been an A320 final assembly line in Tianjin, China. Helmut Färber stated: "Just ten years after its 1000th aircraft, Airbus will now deliver its 4000th aircraft, an A320, which is to be operated by the Brazilian airline TAM (Transportes Aéreos Meridionais)."

The plant manager explicitly thanked all the employees of the Nordenham site and all the departments that produce the structures for these aircraft, representatives of which attended the event.

Premium AEROTEC has over 6,000 employees and expects to generate revenues of around one billion euro in 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 plants in Augsburg, Nordenham and Varel and is part of the EADS Group.

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