

European Aerospace Sector: impact of COVID 19

Updated: 02/04/2020

The European aerospace industry supports around **865,000 direct jobs** in Europe and is critical for Europe's economy. COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the civil aerospace sector (air traffic has reduced by 77% on 24/03/2020) and in turn on manufacturing and production in the sector.

The European aerospace sector has complex supply chains throughout Europe which are under real pressure due to a huge reduction in demand, production cuts, transport restrictions, supply problems, delays, cash-flow problems and the stoppage any any "non- critical" work to try and stop the spread of the virus among the workforce.

Local trade unions are in daily communications with employers due to the situation being extremely fluid, partly due to decisions by national governments which cannot be predicted. Trade unions are crucial in ensuring safe working conditions and appropriate remuneration for workers who are unable to work.

The current COVID-19 pandemic must not be used by employers to undermine workers' rights and huge commitments will be needed by employers and national governments to support the industry (especially SMEs) going forward.

ASD have a [webpage](#) dedicated to the industries contribution to help tackle COVID-19.

Airbus

[1 April](#)- An update was released stating that all OSH rules were being implemented. Only essential production is taking place in Spain and activities in the UK and Germany have been reduced. Work in France and Spain has restarted. The company stated that it is supporting employees who are affected by school and childcare closures by providing maximum work flexibility.

[1 April](#) – Spain: Airbus is using 3D printing to produce hospital visors to protect health workers.

[31 March](#)- Airbus's contribution to the fight against COVID-19: answering the UK government's call for help in producing additional medical ventilators and providing its own aircraft to help transport equipment.

[30 March](#) – large reduction of production and staff. Around 10-12% of Airbus staff were present at Airbus headquarters factories in Toulouse.

[30 March](#) – Spain: following the announcement of the Spanish Government, all non-essential activities are stopped until 9 April.

[23 March](#)- Airbus announce measures to bolster liquidity and balance sheet in response to COVID-19.

[22 March](#)- Airbus to partially resume production in France and Spain from 23 March.

[17 March](#)- Airbus temporarily pauses production in France and Spain.

Safran

[27 March](#): Safran has closed some sites and has implemented temporary unemployment. Due to the ex-activities of Zodiac, it is looking at producing masks and ventilators.

[26 March](#) – Safran shared an update in relation to the impact of COVID-19: enhanced adaptation plan, 2020 guidance withdrawn, cancellation of 2019 dividend proposal with cash impact of €1bn and a new €3bn credit line. The adaptation plan includes:

- Protection of employees through specific organization of working practices;
- Response to customer needs, particularly for delivery schedules;
- Resilience and flexibility of the supply chain;
- Managing the Group's cash and liquidity, while low debt is already an asset

Plants in China are already fully operational and European sites are gradually restarting.

Safran will also use all schemes set up by governments, **particularly short time working**.

25 March- Safran UK sent a letter to some employees stating that as they were not deemed to have an essential activity, they were placed on compulsory leave during the week from 30/03 to 03/04. This issue is being investigated by the UK unions and the EWC.

[23 March](#)- production started to resume in EU countries most affected by COVID-19.

[18 March](#)- Safran paused production in various EU countries affected by COVID-19 in order to clean and disinfect operations.

France

- Le Havre-Pont-Audemer-Saclay et Toulouse: essential activities resumed post deep clean.
- Florange: essential activities to resume 30 March.
- Helicopter activities: gradual recovery since 23 March.
- Landing systems: gradual activity since 23 March, now partial activity.

United-Kingdom

- Burnley: access restricted 30 March to 3 April.

Belgium

- Dramatic reduction of activities (18 March)

Rolls-Royce

[29 March](#) – Rolls Royce will take part in Ventilator Challenge UK to help produce ventilators for the NHS.

[27 March](#) – UK: production suspending for a week and production would be “modified” when the factories reopen with plans to reduce all but essential activity. However, the defence business will remain operational as some of the vehicles which need RR engines are being used in the relief effort.

Leonardo

28 March- using 3D printing facilities to a company in Brescia, which has developed a plastic valve project which allows the modification of a particular model of snorkelling mask and, which, in turn, transforms it into respirators for sub-intensive therapies.

14 March- social partners agreed on specific measures to be put in place for the health and safety of workers from 14 March.

14 – 16 March- production halted to organise a deep-clean.



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