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Airbus newest joint venture in China progresses well on A350 work packages
Harbin Hafei Airbus Composite Manufacturing Centre (HMC), a joint venture between Airbus and its Chinese partners, has started to deliver elevators for the Airbus A350 XWB programme. A ceremony was held today in Harbin for the delivery of the first ship set of elevators. The elevators manufactured at HMC are delivered to Spain-based Aernnova Aerospace (ANN), who will deliver them to the Airbus plant in Getafe, Spain, where they will be integrated into the A350 XWB horizontal tail plane. ANN is a major supplier of aerostructures to Airbus.
Under a contract signed by HMC and ANN in 2010, HMC is responsible for manufacturing and assembling the complete set of carbon fibre elevators (an elevator is a movable control surface in the horizontal tail plane that makes the aircraft pitch up or down to increase or reduce its flight altitude). During the initial phase the A350 elevators were solely produced at ANN. Production in China started in 2012. After a period of transition, during which the elevators are produced at both ANN and HMC, the Harbin Manufacturing Centre will become the sole supplier of A350 XWB elevators.
According to an agreement signed in 2007 between Airbus and the Chinese government, Airbus agreed to allocate five percent of the A350 XWB airframe to be manufactured in China. The work packages to be carried out by HMC are a significant part of the five per cent.
Rafael González-Ripoll, Airbus China Chief Operating Officer, said: "The delivery of the first ship set of A350 XWB elevators by HMC is an important milestone in our long-term partnership with the Chinese aviation industry. The A350 XWB has taken to the sky and the programme is progressing on track. The Chinese have every reason to be proud of the contribution they are making to the A350 XWB."
Geng Ruguang, Executive Vice President of AVIC, the parent company of the majority shareholding Chinese partners of the HMC, said: "Its inspiring for the Chinese aviation industry to be involved in the development and production of the A350 XWB, which is the worlds most advanced and most efficient aircraft, and to become an integrated part of Airbus global supply chain. The delivery of the first A350 XWB elevator demonstrates one more step forward of HMC towards its set target. The development of HMC will also constitute a pulling force for the relevant local industries."
Pedro Fuente, Chief Operating Officer of ANN, said: "We at Aernnova are really satisfied with the very effective teamwork model developed together with the Harbin Manufacturing Centre to industrialize and progressively transfer the A350 XWB Elevators. We are impressed by the fast growing capabilities we are seeing every day. Clearly these are great pillars for a long term collaboration and mutual success."
Among the participants at the ceremony were Chinese government officials, European Government representatives, executives of Airbus and its Chinese partners including AVIC, an aviation industry group of China, representatives of ANN and other industry professionals.
The Harbin Hafei Manufacturing Centre, set up in 2009, is already producing work packages related to the Airbus Single Aisle programme (elevators, rudders and HTP spars) and starts today to deliver the first major part to the A350 XWB programme. In order to fulfil these work packages, especially those for the A350 XWB programme, including elevators, rudders, Section 19 maintenance doors and belly fairing parts, HMC began to build new facilities in 2009. The state-of-the-art new facilities were inaugurated in early 2011.
About Harbin Hafei Airbus Composite Manufacturing Centre
Harbin Hafei Airbus Composite Manufacturing Centre Company Limited (HMC) is a joint venture between Airbus China (20%) and a group of Chinese partners comprising Harbin Aircraft Industry Group Corporation Limited (HAIG, with 50%), Hafei Aviation Industry Company Limited (HAI, 10%), AviChina Industry & Technology Company Limited (AVICHINA, 10%) and Harbin Development Zone Infrastructure Development Company Limited (HELI, 10%). The Manufacturing Centre commenced production of elevators for Single-Aisle Airbus aircraft in December 2009. The Manufacturing Centre produces parts and components for Airbus single-aisle programme as well as A350 XWB programme, using the latest composite manufacturing technology based on Airbus standards and processes. Deliveries of single-aisle parts and components commenced from July 2010 and the delivery of A350 XWB components started in 2012. S19 Maintenance Door is the first A350 XWB component delivered by the HMC.
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