

**FLYING WHALES continues to develop its industrial ecosystem and announces the selection of two partners for the Dubai Air Show (14th to 18th November)**

**Dubai, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021** - Selected by the authorities to represent French know-how and innovation at the Dubai World Expo, FLYING WHALES, the company behind a major industrial programme for the transport of heavy loads, took advantage of the Dubai Air Show to bring together some of its partners for the LCA60T programme at the French pavilion and to announce the selection of two leading companies in the sector to strengthen its industrial consortium: IDEA and Sabca.

Thanks to its innovative hovering technology that allows for a reduced ground footprint and its 60-tonne loading capacity, FLYING WHALES represents a bright hope for the future of air freight. Created in 2012 in response to the difficulties encountered by the French forestry sector in accessing certain forests in isolated areas, FLYING WHALES is at once a designer, a manufacturer and an operator. In order to meet its ambition for industrial progress and to strengthen the development of its solution, two new companies are joining the consortium:

- **IDEA, an industrial supply-chain service provider specialising in high value-added products, and FLYING WHALES are strengthening their partnership.**



In line with their collaboration protocol signed in October 2020, the two companies are strengthening their partnership through an extension and expect to finalise their contract by the end of the year. The latter will seal the companies' ambition to implement an industrial support solution that has not been thought of for airships of this size for decades, while keeping in mind the performance of a modern logistics 4.0 with a respect for the environment and a strong human factor and in line with an important production plan in terms of volume. The choice of a partner like IDEA is based on its capacity and motivation to innovate. To ensure better traceability throughout the supply chain, the IDEA logistic scheme dedicated to the assembly of LCA60Ts integrates a geo-localized supply management tool, patented by FLYING WHALES. The company has also taken part in the creation of a training course for aeronautical operators specialising in logistics. The study partnership established last year will lead to IDEA and FLYING WHALES signing a contract for industrial logistics services at the Laruscade site, north of Bordeaux, in the very near future.

- **Sabca, a reference in aerospace and defence, is selected by FLYING WHALES to supply the electromechanical actuator for the LCA60T.**



Sabca and FLYING WHALES will very soon (before the end of 2021) sign an agreement for Sabca to supply the LCA60T airships with electromechanical actuator, one of the aircraft's flight controls. The electromechanical actuator developed and provided by Sabca for the airship is the result of a long-gained experience in the aerospace domain, and that the Belgian company has successfully transposed in aeronautics considerations.

The concerned equipment as in fact already proved its success in the cover of the LCA60T operations. Sabca's know-how in this product has been widely recognised by FLYING WHALES. The Belgian company has indeed been able to anticipate future needs and is currently the only one to offer such a high-performance product on the market, meeting FLYING WHALES' needs in an optimal way.

By surrounding itself with leading companies in the sector, FLYING WHALES is accelerating the development of its extraordinary project, which will start in 2022 with the construction of its factory in Gironde. The first flight of the LCA60T is planned for 2024, with operational certification of the aircraft scheduled for the end of 2025 (air transport subject to European Aviation Safety Agency flight authorisations). The company aims to build 150 aircraft in the next 10 years.

#### **About FLYING WHALES:**

FLYING WHALES is a French company with its headquarters in Suresnes (Hauts-de-Seine). Founded in 2012 by Sébastien Bougon, a civil engineer, the company is developing an ambitious programme that is unique in the world thanks to its innovations and the quality of its teams and industrial consortium: the LCA60T, a rigid airship for the transport of heavy loads with a carrying capacity of 60 tonnes. Originally designed to meet the needs of logging renewable wood resources in difficult-to-access areas, the LCA60T's unique hovering loading and unloading characteristics will provide solutions to the many logistical and landlocked problems around the world with a very small environmental footprint. This solution will allow, at low cost, to be freed from all ground constraints for the point-to-point transport of heavy or bulky loads. Finally, FLYING WHALES is also developing FLYING WHALES SERVICES, the operating company for the LCA60T. For more information, please visit: <https://www.flying-whales.com>

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