

**FLYING WHALES ushers in a new era in air transport  
with a unique, sustainable solution  
and prepares for the Universal Exhibition in Dubai**

**Suresnes, 30 September 2021** - FLYING WHALES, a French company developing a large-scale industrial programme to transport heavy loads, was selected by French authorities to represent French savoir-faire and innovation at this year's 'Expo 2020' in Dubai.

**FLYING WHALES, A SUCCESS STORY THAT IS REVOLUTIONIZING AIR FREIGHT**

Founded in 2012 to meet the challenges faced by the French forestry industry in accessing certain remote forest areas, FLYING WHALES is both a manufacturer and an operating company.

After four years of preliminary studies, market analyses and partnership development, FLYING WHALES has been designing an airship since 2017 designed to meet the needs of many industries and public authorities: The very first LCA60T (Large Capacity Airship 60 Tons), the largest airship in the world, will be assembled in 2023 in southwest France (Gironde department).

The company enjoys the backing of top-tier financial and technical partners (mainly from the French private sector: Air Liquide, Groupe Bouygues, Groupe Oddo), French public authorities such as the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region (where the airship will be assembled), the French Forestry Office (ONF) and Aéroports de Paris (ADP Group), as well as French government financing (a forward-looking investment program, the PIA, managed by the General Secretariat for Investment). Also, the government of Quebec holds a 24.9% share in the project.

**BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: LCA60T, THE WORLD'S LARGEST AIRSHIP, OFFERS ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES**

The LCA60T is 200m long by 50m wide with a vast 96m-long cargo bay, making it the first airship in history able to load and offload up to 60 tons of cargo while hovering, effectively transporting heavy loads and opening up hard-to-access areas.

Requiring no ground infrastructure, powered by a hybrid propulsion unit – soon 100% electric, equipped with a hydrogen battery – this airship can access remote areas thanks to its stationary flight capabilities. Its extremely small—soon zero-emission in flight—carbon footprint (using up to 30 times less energy than a helicopter for the same payload), together with its low operating cost (no dedicated ground infrastructure), offers multiple applications meeting the challenges and needs of numerous sectors (energy, construction, timber, manufacturing, humanitarian aid, space, health, etc.) as well as opening up inaccessible regions of the world economically.

**A FIRST ASSEMBLY PLANT IN NOUVELLE AQUITAINE WILL LAUNCH THE PROJECT**

The very first LCA60T will be built at a 4.0 facility in the Gironde department in southwest France. Working with the Bordeaux Urban Planning & Development Agency, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Region, the French Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC) and local authorities, this standout project will start in 2022 with the construction of the assembly plant and a first airship slated for delivery in 2023. The first flight of the LCA60T is scheduled for 2024 leading to operational certification by the end of 2025 (air transport being subject to flight authorization by the European Aviation Safety Agency)

The company plans to build 150 airships over the next 10 years.



### About FLYING WHALES:

FLYING WHALES is a French company with its head office in Suresnes (Hauts-de-Seine). Created in 2012 by civil engineer Sébastien Bougon, the company has developed—thanks to its innovations and the quality of its expert teams and industrial consortium—an ambitious and unique programme: the LCA60T, a rigid heavy-lift airship with a payload capacity of 60 tons. Originally designed for extracting renewable forestry resources from inaccessible areas, the LCA60T has the unique ability to load and offload cargo in stationary flight, offering a solution to many logistical challenges and the need to access remote locations around the world while leaving a very small environmental footprint. This low-cost solution requires no ground infrastructure and effectively provides point-to-point delivery of heavy and bulky payloads. Finally, FLYING WHALES is also developing FLYING WHALES SERVICES as an operating company for the LCA60T.

For more information, go to <https://www.flying-whales.com>

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