Press release

CORAC and GIFAS welcome President Macron's decision to increase funding for aeronautics research to €350 million in 2026

Toulouse, 24 November 2026. **During a visit to Airbus yesterday, French President Emmanuel Macron announced an increase in government funding for civil aeronautics research, bringing the allocation for CORAC to €350 million for 2026.**

The French Civil Aviation Research Council (CORAC) and the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) welcome this decision, which strengthens the strategic partnership between the French government and the aeronautics industry established in 2008. The funding will benefit the entire French aeronautics industry, enabling it to continue making the essential investments needed to accelerate the decarbonisation of air transport, pave the way for future generations of aircraft and maintain France's and Europe's technological and industrial leadership.

"*This announcement sends a strong signal to our entire industry. It confirms the continuity of the partnership between the French government and the aeronautics industry, strengthened since 2022 to address the challenge of decarbonising air transport. Developing the aircraft of tomorrow requires ambitious investment in research, and the government's renewed support will allow us to continue the work already under way. Given our industry's lengthy development cycles, we now need a clear commitment to sustained support*," says **Yannick Assouad, Chairwoman of CORAC's Steering Committee**.

CORAC: a key driver for developing tomorrow's low-carbon aircraft

Established in 2008, CORAC provides the main framework for cooperation between the French government and the aeronautics industry, helping to define and fund priorities for civil aeronautics research. **It enables France to develop the technologies needed to decarbonise air transport and prepare for future generations of aircraft**, particularly the new medium-haul aircraft designed to replace the Airbus A320.

While CORAC supports research across all segments of the aeronautics industry, the priority is to develop this future aircraft, with the aim of reducing fuel consumption by 30%. Almost 90% of the work planned for 2025 focused on this objective, particularly in areas such as new propulsion systems, hybridisation, innovative materials, lightweight structures, digitalisation of systems and optimisation of industrial processes.

In an industry where development cycles span several decades, sustained funding is essential. Today's announcement will help sustain and strengthen research programmes already under way.

"***We are preparing today to decarbonise tomorrow's aviation.*** *The technological choices that will shape future generations of aircraft are being made now, and France has all the strengths needed to remain at the forefront of this transformation. The French government's renewed commitment is therefore of strategic importance to our industrial sovereignty, competitiveness and ability to meet environmental challenges. It reflects a shared ambition to establish France and Europe as leaders in sustainable aviation*," says **Olivier Andriès, President of GIFAS and CEO of Safran**.

An investment benefiting the entire French aeronautics industry

CORAC funding benefits the entire French aeronautics ecosystem, from prime contractors and equipment suppliers to mid-sized companies, SMEs, laboratories and research organisations throughout France.

More than 520 industrial and research sites and 329 partners are currently involved in CORAC programmes, including nearly 250 SMEs and mid-sized companies and 48 public research laboratories. Over 70% of projects are collaborative, bringing together different players across the industrial supply chain, while 23% of financial support is allocated directly to SMEs and mid-sized companies. **These programmes foster innovation, skills development and the competitiveness of French industry across the country.**

"CORAC plays a key role in supporting our entire industrial supply chain, far beyond the major prime contractors. For the smaller companies in our industry, it offers a real opportunity to take part in research programmes, prepare for emerging technologies and develop their expertise. This investment is essential to preserving our know-how, sustaining industrial jobs across France and ensuring that future generations of aircraft draw on the entire French supplier base," says **Alain Dulac, Chairman of the GIFAS Aero-SME Committee**.

Annex – Key Figures



Source: CORAC; multi-year funding commitment for 2024–2027 announced by President Emmanuel Macron in June 2023.

The French aerospace industry generated €85.6 billion in revenue in 2025, including €59.4 billion (70%) from exports. It recorded a trade surplus of €32.3 billion, contributed €43 billion to GDP and supported more than 230,500 direct jobs across 550 GIFAS member companies.

GIFAS 2025 Figures	Value
Revenue	€85.6 billion
Of which exports	€59.4 billion (70%)
Trade surplus	€32.3 billion
Contribution to GDP	€43 billion (1.5% of GDP)
Tax and social security contributions (employers and employees)	€21 billion
Direct jobs	More than 230,500
GIFAS member companies	546, including 232 SMEs and 174 equipment suppliers

About GIFAS: The French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) is an industry body that brings together some 552 companies ranging from main prime contractors and system suppliers to SMEs and startups. They form a cohesive, hard-driving high-technology sector specializing in the design, development, construction, marketing and maintenance of all aeronautical and space programmes and equipment, both civilian and military planes and defence and security systems.

Members: 17 aircraft and system manufacturers, 177 equipment suppliers (GEADS – Group of Aerospace, Defence and Space Equipment Manufacturers), 234 SMEs (AERO-SME Committee), 106 startups (StartAir) and 18 associate members.

GIFAS, an industry whose 2025 sales amounted to €85.6bn, with 74% in civil aviation and 26% in defence. As the leading contributor to France's positive foreign trade balance, the sector generates 70% of its consolidated sales accounted for exports. It directly employs 230,500 people.

Every two years, GIFAS organizes the Paris Air Show, the world's top event of its kind. The 56th Paris-Le Bourget Air Show will run from 14 to 20 June 2027

About CORAC: Established in 2008, the French Civil Aviation Research Council (CORAC) brings together public authorities and stakeholders from the French aviation industry to pursue a shared research and innovation roadmap. Its mission is to develop the technologies needed for future generations of aircraft, particularly to address the challenges of decarbonising air transport, maintaining competitiveness and safeguarding industrial sovereignty.

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