SATYS ANNOUNCES THE TAKEOVER OF SABENA TECHNICS'S FOUR AIRCRAFT PAINTING FACILITIES IN TOULOUSE

News / Maintenance / Trainings

Christophe Cador, founder of Satys, announced the completion of the company's strategic realignment, fully refocusing its activities on the aeronautics sector. Driven by the strong momentum of the global aeronautics industry, the discreet Toulouse-based Satys Group is consolidating its growth, recovering its pre-Covid profitability ratios, and entering 2026 with solid development ambitions across its six markets: commercial aviation, regional aviation, business aviation, helicopters, defense, and aircraft repainting.

Christophe Cador commented: "This favorable environment contrasts sharply with the extreme difficulties we faced from 2020 to mid-2024, initially due to the health crisis and subsequently to the effects of hyperinflation, a cyber-attack, and the discontinuity of demand. We have worked extensively, particularly on our organizational structure, and continued to invest in training and targeted industrial capabilities to ensure we could meet the strong recovery of the sector. The efforts of the Satys Aerospace and Satys Coatings teams are now paying off, and our four priorities have remained unchanged for 40 years: staff safety, on-time delivery, the quality of our

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services, and a service-driven mindset.”

A strategic realignment toward our core business The group has undertaken a major strategic shift since 2020 by refocusing on aircraft painting and surface treatment. This roadmap led Satys to divest its cabling business to an investment fund in 2020, then in early 2025 to sell its Satys Cabin division to the UUDS Group, a leading player in this field in France. Finally, on 30 January 2026, it sold its rail interior design business, Kelox, to the French group Barat, a well-established player in this sector. Kelox had been successfully restructured in 2025 following very serious financial difficulties between 2022 and 2024, which had required significant financial support from the shareholder.

The latest milestone in this strategy is the takeover of Sabena technics’ four aircraft painting facilities in Cornebarrieu, finalized on February 13th, 2026. Located on the edge of the Toulouse-Blagnac runways, these facilities handle 140 aircraft per year. The transaction includes the transfer of the site’s 130 employees to Satys Aerospace.

Gregory Mayeur, CEO of Satys Aerospac stated: “The expertise of the Satys teams in Blagnac, combined with that of Sabena technics in Cornebarrieu, will enable us to further strengthen our positioning and operational performance for our customer Airbus, with a total of 10 painting facilities in Toulouse, including 4 wide-body hangars.This takeover follows the acquisition of SPI in 2022 and the opening of four new painting facilities in 2025–26, including a wide-body paint bay in Châteauroux."

Satys Industries is today structured around two autonomous groups, each 100% dedicated to aeronautics:

- Satys Aerospace is a global leader in aircraft painting and sealing and will celebrate its 40th anniversary in June 2026. The company operates forty-six paint shops and sixty-eight paint booths across ten countries and plans to open eighteen additional sites

— including six long-haul capacity facilities — on four continents over the next six years. Satys Aerospace’s main customers include the aircraft manufacturers Airbus, Dassault, Embraer and ATR, airlines and maintenance centers. Its revenue — €140 million in 2019, €96 million in 2021, and €192 million in 2025 — is expected to reach €265 million in 2028 and more than €300 million in 2030, with 1,200 aircraft painted. Satys Aerospace is benefiting from the average 8% growth in production rates among OEMs (aircraft and engine manufacturers) and is gaining market share in the defense and MRO sectors (airlines and maintenance centers).

The group employs 2,200 people, including 1,500 in France. By 2030, it plans on recruiting 800 people, over one-third of which will be in France. Satys Aerospace’s shareholders include Christophe Cador through the Satys Industries holding company, the management team, and financial investors: funds managed by Tikehau Investment Management, Crédit Mutuel Equity, Groupe Crédit Agricole, BPI France, and IRDI. “They, together with our long-standing banking partners, have been very supportive during the difficult years,” confirms Pierre-Yves Fargeas, the Group’s Chief Financial Officer.”

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2- Satys Coatings, led by Thierry Cotelle (CEO), specializes in surface treatment for aeronautical parts and operates four production sites: in Marseille, where Satys Coatings is investing in the renovation of its historic facility; in Toulouse; in Dugny (Seine-Saint-Denis); and in Gyula (Hungary). Satys Coatings has also developed in Marignane, together with its partner Gaches Chimie, the Expiris platform, which comprises a design office—focused on research into next-generation coatings—a corrosion expertise center, and a laboratory supporting its activities.

With revenue of €35 million in 2025, a workforce of 300 people, and 7% annual growth, the company is strongly focused on innovation. The group has developed anaphoretic coating technology (with a €7 million investment in 2023), a genuine alternative to the use of chromates in surface treatment and painting. “Our priorities also include reducing processing times, maintaining a high level of quality, and providing additional capacity to support the growth of the aeronautics sector,” explains Thierry Cotelle.

17 FEBRUARY 2026

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https://50skyshades.com/news/maintenance-trainings/satys-announces-the-takeover-of-sabena-technicss-four-aircraft-painting-facilities-in-toulouse

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