

# NEW KODIAK AIRCRAFT PAINT FACILITY ENTERED SERVICE AT SANDPOINT, IDAHO

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**Daher Aircraft Division inaugurated new large paint facility at Kodiak Aircraft Company production site in Sandpoint, Idaho, marking the latest investment since Daher's acquisition of the Kodiak utility airplane product line in 2019. The 9,000-sq-ft. facility streamlines Sandpoint's overall production process and further improves the build quality for this multi-role single-engine turboprop aircraft, which is produced in the Kodiak 100 and Kodiak 900 versions. Daher invested \$2.7 million in the new operation, which consists of separate preparation and paint booths – and was conceived with the possibility of additional expansion to meet increases in Kodiak production rates. A team of full-time highly skilled painters has been formed to staff the facility.**

Nicolas Chabbert, Senior Vice President of Daher Aircraft Division, commented: "This underscores our commitment to the Kodiak's future as we evolve the aircraft family," said Nicolas Chabbert, the Senior Vice President of Daher's Aircraft Division. "It follows the launch of two new Kodiak versions since Daher purchased the product line four years ago: the enhanced Kodiak 100 Series

III, which we introduced during 2021; and the larger Kodiak 900, unveiled in July 2022.”

Sandpoint painting operation mirrors best practices process employed by Daher’s Aircraft Division at Tarbes, France for its TBM family aircraft, with major components – including the fuselage, wings, control surfaces, cowlings and doors – painted individually after coming out of manufacturing, and then flowed directly into the final assembly line. The electrostatic painting technique is employed, ensuring a more environmentally friendly process as well as an enhanced surface finish for the aircraft components.

Until now, Kodiak aircraft were flown from Sandpoint to locations outside of Idaho for painting. This extended the production time, while also requiring control surfaces to be removed upon arrival, and then reinstalled once the procedure was completed. The ability to perform on-site painting reduces the overall Kodiak production cycle by approximately one week. Aligned with Daher’s strategy of being a responsible corporate citizen in the regions that it is located, the company utilized local-area contractors for the new paint facility’s design and construction, while also working closely with the city of Sandpoint for the permit process.



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