

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE FRENCH AIR FORCE BUYS ANOTHER NINE PC-21

In 2017 the Armée de l'Air et de l'Espace purchased 17 PC-21s and has successfully trained its future military pilots on the world's most modern training system since then. The Air Force has now ordered a further nine PC-21s to reinforce its training programme with additional Pilatus training aircraft.

The Armée de l'Air et de l'Espace, one of the world's most prestigious air forces, has ordered a further nine PC-21s, proving with this additional contract how efficient the Pilatus training system is. The PC-21s will be deployed to train future military pilots who will subsequently step up to the nation's multi-role lead-fighter. The PC-21s will replace the twin-engine jet trainers which were previously used for pilot training.

The French procurement authority, the Direction générale de l'armement (DGA), signed the agreement with F-AIR 21 (Cognac Formation Aero SAS France), with Pilatus acting as the exclusive subcontractor for the supply of the nine PC-21s and other ground-based training systems and spare parts. The substantial order will secure jobs in Switzerland, where the PC-21s are produced.

Markus Bucher says of the agreement: "French evaluations are highly professional, which again proves to us that we offer the world's best training system in this market. I am delighted that the Armée de l'air et de l'espace has opted for further PC-21s. Nous vous remercions de faire confiance à Pilatus et à notre PC-21 – L'Armée de l'Air et de l'Espace pourra toujours compter sur notre meilleur service client!"

The PC-21s will be stationed at the Cognac-Châteaubernard air base from 2023, where PC-21s have been in use since 2018. The first pilots concluded their training in 2020. With the latest order, the PC-21 fleet will increase to a total of 26. Besides Switzerland and Spain, France is the third European nation to adopt the PC-21, the world's most advanced training system. Over 230 PC-21s are now in service with nine air forces worldwide.

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The PC-21 is also used to train future test pilots at the Empire Test Pilots' School in Boscombe Down, England.

PC-21 – the most efficient training system

Given the ever-tighter cost pressure on air force budgets, the completely newly developed PC-21 offers a highly efficient, smart platform for training jet pilots. The PC-21 has extremely high equipment and performance features to meet this need. They provide the single-engine turboprop with a mission spectrum that was previously reserved exclusively for jets. The PC-21 is far more cost-effective to operate than a conventional jet trainer. Feedback from existing PC-21 customers confirms that the Pilatus training system delivers a reduction of over 50 percent in the cost of training a prospective military pilot. Flight simulators and other ground-based learning materials also contribute to this integrated concept.

High-resolution photos and videos of the PC-21 can be downloaded from www.pilatus-aircraft.com/downloads.

Further media information is available from:



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Founded in 1939, Pilatus Aircraft Ltd is the only Swiss company to develop, produce and sell aircraft to customers around the world: from the legendary PC-12, the best-selling single-engine turboprop in its class, and the PC-21, the training system of the future. The latest aircraft is the PC-24 – the world's first ever business jet for use on short unprepared runways. Domiciled in Stans, the company is certified to ISO 14001 in recognition of its efforts for the environment. The Pilatus Group includes two independent subsidiaries in Broomfield (Colorado, USA) and Adelaide (Australia). With over 2,000 employees at its headquarters, Pilatus is one of the largest employers in Central Switzerland. Pilatus provides training for about 130 apprentices in 13 different professions – job training for young people has always been a very high priority at Pilatus.