

Eurocopter and IGE+XAO sign a strategic partnership agreement

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Three years after the EADS contract and two years after the implementation of IGE+XAO's SEE Electrical Expert, the Eurocopter Group (Germany, France and Spain) has decided to work with IGE+XAO in order to optimize the overall electrical process during the entire lifecycle of the helicopters manufacturing.

IGE+XAO (EURONEXT Paris: NextEconomy FR0000030827 FTSE 977) will provide its overall software offer, from the equipment definition to the automatic generation of harnesses and wiring diagrams. The overall configuration will be handled by an integrated electrical database.

The Eurocopter Group will invest more than 1,5 million Euros over two years in IGE+XAO's software and services. In addition to the financial investments, the two groups form a true partnership in order to share their experience and expertise. Their common objective is to improve the operations related to the electrical installations lifecycle management.

"This partnership will allow Eurocopter to significantly improve our CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing) operations and to become "Best-in-class". "We are very impatient to work with IGE+XAO and implement their Electrical PLM (Product Lifecycle Management) solution," says Georges-Eric Moufle, Eurocopter's Project Manager and CAM Manager.

"This partnership will allow Eurocopter to implement an electrical process that will significantly improve quality and reactivity when installing the systems in our helicopters. But it will above all ensure process and resources homogeneity across the Eurocopter worldwide network" says Gérard Goninet, General Manager of the Eurocopter Group Electrical Competence Center. Eurocopter "and thus become the reference in the aeronautics market."

As for Alain Di Crescenzo, Chairman and CEO of the IGE+XAO Group his comments are: "This contract with Eurocopter, worldwide leader on its market, emphasizes our position as a key player in the world of Computer-Aided Design dedicated to Electrical installations (Electrical CAD). Dynamism, productivity improvement and innovation are the pillars of this strong added value partnership."

About Eurocopter :

Created in 1992, the Eurocopter group is a subsidiary of EADS, a leading company in the area of Aeronautics and Defense. The group has 12,000 employees. Its strong worldwide presence is ensured through 16 subsidiaries spread out on the 5 continents. More than 9,500 Eurocopter helicopters fly in 134 countries for the benefit of 2,350 customers. Eurocopter holds 30% of the world market and offers the world largest helicopters range. Today, the Eurocopter group is number one in its field.

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About IGE+XAO:

For over 18 years, the IGE+XAO Group has been a software editor designing, producing, selling and ensuring the maintenance of a range of Computer-Aided Design software (called "CAD"). These CAD software products have been designed to help manufacturers design and maintain the electrical part of any installation. This type of CAD is called "Electrical CAD". IGE+XAO has built a complete range of Electrical CAD software designed for all the industry fields. IGE+XAO products may either run on a stand-alone computer or be deployed on a network. IGE+XAO has 300 employees spread out in 19 locations and 11 countries. With more than 40 000 licenses sold throughout the world, IGE+XAO is a reference in its domain. For more information, visit <http://www.ige-xao.com>

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