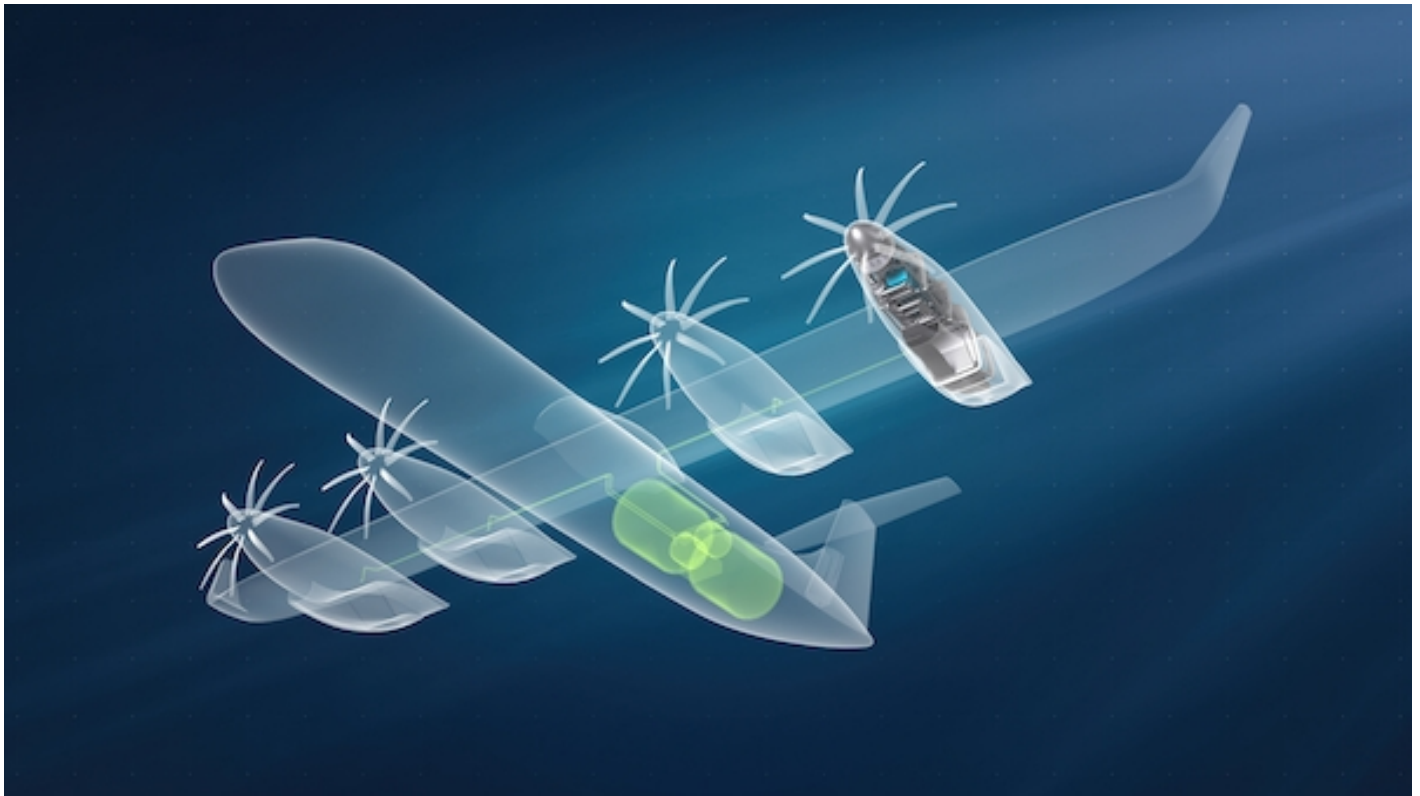




AIRBUS AND MTU AERO ENGINES TO CREATE A JOINT VENTURE TO DEVELOP A FULLY ELECTRIC HYDROGEN FUEL CELL ENGINE

News / Manufacturer



Airbus and MTU Aero Engines intend to deepen their collaboration by establishing a joint venture dedicated to the development and commercialisation of a fully electric hydrogen fuel cell engine. This upcoming milestone follows the MoU signed by both companies at the Paris Air Show in June 2025. By establishing a dedicated and highly agile organisational set-up, the partners aim to accelerate technology development, design, testing and certification of a revolutionary propulsion system for aviation based on a hydrogen fuel cell. The new entity will be supported by Airbus and MTU with all their competences and through various engineering and manufacturing teams from both organisations.

This non-binding agreement is subject to standard regulatory approvals and the completion of social processes at European and national levels. The new joint venture is expected to start operations in 2027.

Bruno Fichfeux, Head of Future Programmes at Airbus commented: “Our planned joint venture is the next logical step in our shared vision of a hydrogen-based propulsion concept for aviation. By pooling our respective technology and expertise into a dedicated entity, we are establishing a European powerhouse capable of transforming advanced research into industrialised, certifiable electric propulsion systems. This new company will help secure strategic sovereignty in the next

generation of aviation technologies while strengthening our ability to achieve the long-term ZEROe ambition."

Dr. Stefan Weber, SVP Engineering and Technology at MTU Aero Engines stated: "Our ambitious goal is to pave the way for a newly developed, safe, reliable and economical propulsion system that will contribute to climate-neutral aviation. This project is a crucial milestone on our path to the first hydrogen-powered engine – and this is true European technology leadership. To that end, we want to create a company that covers the entire life cycle of fuel cell powertrains – from development and testing through certification to commercialisation."

Hydrogen has the potential to play a crucial role in substantially reducing the climate impact of aviation in the long term and transforming air transport in a way comparable to the impact of electric vehicles in the automotive sector.

The joint venture is driven by the partners' shared ambition to create the technology leader in this field and provide the first hydrogen--based fuel cell propulsion system to a commercial aircraft. It will combine Airbus' extensive commercial aircraft programme knowledge, significant fuel cell propulsion and liquid hydrogen expertise with MTU's multi-year fuel cell technology development and its recognised engine design, integration, validation and certification as well as maintenance expertise.

Beyond the engine technologies, Airbus and MTU will continue to foster the emergence of a hydrogen aviation economy and the associated regulatory framework, which are also critical enablers to the advent of hydrogen-powered flight at scale.

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