



PRATT & WHITNEY TESTED A TRIED-AND-TRUE ENGINE ON 100% SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL. IT PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS.

News / Manufacturer



V2500 test is part of RTX strategy to increase SAF use and help meet industry climate goals. The team gathered in Germany to test an aircraft engine's ability to operate on the fuel of the future. It started by running that engine on the fuel of the past. Jet-A fuel, made mostly of kerosene, coursed into the V2500 engine for the singular purpose of proving it was in good working order. Then the team flushed the system and got down to the real business of the day: to show the engine could also run on a pure formulation of something called HEFA-SPK – a sustainable aviation fuel derived from reclaimed fats that produces far less carbon dioxide when burned.

There were no surprises; the engine performed exactly as they knew it would. The V2500, made by IAE International Aero Engines AG, is the ninth engine Pratt & Whitney has tested on 100% sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF, since 2022. (Pratt, an RTX business, is a member of the IAE consortium.) That track record – which includes testing three auxiliary power units on 100% SAF – reflects the commitment of Pratt and RTX as a whole to helping the aviation industry reach net-zero carbon emissions by the year 2050.

Sean Bradshaw, senior technical fellow for Sustainable Propulsion at Pratt & Whitney commented: "SAFs are a critical lever for the decarbonization of aviation. They really are key to the industry

achieving its environmental goals.”

Brandon Naples, associate director of V2500 Business Strategy at Pratt & Whitney said: “This test demonstrates to our customers who are invested in the lifecycle of the V2500 that this engine continues to play a part in IAE’s sustainability strategy.”

The engine that could (and has)

The V2500 is a two-shaft turbofan engine and one of the most enduring, hardworking propulsion systems out there. Because it powers so many aircraft, it’s one of many high-priority engines being tested on 100% SAF.

The V2500 engine:

- Powers commercial, military and cargo aircraft.

- Has been in service since 1989.
- Currently flies on nearly 3,000 aircraft.
- Can be found on the Airbus A319, A320 and A321, as well as the Embraer C-390 Millennium.

In addition to Pratt & Whitney, the IAE consortium includes Pratt & Whitney Aero Engines International (PWAEI), Japanese Aero Engines Corporation (JAEC), and MTU Aero Engines AG. The test took place in March 2024 at MTU's maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in Hannover, Germany.

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