

**T**he Romanian aerospace industry is a global supplier of products and services, ranging from civil and military aircraft and helicopters, to engines, under-carriages and hydraulic and electronic equipment. With the demise of the former communist bloc, Romanian companies in the aerospace and defence sector are looking to regroup. They now welcome alliances with overseas partners to help launch new programs — and keep them aloft.

At present, the aerospace industry in Romania comprises 11 joint-stock companies and employs well over 13,000 workers. The country's aerospace and defence capabilities span everything from R&D, manufacturing, assembly, avionics integration, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), to flight testing, certification and customer support.

The sector exports 40% of its output, which amounts to goods and services valued at US\$100 million. Destination markets include the U.A.E., Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Sudan, Angola, Ecuador, Hungary, the U.K., Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, the U.S., Israel, China, Australia, Canada and South Africa.

At present, the domestic market for aerospace and defence equipment is small, but the decision by Romania and Bulgaria to join NATO will spur defence spending in both of these countries to meet the mandatory requirements of the organization.

On the civil aviation side, TAROM, Romania's national airline, now operates a fleet of Airbus and ATR aircraft and will likely be privatized by the end of 2001. Several attempts over the last few years to privatize other major Romanian companies such as Turbomecanica, Romaero and IAR S.A. Brasov have failed. However, Eurocopter and IAR are in the process of forming Eurocopter-Romania, with Eurocopter holding 51% of the stock in the new company. Bombardier, Spar Aerospace and Intelcan are involved in the market as well.

**Five stars in Romanian aerospace**  
The following companies are industry leaders in Romanian aerospace.

**AEROSTAR S.A.** — Established in 1953 as an aircraft repair base for the Romanian Air Force, this ISO 9001-certified, joint-stock company is now listed on the Bucharest Stock Exchange. Strategic alliances with

in cooperation with Britten-Norman and BAC 1-11s in cooperation with British Aerospace. The company is now focusing on aircraft manufacturers in the West, and has become an important subcontractor for companies such as Boeing, Bombardier, I.A.I., British Aerospace and Britten-Norman.

# The aerospace sector in Romania

foreign partners such as A-E Electronics S.A. and Aerothom Electronics S.A. show the company means business and is looking for access to advanced technologies.

**AVIOANE CRAIOVA S.A.** — Established in 1972, this ISO9001-certified company is one of Romania's major suppliers of products and services for military and civil aircraft.

**IAR S.A. BRASOV** — Established in 1925, this ISO 9000-certified company was fully modernized in 1968 to supply western European companies such as Aerospatiale and Britten-Norman. Since 1970, the company has become the sole Romanian manufacturer of both military and commercial helicopters.

The company has recently partnered with the French-German consortium Eurocopter to form Eurocopter-Romania. A potential first contract for the new company could be a two-to-three year deal with the U.A.E. to sell ten new AS-330 Puma transport helicopters and upgrade 15 more.

**ROMAERO S.A.** — With 75 years of experience in the aircraft industry, the company has operated as a major aircraft maintenance and repair base since the Second World War.

Since the early '70s, the company has been manufacturing BN-2 Islanders

**TURBOMECANICA S.A.** — Established in 1975, the company manufactures aircraft engines and dynamic systems for helicopters to the highest technical standards. It was the first Romanian company to be granted ISO 9002 certification.

## OPIAR

OPIAR, [Romanian Aeronautical Employers' Organization] a non-profit, non-governmental organization, was established in 1998 to support and protect the interests of its member companies in the Romanian aeronautical industry. OPIAR functions as a liaison between its members and unions, state representatives, and legislative and governmental bodies. The organization is active in developing policies that foster cooperation and ensure that Romanian companies remain competitive in the new global economy.

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