

RUAG Aerostructures

Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, RUAG Aerostructures managed to stabilise sales and normalise the operating result. Highlight: RUAG International extended its existing contract with Airbus again.

Business performance

RUAG Aerostructures succeeded in stabilising its business performance and significantly increasing its operating result in a turbulent, COVID-ridden financial year. Net sales rose year-on-year from CHF 204 million to CHF 209 million. EBIT rose from CHF –118 million to CHF 5 million.

While the first months of 2021 were still characterised by lockdowns, in the spring the COVID vaccination led to an increase in air traffic – and to more orders for RUAG Aerostructures. Despite the early termination of short-time working at the Oberpfaffenhofen (OP) site, the surge in production rates at the customer Airbus presented the site with challenges, particularly with regard to the supply chain. By means of a Joint Improvement Programme, all issues were addressed together with Airbus and are being continuously remedied. Other important milestones in OP were the extension of the contract with Airbus in December, as well as the transition to series production for the components of the new long-haul jet A321XLR.

The Eger site was granted direct supplier status by Airbus in 2021. This means that, among other things, the entire main landing gear bay (section 15) of the A320 will be delivered directly from Eger to Hamburg. In 2020, the site received EASA-21G approval (European Union Aviation Safety Agency) as an independent manufacturing facility.

Since mid-year, the Airbus business with high-rate production at the Oberpfaffenhofen (Germany) and Eger (Hungary) sites has been under the management of Clemens Friedl. The Swiss aerostructures business with low-rate production for customers Pilatus, Boeing and Saab at the Emmen (Switzerland) site is led by Paul Horstink.

In Emmen, the transformation accelerated further in the second half of the year. An agreement was reached with fitINDUSTRY Emmen AG on the sale of the machining business and further joint collaboration. Partnerships such as those with fitINDUSTRY Emmen AG are also being sought for other business areas at the Emmen site. The contract with Pilatus was extended until 2025 – including additional follow-up orders for structural parts on the PC-12

and PC-21. The site was also pleased to receive 10 new orders for the PC-21 in October.

Outlook

A further rate increase at Airbus is assumed for 2022. In Emmen, the transformation projects will be continued. The new contract with Airbus ensures continuous sales in Eger and Oberpfaffenhofen. Overall, a noticeable increase in sales is expected for 2022.

Short profile

RUAG Aerostructures is a global first-tier supplier of aerostructures for civil and military customers. Its main services are the development, manufacture and final assembly of complete fuselage sections or wing and control components.

Locations

Germany; Switzerland; Hungary

Numbers and facts

CHF 209 M

Net sales

CHF 5 M

EBIT

1,155

Employees (FTE)