

## SABCA & Sabena Aerospace sign a Memorandum Of Understanding

The two companies are planning to develop Maintenance Repair Overhaul and Upgrade activities for military aircraft in Africa from Morocco

*Casablanca, November 26<sup>th</sup> 2018, SABCA and Sabena Aerospace are signing, on the occasion of the state visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium, Representative of His Majesty the King, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the objective of creating a major and independent regional player in Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and upgrade (MRO&U) for military aircraft.*

### An MRO&U center in Africa

SABCA, through its subsidiary SABCA Maroc, partner with Sabena Aerospace to propose, from Morocco, services for military aircraft maintenance.

The first identified platform is the C-130, a military transport aircraft built by Lockheed. The aircraft is well known by Sabena Aerospace, one of the first company in the world to be certified in 1976 by Lockheed to provide maintenance services on the C-130.

In a second phase, the partners want to extend their offer to other platforms mastered by SABCA such as F-16, Alphajet, Mirage F1 or Agusta A-109.

If those services will be naturally developed in priority for the Royal Moroccan Air Force (RMAF), SABCA and Sabena Aerospace intention is to offer this new capability to other countries, making Morocco a major regional player in the military maintenance.

### Morocco, a logical choice

*“Morocco has quickly become a natural choice to install this new base.»* explain **Thibauld Jongen**, CEO of the SABCA Group.

*“The experience gained through the development of our subsidiary SABCA Maroc is very positive: the workforce is highly skilled, the government encourage the industrial development and both our countries want to strengthen their cooperation.*

*We produce in Casablanca assemblies for Airbus and Dassault Aviation aircraft since 2012 et we are planning to further develop this activity.*

*In term of aircraft maintenance, we also have strong ties with the country as we modernized, in close cooperation with the RMAF, their Mirage F1 and Alphajet fleets. A very successful experience which left only good memories to both parties.*

*We are therefore looking forward to writing a new chapter to our cooperation with Morocco together with Sabena Aerospace”*

## A partnership between SABCA and Sabena Aerospace

*« We are pleased to start this first collaborative venture with the SABCA group. For several years now, Sabena Aerospace aims to develop industrial partnership with major aerospace players in Belgium to offer unique solution to the market thanks to the combination of their respective expertise” says Stéphane Burton, CEO of Sabena Aerospace.*

*Since 2014, Sabena Aerospace has developed a partnership model in several Europe Middle East & Africa (EMEA) countries combining technical assistance and training. We are looking forward to materializing this project with SABCA with an industrial initiative in Morocco.*

*Beside the historical links between Belgium and Morocco, Sabena Aerospace has strong ties, for several decades, with the Moroccan aviation professionals including Royal Air Maroc for which the support of the airlines in several airport in the EMEA”*

*Finally, like the partnership between the Belgium Defense and the Belgian industry, this combined offer from two major players in the military maintenance will allow the RMAF to develop a long term strategic partnership with a Moroccan industrial player, optimize operational availability of their fleet and strengthen the Moroccan aeronautic expertise.*

*We are looking forward to quickly starting this partnership with SABCA and the Royal Moroccan Air Force.”*

<End of Press Release>

## About SABCA

The SABCA Group, made up of SABCA (Société Anonyme Belge de Constructions Aéronautiques) and its subsidiaries SABCA Limburg and SABCA Maroc, conducts operations from three Belgian regions (Brussels-Capital Region, Charleroi in Wallonia, and Lummen in Flanders), as well as from Casablanca, Morocco. Today, it demonstrates expertise that is as rich as it is varied, built over its 98+ years of experience in designing, manufacturing, maintaining, and updating large and complex elements for aircraft and space launchers. Its customers and partners belong to the elite of the aerospace world and are spread worldwide. SABCA offers a full range of services to the civil and military aviation markets and recently in the UAS market for as platform design and manufacturing, ground- and flight testing, UAS qualification and certification.

Press Contact, [Sophia Abdoue](mailto:sophia.abdoue@sabca.be) - e-mail: [sophia.abdoue@sabca.be](mailto:sophia.abdoue@sabca.be)

## About Sabena Aerospace

Sabena Aerospace is an independent Belgian MRO provider operating at international level and offering maintenance and operational solutions for both civil and military aircraft. The activities of Sabena Aerospace are structured in 4 Business Units: Engineering & Training, Operational Support, Components and Defense. Sabena Aerospace employs over 400 people and develops its activities from its historic headquarters at Brussels Airport, thanks to its facilities in 9 countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Italy, Tanzania, Congo RDC, Congo Brazzaville, Zimbabwe & Mauritania). It's international commercial motto perfectly summaries the company's strategy: "Keep Flying, We Take Care"

Press Contact, [Luc Van de Winckel](mailto:Luc.Vandewinckel@sabena-aerospace.com) - e-mail: [Luc.Vandewinckel@sabena-aerospace.com](mailto:Luc.Vandewinckel@sabena-aerospace.com)