

Defence

THE DGA AWARDS DAHER-SOCATA THE CONTRACT TO RETROFIT THE FRENCH FORCES' FLEET OF TBM 700s

26 TBM 700s of the French armed forces will be fitted with “glass cockpits” which will strengthen their multirole capability

Tarbes, 11th February: DAHER-SOCATA has been tasked by the DGA (the French Defence Ministry's procurement agency) to renew the avionics fit of part of the French armed forces' fleet of TBM 700s, together with additional work.

This contract covers 14 air force TBM 700As, 7 TBM 700As and 3 TBM 700Bs belonging to the army, and 2 TBM 700As of the DGA's flight test unit.

DAHER will supply and install Garmin G1000 avionics, together with GFC 700 digital automatic pilots. Whatever their current equipment fit level, this upgrade will bring the 26 TBM 700s up to the most recent standards, similar to those applied on the TBM 850s currently in production.

The upgrade will bring them in line with the standard civil aircraft avionics fit and enable them to be certified by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). They will thus be wholly compliant with international air traffic standards.

The contract also includes the following activities:

- Installation of iAero Apibox flight recorders
- Replacing the distress radiobeacons by the more compact Artex ME406 models
- Replacing the current weather radars by Stormscopes
- Installation of additional facilities in the passenger cabins
- Training pilots and technicians on the new equipment

The work will begin next April with the upgrade of a civil prototype, followed by work on the first military aircraft in August. The work will be completed by June 2014.

About DAHER - www.daher.com

DAHER is a European integrated equipment and services supplier.

DAHER specializes in the Aerospace, Nuclear, Defence and Industry sectors and offers 'Manufacturing and Services' solutions, combining three core activities: manufacturing, services and transport, which it builds into a global offer.

Founded in 1863, DAHER is an independent, international group with installations in 12 countries. DAHER has almost tripled in size over the past six years to reach an annual turnover of more than 740 million € in 2009.

DAHER-SOCATA, the focus of the Group's aircraft business, differentiates itself through unique positioning and a global offer that includes aircraft manufacture (17,000 aircraft built since 1911), aerostructures, services and technological specialization. DAHER-SOCATA has longstanding partnerships with leading constructors and worldwide industry groups in the aerospace sector.

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