TP400-D6 CONTROL SYSTEM KICKS OFF TESTS

In the scope of the Airbus Military European programme A400M, Hispano-Suiza has successfully carried out the first integration tests of the control system for the TP400-D6 Turboprop engine. The tests were performed on May 30 at Hispano-Suiza's Réau plant near Paris, using a new system test bench, the only one of its kind in Europe. Representatives of program partners were on hand for the first tests, including Airbus Military SL, EPI Europrop International GmbH, Industria de Turbopropulsores, MTU Aero Engines, Rolls-Royce and Snecma. The start of control system tests is a major milestone in the Turboprop development program, since they will pave the way for the first engine ground test (First Engine To Test). In particular, these tests mark the end of the system design phase, and the start of production engineering for the first components. Endurance, qualification and certification tests will then follow, until October 2007. Denis Vercherin, Senior Vice President of Hispano-Suiza, underscored the excellent work accomplished to date: "We have passed this milestone right on schedule, reflecting the impressive work of our project and control system design teams, as well as our top-flight collaboration with MTU Aero Engines." Hispano-Suiza's work on this programme benefits from its proven expertise in the development of systems and equipment for engines and propulsion systems. Co-contracting party of Snecma, Hispano-Suiza is responsible for about 10% of the TP400-D6 engine programme. In particular, it is responsible for the system architecture, drawing up equipment specifications, and integration of the control system. Hispano-Suiza designs and produces the Electronic Control Unit and the Accessory Gear Box for the TP400-D6, along with major hydromechanical components (Fuel Pump, Fuel Metering Unit, Injectors) and electrical wiring harnesses. The TP400-D6 is being developed by the EPI Europrop International GmbH consortium, formed by the engine manufacturers ITP, MTU Aero Engines, Rolls-Royce and Snecma. It will power the Airbus A400M military transport. A triple-spool engine, the TP400-D6 will be the most powerful turboprop ever designed in the West, developing 11,000 shaft horsepower. It incorporates state-of-the-art technologies, proven on the commercial and military engines made by the four consortium partners. Hispano-Suiza is a world leader in the design, manufacture and support of commercial and military engine control systems, power transmissions, power electronics and actuators. The company is also actively involved in R&D for advanced systems and equipment on tomorrow's "more electric" aircraft. Hispano-Suiza has two main facilities in the greater Paris area, at Colombes and Réau, and manages two operating units, in Peterborough, Canada and Sedziszow, Poland. Hispano-Suiza is part of SAFRAN, a high-tech group operating in four main sectors: aerospace propulsion, defense and security, aerospace equipment and communications.