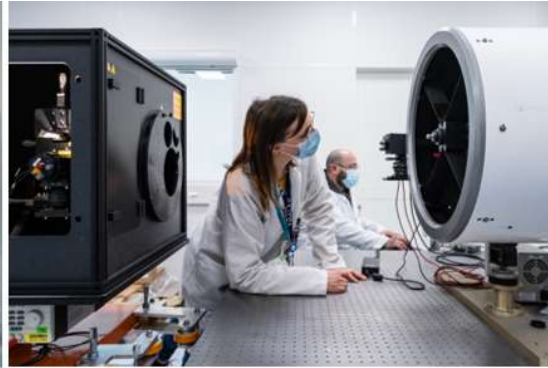


Thales supports employment in Nouvelle-Aquitaine by training experts in defence aerospace

- Thales's Châtelleraut-La Brelandière site in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region of France is diversifying its operations and has opened a new centre of excellence for maintenance and support of airborne optronics equipment.
- About 70 trained maintenance and support specialists have been working at the dedicated 4,000 sq.m. facility since the start of 2022, and the Group plans to expand the workforce by more than 50 people by 2030.
- Supported by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine regional council, this centre of excellence is at the heart of the regional economy and is working to promote the local industrial ecosystem and drive its future development.



As part of a broader effort to revitalise local industry, Thales is building on its long-standing presence in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region of France by opening a new centre of excellence specialising in maintenance and support of airborne optronics equipment. By combining the wide-ranging skills of its specialists with the disruptive techniques employed by the new facility, Thales is providing an effective response to the need to improve the availability of strategic military equipment and ensure the success of armed forces missions.

Thales's Châtelleraut-La Brelandière site has traditionally manufactured ring laser gyro (RLG) inertial navigation systems for civil and military avionics equipment. Its activities have been impacted by the crisis in the aerospace sector, and the site has therefore had to diversify and make the skills of its employees available to other customers. The electronics sector has long been a central feature of France's industrial landscape and has come to play a strategic role in guaranteeing the country's national sovereignty. To provide advanced technical support for its high-tech products, Thales has made significant investments, alongside the Nouvelle-Aquitaine regional council, to develop a new 4,000 sq.m. technical and logistics infrastructure at the Châtelleraut-La Brelandière site. The installations include 750 sq.m. of cleanroom space and about 100 latest-generation test benches.

Two support lines dedicated to optonics equipment for combat aircraft have been brought into operation in under 12 months. One line covers all support operations for the TALIOS pod¹, while the other is dedicated to supporting the OSF front-sector optonics system and the DAL laser warning receiver.

Seventy technicians, engineers and technical experts are now providing customers with specialised know-how in electronics, mechanics, optics and data analytics. The site's logistic support capabilities ensure smooth and efficient workflows to guarantee the highest level of equipment availability for customers. The staff working at the new support facility received training at Thales's optonics and missile electronics campus at Élancourt, near Paris, to acquire new skills and add a new dimension to their careers. This large-scale project has provided an opportunity for these 70 employees — some from Élancourt, others from Châtelleraut, plus a number of new recruits — to make a tangible contribution to the effort to ramp up maintenance capabilities for tomorrow's operational missions.

The electronics sector is driven by innovation and has significant potential for growth, development and job creation. Working with the regional council and local institutions, Thales is helping to promote cohesion within the electronics ecosystem in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, improve its resilience by focusing new developments on the electronics of the future, anticipate skills requirements, master the key technologies required to support innovation and industrial activity and enhance the attractiveness of jobs in this sector. To meet customer needs, Thales intends to hire more than 50 new employees at the facility between now and 2030, helping to make electronics a local sector of excellence and raising the region's profile in the technology industry.

"Thales is consistently stepping up to the challenges created by the digital revolution, and the new Châtelleraut-La Brelandière centre of excellence for airborne optonics support is a prime example. Working with the Nouvelle-Aquitaine regional authorities, we are applying our unique know-how in microelectronics to provide an unprecedented level of industrial support for the armed forces, meet the needs of our customers more effectively and contribute to the success of their operational missions. We are pleased to have this opportunity to help our people acquire new skills and we are proud to be supporting job creation in the Châtelleraut area." **Benoît Plantier, Vice President, Optonics and Missile Electronics, Thales.**

Thales in New Aquitaine

The Nouvelle-Aquitaine region has played a prominent role in the French aerospace industry since the early 20th century. Thales is one of the region's largest employers, with close to 3,500 staff members based in Mérignac, Brive-la-Gaillarde and Châtelleraut. The Group works with some 160 local SMEs, helping to consolidate the regional industrial fabric as well as creating additional

employment opportunities.

- **The Thales Bordeaux campus: a showcase for technology and innovation**

Thales's operations in the Bordeaux region date back for more than 40 years, and the Group is a major player in the regional industrial landscape. At Mérignac, Thales designs, develops and manufactures airborne defence systems and avionics incorporating the very latest technological innovations. The Bordeaux campus is a world-class player in the aerospace sector, employing a total of 2,400 people, 80% of them engineers and managers. Thales is among the region's most emblematic companies and one of its largest employers, and plans to recruit 200 new staff members in 2022.

- **Brive-La-Gaillarde: more than 80 years as the champion of the French defence electronics sector**

The Thales facility at Brive-la-Gaillarde was established 80 years ago and employs 300 people. The industrial site is a centre of excellence for the development, production and support of radionavigation equipment, airborne and naval radiocommunications systems and satellite communications terminals for aircraft. One of its strengths is its involvement in both defence programmes and civil markets. In 2022, the site plans to hire 45 people in a range of roles including development, manufacturing and customer support services.

- **One of the area's largest private employers, with two sites in Châtelleraut**

In addition to the new centre of excellence dedicated to airborne optronics maintenance and support, Thales's avionics business operates two other sites in Châtelleraut. The customer support centre located in the Sanital industrial park has 450 employees dedicated to maintenance of aeronautical equipment and aircraft instruments, while the 230 employees at La Brelandière facility develop and manufacture onboard sensors and actuators as well as laser-based inertial navigation systems for the civil aerospace, space and defence industries. In 2022, the avionics business is experiencing a surge in activity and generating new employment opportunities, with a total of 70 job openings in avionics engineering, manufacturing and customer support and services.

About Thales

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global leader in advanced technologies, investing in digital and “deep tech” innovations — connectivity, big data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and quantum computing — to build a confident future crucial for the development of our societies. The company provides solutions, services and products that help its customers — businesses, organisations and states — in the defence, aeronautics, space, transportation and digital identity and security markets to fulfil their critical missions, by placing humans at the heart of the decision-making process.

Thales has 81,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2021, the Group generated sales of €16.2 billion.

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¹ TArgeting Long-range Identification Optronics System.