In Mexico

Mexico has consolidated its aerospace sector as a global leader. It has recorded almost 20% annual growth in the last seven years. Currently, there are 270 companies and support entities in the country, most of which are NADCAP and AS9100 certified. They are located mainly in six states and employ more than 31,000 high level professionals.

International Commerce

By 2012, exports from the Mexican aerospace industry reached a value of 5.04 billion dollars. Foreign and national investment in the sector exceeded 1 billion dollars in 2010 and 3 billion in the last three years. According to estimates from the "Strategic Program of the Aerospace Industry 2010-2020," coordinated by the Ministry of Economy (SE), the industry is expected to export 12.26 billion dollars in 2020, with a 14% average annual growth rate.

National Strategy

The national strategy maintains its focus on turning Mexico into a destination that serves the complete cycle of an aircraft: from design and engineering; to part manufacturing and assembly; aircraft maintenance; and recycling and/or refurbishment of aircraft that have completed their lifecycle.

For the next development stage of the aerospace and defence (A+D) industry in Mexico, it was agreed to define strategies to identify and develop the production vocations of the country's aerospace clusters. To do so, the capabilities, specificity, existing industrial niches and prospective analysis of the various competitiveness poles in Mexico must be considered.

Regional Strategies

Chihuahua's strategy is based on the maturity of the aerospace industry, which has enabled the state to attract strategic projects from the leading companies in high-technology dual and restricted use goods (particularly with its clear vocation for precision-machined products). The state's three main strategic milestones for the aerospace sector are:

- 2016: To become Latin America's leading competitiveness pole in high technologies and dual-use goods.
- 2016: To export 1.3 billion dollars, with a 30% surplus, that is, 20% annual growth and a 100% surplus increase.
- 2021: To reduce its dependency on mold, tool and specialized services by 50% on current figures.

Baja California's strategy focuses on knowledge process outsourcing services (KPO) for the A+D industry. In addition, the state has the potential to develop fuselage systems and power plants, which will make it an important manufacturing supplier with integrated value chains.

- 2015: It is an internationally competitive pole due to a high value productive ecosystem. VCO = export volume, export sophistication level, foreign direct investment (FDI) import substitution and local suppliers.
- 2020: It is the main KPO export hub for the A+D industry in Mexico.
- 2025: It triggers and coordinates actions to make Mexico the leader in Latin America in fuselage systems and high power by potency systems.
SONORA
The state’s strategy is based on the development of the supply chain, with a focus on innovation, mainly in turbine manufacturing, and the generation of specialized talent aimed on the industry’s needs. The state plans to follow medium- and long-term strategies in order to become a global leader in turbine manufacturing. To achieve this goal, it plans actions that include competitive costs throughout the production chain, as well as talent and local manager development.

QUERÉTARO
Querétaro has the potential to specialize in turbine design, manufacturing, assembly and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) of complex fuselage parts, turbines and landing gears.

As an important coordination mechanism between the industry and higher education and research institutes, the Aerospace Research and Innovation Network of Querétaro (RIIAQ) helps develop and strengthen research, technological development and innovation capabilities.

To exemplify the capabilities of other aerospace-driven regions (Nuevo León, Tamaulipas, Jalisco, Coahuila and San Luis Potosí), the following supply coordination scheme is presented.

COMPETITIVENESS
Mexico has forged its vocation as a centre for high strategic value manufacturing, engineering and development, due to the degree of technological sophistication of its exports, its engineering talent (with the highest number of graduates in the Americas), the quality and competitiveness of its workforce and, particularly, its respect for industrial property.

According to estimates by Alix Partners, Mexico is the most competitive country in the world, in terms of manufacturing costs, which are approximately 21% lower than in the United States, 11% lower than in China and 3% lower than in India. According to a study by KPMG, Mexico is the most competitive country in America, in terms of aerospace manufacturing costs.

The following list highlights the main competitiveness factors:• Mexico is ranked 53rd globally for doing business, above BRIC countries. • Mexico is the 6th largest supplier of aeronautical products to the US. • Mexico has the 3rd largest private jet fleet in the world. • Opening a business in Mexico takes only 9 days and 6 procedures.

In the last decade, the average annual growth rate of engineering graduates in Mexico was 7%, placing it above the population growth rate. In 2010, the number of engineering graduates in Mexico was above 115,000 students, more than the US and Latin America combined.

MESSAGE TO INVESTORS
An important window of opportunity for Mexico comes from developed countries’ current economic situation. Today, the US lacks enough human capital, which means Mexico can be a strategic partner for the A+D industry. Even more, important budget cuts held in the US, have pushed several companies in this industry (especially those that obtain contracts from the US Government) to look for more competitive options such as those offered by Mexico.

These factors have created highly competitive poles that operate in a certified and world-class ecosystem. The Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA) with the US is a clear example. It enables companies located in national territory to validate certifications granted by the Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGAC) with those granted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), with the goal of introducing goods and designs to the US market.

Mexico’s strategic geographic location and competitive and comparative advantages have made it the ideal location to produce dual-use goods and restricted technologies, that is, products and services that can be used in both civil and military applications. Due to this potential, a regulatory framework now exists which ensures the responsible use and final destination of sensitive goods produced in Mexico.

The Mexican Government has developed an export control system that has allowed Mexico to enter a group of countries which prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, but support high-tech civil and military projects. This Mexican export control system was evaluated by countries that are members of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA). Mexico was accepted in record time, since no new country had been admitted for more than five years.

Mexico’s adhesion to the WA ratifies the international community’s trust in the country, as it consolidates as a reliable destination for the integration of sensitive technologies. It also shows the commitment to remain a safe destination for the production of goods and services which include both restricted technologies and dual-use goods and services. According to conservative estimates, Mexico’s export industry will gain access to a potential market of 11.3 billion dollars annually, in addition to the potential to create 30,000 to 40,000 highly-paid jobs.

SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS STORIES
BOMBARDIER
In October 2011, Bombardier announced a new investment of 50 million dollars for a new building where the aft fuselage of the whole family of Global aircraft will be manufactured, including the recently announced Global 7000 jet (entry-into-service scheduled for 2016) and Global 8000 jet (entry-into-service scheduled for 2017).

Since Bombardier established in Mexico in 2006, the company has invested a total of 500 million dollars in its manufacturing plant in Querétaro. This was the first time in Bombardier’s history that a world-class facility was built from a green field.

EUROCOPTER
In 2011, this company announced an important investment of 75 million dollars in Querétaro, which is leading to the creation of 80 highly-technical jobs for the manufacture of helicopter parts and aircraft parts for Airbus. The company seeks to meet several market conditions in order to develop its business plans in Mexico.

SAFRAN GROUP
Safran is a leading high-technology group, operating worldwide, with three core businesses: Aerospace (propulsion and equipment), Defence and Security. The Safran Group comprises a number of companies with prestigious brand names, and holds, on its own or in partnership, global or European leadership positions in all of its markets.

In Mexico, Safran group owns Labinal, Messier Services Americas, Messier Dowty, Snecma, Snecma America Engine Services (SAMEs), Morpho Identification, Morpho Cards, Turbomeca and Globe Motors. Safran employs over 4,000 people in Mexico, including 4,000 at its historical facility in Sonora.

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