





Verein Deutscher Ingenieure Hamburger Bezirksverein e.V. Arbeitskreis Luft- und Raumfahrt

Invitation to an RAeS lecture in cooperation with the DGLR and VDI

From an Idea to Reality – Building a Final Assembly Line in China

Manfred Porath,

VP Final Assembly and Integration, A320 Family Programme, Airbus Lecture followed by discussion

Entry free!
No registration!



Date: Thursday, 17th June, 18:30 Location: Gästehaus der Universität

Rothenbaumchausee 34 20148 Hamburg



The FAL China project was launched in the end of 2005 by a MoU between Airbus CEO and the Chinese Central Government. The aim was to establish a Final Assembly Line for A319 and A320 aircraft in China as a Joint Venture between Airbus (51%) and a Chinese Consortium (49%), composed of Tianjin Municipal Government (60%) and AVIC (40%).

After the site selection in Mai 2006, the building construction took place between March 2007 and August 2008, taking the FAL Hamburg flow line as model.

During this time, 250 Chinese employees received a training in the European FAL (Hamburg and Toulouse). The assembly of the first aircraft started on time on 18th August 2008 with the support of 180 expats from the European FAL. The first flight took place on 18th May 2009 and the aircraft was delivered on 23rd of June 2009. Since then 20 additional aircraft have been assembled and delivered from Tianjin to Chinese operators, and a total of 286 aircraft is to be delivered by FAL Tianjin between 2009 and 2016.

Manfred Porath was appointed Vice President Final Assembly and Integration in the A320 Family Programme (A320/A321/A319/A318) in April 2006, in Hamburg, Germany. His responsibilities include both the Hamburg and Toulouse final assembly activities and was extended recently to include the China FAL in Tianjin.

He entered the aviation industry in January 1981 when he joined the Hamburg-Finkenwerder plant as design engineer in the team for Airbus A300 customer definition. He held various position inside the Airbus A300/A310 programme management production and programme planning.

In 1997 he was appointed as VP Head of the Final Assembly Line (FAL) for the A321 and A319 in Hamburg-Finkenwerder, Germany. In December 2003 he was promoted as VP Head of Programme Quality at Airbus Headquarter in Toulouse and in January 2005 he joined the A380 Programme team as VP Head of Programme Management also in Toulouse, France.

RAeS Richard Sanderson

VDI Hannes Erben

DGLR Thorsten Schiek

DGLR / HAW Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dieter Scholz

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