Public-Private Partnerships in Europe: A New Growth Dynamic
Launched in 2008, Clean Sky is a “Joint Technology Initiative” (JTI), a new type of structure created under the Seventh Framework Programme to foster research and innovation. Clean Sky aims at lowering CO2 emissions by integrating breakthrough technologies in full scale demonstrators: engines, wings, embedded systems... Based on an original management system, the Private-Public Partnership principles, Clean Sky is chaired by a Governing Board, formed of representatives from the European Commission and industrial leaders. The Joint Undertaking is in charge of the technical and budget management of the programme.

Based on a top-down approach, Clean Sky successfully answers the challenges it faces: we oriented the technological ambitions of our projects towards our environmental targets. Our programme is not just another public policy: we have been efficiently managing European public funding dedicated to an innovative industrial policy. We had to implement a new system of governance – which has proved to be efficient and let us aim for the best concerning Clean Sky 2, the continuation of the programme under Horizon 2020. We are confident Clean Sky 2 will make the next major strides towards environmental sustainability while finishing the job with respect to the full achievement of the ACARE 2020 goals1 and paving the way for a new wave of breakthroughs heading to ACARE Flightpath 2050. Clean Sky 2’s objectives are however more than environmental as – in line with Horizon 2020 – they address societal needs while enhancing mobility and achieve global competitiveness while strengthening European industrial leadership in aeronautics in Europe – in terms of innovation as well as employment. 2,000 highly-skilled people are currently working on projects financed thanks to Clean Sky. In total, approximately 10,000 “full-time equivalent” will have been involved in the global implementation of Clean Sky.

Indeed, despite the economic downturn, global demand in all aviation segments shows resilient growth of more than 4% per annum. The European Aeronautics Industry today accounts for 40% of the global civil aircraft market, and it must maintain its competitiveness to benefit from the global need for 40,000 new aircraft in the next 20 years.

Scientific research copes with a challenging environment – and now has to face new risks. New entrants (China, Russia...) are enhancing international competition, which forces us to always perform better and be more competitive. Clean Sky – and especially Clean Sky 2 – allows us to support innovation towards the next generation of aircraft by integrating the technologies and mastering the risks. The Commission’s action reduces the fragmentation of research efforts through the EU and supports large-scale investments in the long-term in a strategic research area.

In this joint public-private scheme, the industry adds a truly enterprising approach, more flexible than a “traditional” European programme. This mind-set induces innovation, as does the diversity of stakeholders in the programme. Clean Sky has participation from a large fraction of the European aeronautical research and innovation capacity. The programme gathers more than 500 participants spread in 24 countries. Clean Sky manages to engage the private sector as well; SMEs win up to 40% of our Calls for Proposals. We are also quite proud that, from the launch of the programme, 50% of our partners are newcomers to the European funded research. We plan to build on those successes and to open Clean Sky 2 to participation even more: 60% of the total funding will be allocated competitively, through a variety of open calls.

Clean Sky’s members work together all over Europe. SMEs, RTOs, Universities and industries from different States share their know-how and expertise to answer our Calls for Proposals. By doing so, they also discuss the way they work and perform. The industry – with its great mind-set in terms of project management and vision on how to move around the value chain – benefits from Academia’s knowledge. Consequently, these exchanges and transfers enable a more concerted – so more consistent – approach that will pave the way for tomorrow’s research in Europe.

Clean Sky 2: a Public-Private Ambition for Technology and the Environment

Eric DAUTRIAT
Executive Director of the Clean Sky Joint Undertaking

500 participants
24 countries
20 demonstrators

Visit us at Paris Air Show/Le Bourget
17-23 June 2013

The largest aeronautical research and technology programme in Europe

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1. Advisory Council for Aviation Research and Innovation in Europe. ACARE 2020 goals are a 50% reduction of CO2 emissions and noise perceived, and a 80% reduction of NOx emissions.