

Aero Vodochody has produced the first Pylon for Gripen

Prague, October 8th 2009: **Aero Vodochody (Aero) has announced the completion of the first fully assembled NATO Pylon for the Gripen fighter. The production stems from the contract signed between Saab and Aero in October 2008. The first Pylon will be handed over to Saab representatives today on the event taking place at Aero Vodochody production unit dedicated for Pylons program. Representatives from the Swedish Embassy, the Czech Ministry of Defence, the Swedish Defence Material Administration, Saab and Aero representatives will be present.**

“I am proud that Aero succeeded to launch a new production and thus to demonstrate not only its high quality standards and flexibility, but also the short project lead time. We appreciate the co-operation with Saab, which is a significant contribution for strengthening our position in the aerostructures market particularly in military aviation technology,” Ladislav Šimek, President of Aero said.

“The commitment that Aero Vodochody has shown regarding the manufacturing of NATO Pylons to Gripen is very satisfying for Saab. Aero won this order in competition with other aircraft manufacturers from around the world and we are very happy with our choice. At this day we are pleased to receive our first delivery from Aero,” said Pontus Kallen, Senior Vice President and Managing Director Saab Aerosystems.

The Pylons are installed on the aircraft fuselage and wings to carry different kinds of payload. Aero’s involvement includes detail parts manufacturing, electrical harness manufacturing, assembly and testing. After start of deliveries in October 2009, the production will increase up to 7 Pylons per month in spring 2010.

AERO Vodochody a.s.

AERO Vodochody a.s. is the largest aerospace manufacturer in the Czech Republic, mainly focusing on cooperation with leading aerospace manufacturers in international aerostructures projects – Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (S-76C and S-76D helicopter), Alenia Aeronautica (C-27J Spartan center wing box), Sonaca (Bombardier CSeries Fixed Leading Edge Development & Production), Latecoere (Embraer 170/190 door subassemblies), Saab (JAS-39 Gripen pylons), Spirit Aerosystems (B767 fixed leading edge kits), EADS (A320/340 subassemblies), etc. The Military Program of Aero is a long-term partner to several air forces, particularly the Czech Air Force. This year, Aero celebrates 90 years since its foundation and thus ranks among the oldest aerospace manufacturers in the world. To the AERO Group also belong Technometra Radotin (Czech Republic), landing gears manufacturer, and Rotortech Aero Composites (UK), manufacturer of composites, and Vodochody Airport.

www.aero.cz



About SAAB

Saab serves the global market with world-leading products, services and solutions ranging from military defence to civil security. Saab has operations and employees on all continents and constantly develops, adopts and improves new technology to meet customers' changing needs.

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About Gripen

Gripen is a new generation fighter which employs the latest technology and the latest weapons, which delivers the capability for an extensive variety of air-to-air and air-to-surface operational missions, including reconnaissance missions. Gripen is in service with the Swedish, Czech, Hungarian and South African air force and was contracted in early 2008 by Thailand. The UK Test Pilots' School (ETPS) is operating Gripen as its advanced fast jet platform for test pilots worldwide. Gripen is fully NATO compatible and can be deployed globally. Gripen meets the highest demands of operational deployment.