

Paris, 22 March 2019

PRESS RELEASE

CNIM Group has acquired a controlling interest in Airstar Aerospace, and aims to become the leading supplier of aerostats* for defense and space applications

CNIM today announced the acquisition of an 85% equity interest in Airstar Aerospace from the Airstar group. Thales Alenia Space remains a minority shareholder alongside CNIM and a key industrial partner, particularly for the Stratobus™ stratospheric airship programme.

About Airstar Aerospace <http://airstar.aero/fr/>

Airstar Aerospace is a leading designer and manufacturer of tethered balloons, stratospheric balloons (including aerostats able to ascend to and travel in the stratosphere), airships and thermal insulation for satellites. Airstar Aerospace was founded in 2015, following the Airstar group's takeover of Zodiac Marine's Space division.



Condor tethered balloon, © Airstar Aerospace

Airstar Aerospace works with major players in the defense and space industries, including CNES, Thales, the French military procurement agency DGA, Airbus Defence & Space and the Swedish Space Corporation. Airstar Aerospace, which employs 46 people near Toulouse, France, has been subject to bankruptcy protection measures since 16 October 2018.

Through this acquisition, CNIM intends to become the European leader in balloon- and airship-based platforms for defense, security, inspection and space applications.

Philippe Lazare, Chief Executive of CNIM's Industrial Systems division, which Airstar Aerospace will be joining, welcomes the acquisition: *"CNIM has ambitious growth plans for this company, and in particular for the Condor range of tethered balloons designed for monitoring borders and sensitive areas. Such missions already feature among our market priorities, meaning that the tie-up with Airstar Aerospace will generate powerful synergies with the CNIM Group."*

*Aerostat: lighter-than-air aircraft that gains its lift through the use of a buoyant gas

About CNIM

Founded in 1856, CNIM is a French equipment manufacturer and industrial contractor operating on a worldwide basis. The Group supplies products and services to major public and private sector organizations, local authorities and national governments in the Environment, Energy, Defense, and High Technology markets. Technological innovation is at the core of the equipment and services designed and manufactured by the Group. They contribute to the production of cleaner and more competitive energy, to limiting the environmental impacts of industrial activities, to making sensitive facilities and infrastructures safer and protecting individuals and nation states. CNIM is listed on the Euronext exchange in Paris. It relies on a stable family-based majority shareholding structure committed to its development. The Group employs 2,613 staff and reported revenues of €689.8 million in 2018, 62.1 % of which was from exports.

Press contacts

Agence Gootenberg

Laurence Colin

laurence.colin@gootenberg.fr

Tel.: +33 1 43 59 00 46

Frédérique Vigezzi

frederique.vigezzi@gootenberg.fr

Tel.: + 33 1 43 59 29 84