

D1.2 – Interim ESG membership

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Abstract

The ECARE project, funded by Clean Aviation (CA), aims to enhance collaboration and streamline funding opportunities within the European aeronautical industry. Focused on achieving the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking (CAJU) program's goals, ECARE develops synergy mechanisms applicable to all EU aeronautical regions. Led by Hamburg Aviation, the ECARE Stakeholder Group (ESG) plays a pivotal role in supporting project development and disseminating results. Deliverable D1.2 outlines the ESG's interim membership, detailing its 25 members from ten countries. The ESG conducts regular online meetings, fostering collaboration and sharing project progress. Dissemination activities, including a poster and participation in key events, contribute to ESG engagement. Looking ahead to 2024, the consortium plans to disseminate methodologies through webinars and launch the ECARE digital platform. ESG members will play a crucial role as beta-testers and contributors to populate the platform with region-specific data. The project also focuses on empowering ESG members to implement ECARE methodologies, supported by a forthcoming handbook on synergies. This collaborative approach ensures the effective integration of ECARE initiatives into diverse European aeronautical landscapes.

Key words

Collaboration, Funding opportunities, Synergy mechanisms, ECARE Stakeholder Group (ESG), Dissemination activities





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List of Acronyms

ACA	Aerospace Cluster Association		
DLR	German Aerospace Centre		
EACP	European Aerospace Cluster Partnership		
ENEA	Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development		
ESG	ECARE Stakeholder Group		
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding		
NAG	Netherlands Aerospace Group		
RIS3	Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation		
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises		





1 Introduction

The ECARE project, funded by Clean Aviation (CA), has the primary objective of clarifying the landscape of the regional and national innovation roadmaps and the funding opportunities for aeronautical stakeholders in order to create synergies between the parties. The aim is to enable the European aeronautical industry to achieve the ambitious targets of the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking (CAJU) programme while maximising public funding impact and efficiency. As a response to these requirements, the ECARE project will develop and disseminate the methodologies to create synergy mechanisms which are applicable to all EU aeronautical regions. These methodologies are initially designed and tested on a pilot scale, involving four major regions of the European aeronautical industry, namely Occitanie and Nouvelle-Aquitaine in France, Campania in Italy and Hamburg in Germany.

The ECARE Stakeholder Group (ESG) was created to support the development of the ECARE project. Hamburg Aviation leads the management and expansion of the ESG, a responsibility outlined in Task 1.2 of work package 1. As the operator of the European Aerospace Cluster Partnership (EACP), Hamburg Aviation continues to promote the project and possible involvement in the ESG within the EACP community.

The objectives of the ECARE Stakeholder Group are to contribute to ECARE developments through major consultations and to ensure a potential replicability of ECARE results to other European aeronautics regions and countries. To achieve this goal, the consortium continues to increase the number of members in the group, and focusses on involving stakeholders representing different countries and regions within Europe.

The ECARE deliverable D1.2 is focused on "Interim ESG membership" within work package 1. It comprehensively unveils the composition of the ESG as of December 2023, offering an overview of its members. Additionally, it furnishes a narrative of the ESG's activities and contributions from the project's inception to the current date. The document concludes with a forward-looking section, projecting the anticipated activities of the ESG throughout 2024 and delineating the planned initiatives for the project's remaining duration.





2 Members of the ECARE Stakeholder Group

As of 22nd of December 2023, the ECARE stakeholder group has 25 members from ten countries, which will be presented in this chapter. The ESG is currently composed by three types of members: European aerospace clusters, national/regional funding bodies, and other aeronautical key stakeholders, such as national aeronautical research centres and aeronautics business support networks. Figure 1 visualizes the location of all ECARE consortium members and ECARE stakeholder group members in Europe.



Figure 1: Map with location of ECARE Stakeholder Group members

In December 2022, prior to the commencement of the project, the consortium introduced the initiative to various stakeholders identified as potential members of the ECARE Stakeholder Group. Several letters of support were received from funding authorities, clusters, and other organizations before the project's initiation. The majority of these stakeholders are currently active members of the ESG. However, certain organizations were unable to provide the anticipated support due to capacity constraints, so they did not join the ESG.





Table 1 lists all ECARE Stakeholder Group members with the name of the organization, their country and their type of organization.

Table 1: List of ECARE Stakeholder Group members

N°	Table 1: List of ECARE Stakeholder Group members Name	Country	Type of organization
1	AGORIA FLAG- Flemish Aerospace Group	Belgium	Cluster
2	Skywin	Belgium	Cluster
3	Czech Aerospace Cluster	Czech Republic	Cluster
4	Estonian Aviation Cluster	Estonia	Cluster
5	ASTech Paris	France	Cluster
6	Enterprise Europe Network - CCI Occitanie / SWEEN-France	France	Network
7	GIFAS	France	Network
8	Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region	France	Funder
9	SAFE Cluster	France	Cluster
10	DLR Institute of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul	Germany	Research Institution
11	DLR Projektträger Luftfahrtforschung (PT-LF)	Germany	Funder
12	Enterprise Europe Network - Tutech Innovation	Germany	Network
13	German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action	Germany	Funder
14	Ministry for Economy and Innovation, Hamburg	Germany	Funder
15	Niedersachsen Aviation	Germany	Cluster
16	Campania Region	Italy	Funder
17	Enterprise Europe Network - Unioncamere Campania	Italy	Network
18	Italian Ministry of Universities and Research	Italy	Funder
19	Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)	Italy	Research agency
20	Netherlands Aerospace Group (NAG)	Netherlands	Cluster
21	AED Cluster Portugal	Portugal	Cluster
22	Ministry of Industry, Government of Castile and Léon	Spain	Funder
23	HEGAN - Basque Aerospace Cluster	Spain	Cluster
24	Plataforma Tecnológica Aeroespacial Española (PAE)	Spain	Network
25	ACA - Aerospace Cluster Association	Turkey	Cluster





2.1 Presentation of members

In the following chapter, each ESG member will be briefly presented to establish an overview of the composition, scope and knowledge represented by the group. The members are sorted alphabetically by country. Links to the websites of the members are available by clicking on the name of the organization.

1 - AGORIA FLAG - Flemish Aerospace Group

AGORIA FLAG - Flemish Aerospace Group is a cluster representing the region of Flanders in the north of Belgium. The cluster caters for its 76 members' interests on a political level; facilitating networking between members and developing business opportunities by organizing attendance at major business events.¹

2 - Skywin - Aerospace Cluster of Wallonia

Skywin is a cluster representing the region of Wallonia in Belgium. It is an association of companies, research organisations and training centres engaged in public-private partnerships and in the implementation of innovative collaborative projects. The cluster has 147 members in the aviation, space, drone and defence industries.²

3 - Czech Aerospace Cluster

Czech Aerospace Cluster is an association of Czech aviation companies and educational institutions which operates mainly in the southeast of the Moravian region and has its headquarters in Kunovice. The cluster has more than 60 members including industrial companies, and universities.³

4 - Estonian Aviation Cluster

Estonian Aviation Cluster represents the aviation industry in Estonia. Since 2019, the non-profit organization is gathering all actors across the value chain and interrelated sectors (For example ICT and logistics) to become an innovation hotspot for aviation. The cluster has 23 members.⁴

5 - ASTech Paris

ASTech Paris is a cluster located in the Paris region of France. It represents 317 members within the Aeronautics, Space and Defence Industries. The cluster aims to support research and innovation in the Paris region, for example by offering SMEs new opportunities for innovation.

6 - Entreprise Europe Network - CCI Occitanie / SWEEN-France

The Enterprise Europe Network is a network for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) launched by the European Commission. The network consists of different member organizations, which offer services to their local stakeholders. The chamber of commerce of the region Nouvelle-Aquitaine is the local EEN contact point for the region.

⁶https://een.ec.europa.eu/local-contact-points/fr/chambre-de-commerce-et-dindustrie-de-region-nouvelleaquitaine, last accessed 6th of December 2023





¹https://www.agoria.be/en/themes/businessgroups/aerospace-manned-unmanned/agoria-flag-flemish-aerospace-group/about-agoria-flag, last accessed 6th of December 2023

² https://www.skywin.be/en#no-back, last accessed 6th of December 2023

³ https://www.czech-aerospace.cz/en/o-nas.htm, last accessed 6th of December 2023

⁴ https://www.eacp-aero.eu/members/estonian-aviation-cluster-eac.html, last accessed 6th of December 2023

⁵ https://een.ec.europa.eu/about-enterprise-europe-network, last accessed 6th of December 2023

7 - GIFAS

GIFAS is an organization which represents the French Aerospace Sector. It acts as a representative of its 456 members to national, European and international bodies. GIFAS cooperates with the Civil Aviation Research Council (CORAC) to support national funding programs in France.⁷

8 - Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region

The Occitanie region is a major player in the aerospace sector, hosting 885 organizations and nearly 100,000 employees. It stands out with the presence of three renowned aircraft manufacturers—Airbus, ATR, and Daher—along with world-class equipment manufacturers such as Latécoère, Airbus Atlantic, Safran, Thalès, Collins Aerospace, Figeac Aero, and others. The region boasts an integrated supply chain. Smart and sustainable mobility takes centre stage in its Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3).

9 - SAFE Cluster

SAFE Cluster is based in Aix-en-Provence in the South of France and is active in South Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur and Auvergne Rhône Alpes (AURA) regions. The main topics in the region are defence and environmental resilience. SAFE Cluster represents 300 members.⁸

10 - DLR Institute of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul

As part of the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the DLR Institute, Repair and Overhaul is based in Hamburg-Finkenwerder. It mainly researches the optimization and (partial) automation of maintenance processes, innovative diagnostic, maintenance and modification technologies and their modular linking. The Institute regularly participates in research projects funded by national or European funding programs.⁹

11 - DLR Projektträger Luftfahrtforschung (PT-LF)

As an organizational unit of the German Aerospace Center, the Project Management Agency for Aeronautics Research (PT-LF) supports the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection (BMWK) in the implementation of the national civil aviation research programme of the Federal Government (LuFo) as well as the states of Bavaria, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg and Lower Saxony, which supplement the federal programme with their own funding programmes.¹⁰

12 - Enterprise Europe Network - Tutech Innovation

Tutech Innovation, the privately organized subsidiary of the Hamburg University of Technology and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, together with its sister company Hamburg Innovation, connects all of Hamburg's public universities and numerous research institutions in the metropolitan region. Together with other partners, Tutech also acts as the local contact point for the Enterprise Europe Network in Hamburg.¹¹

¹¹ https://tutech.de/en/enterprise-europe-network/, last accessed 6th of December 2023





⁷ https://gifas.fr/en/le-gifas/presentation/nos-missions, last accessed 6th of December 2023

⁸ https://www.eacp-aero.eu/members/safe-cluster.html, last accessed 6th of December 2023

https://www.dlr.de/mo/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-12390/21600_read-49527/, last accessed 6th of December 2023

¹⁰ https://www.dlr.de/pt-lf/, last accessed 6th of December 2023

13 - German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

The German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action participates in the ECARE Stakeholder Group with a representative of the department Aerospace Policy. The ministry funds a variety of funding programs in the aviation and space industry, the most popular program being 'Lufo', which was launched in 1995.¹²

14 - Ministry for Economy and Innovation, Hamburg

Hamburg is the 3rd largest aviation site in the world with a qualified workforce of over 40,000 and more than 300 companies and institutions. Presence of world leading companies such as Airbus, Lufthansa Technik, Diehl Aviation, Premium Aerotec or Zodiac Aerospace are combined with a resilient supply chain of SMEs and innovative start-ups. The Ministry for Economy and Innovation represents the City of Hamburg as a regional funding body. In 2021, it introduced the funding program 'GATE: Green Aviation Technologies'.

15 - Niedersachsen Aviation

Niedersachsen Aviation is a cluster promoting the aviation and aerospace industries in Northern Germany, specifically the federal state of Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen). The cluster has more than 300 members, with a main industry focus on aero structures and lightweight solutions.¹³

16 - Campania Region

More than 200 organisations are active in the aeronautical sector in the Campania region in south-west Italy, including large companies such as Leonardo, MBDA, ALA, or ATITECH and more than 130 SMEs. The industry provides more than 13.000 direct jobs and 26.000 indirect jobs. The RIS3 of Campania, as far as the aeronautical sector is concerned, focusses on multidisciplinary concurring engineering, innovative vehicle configurations, hybrid/electrical propulsion, new air mobility, smart manufacturing and environmentally friendly aeronautical technologies.

17 - Enterprise Europe Network - Unioncamere Campania

Unioncamere Campania, regional Union of Chambers of Commerce, represents the four chambers of Commerce of Irpinia Sannio, Caserta, Napoli and Salerno in the Campania region. It also acts as the local contact point for the Enterprise Europe Network in the region.¹⁴

18 - Italian Ministry of Universities and Research

The Italian Ministry for Universities and Research is the funding agency in Italy at state level. It is in charge to prepare and to submit the National Research Programme (PNR – Piano Nazionale della Ricerca) proposal to the Government and to directly manage it.¹⁵

¹⁵ https://www.chistera.eu/mur, last accessed 6th of December 2023





¹² https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/EN/Dossier/aerospace-policy.html, last accessed 6th of December 2023

¹³ https://www.eacp-aero.eu/members/niedersachsen-aviation.html, last accessed 6th of December 2023

¹⁴ https://www.unioncamere.campania.it/content/campania-union-chambers?language=en, last accessed 6th of December 2023

19 - Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)

The ENEA is an Italian public body aimed at research and technological innovation, supporting companies, associations, territories, central and local administrations. Two of the agency's topics in focus are Climate and the Environment, as well as New Technologies.¹⁶

20 - Netherlands Aerospace Group (NAG)

The NAG is a trade association that supports the Dutch Aerospace and Airport Development sector. The cluster has more than 100 members in Airport Development & Infrastructure, Aircraft Manufacturing and Aircraft Maintenance.¹⁷

21 - AED Cluster Portugal

AED is the Portuguese Cluster for the Aeronautics, Space and Defence Industries, representing more than 125 members. The cluster operates within its for main focus blocks Funding and Regulatory; People and Competences; Innovation and Value and Markets and Opportunities.¹⁸

22 - Ministry of Industry, Government of Castile and Léon

The region of Castile and Léon in the northwest of Spain is represented in the ECARE Stakeholder Group by the general director of Industry, Commerce and Employment of the regional government. With the Clean Sky 2 program, the region had a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place.¹⁹

23 - HEGAN - Basque Aerospace Cluster

HEGAN is an association that groups together the Aeronautics and Space sector in the Basque region in the north of Spain. The cluster aims to drive joint roadmaps and facilitate cooperative projects, while representing more than 50 members.²⁰

24 - Plataforma Tecnológica Aeroespacial Española (PAE)

PAE is a platform for Aerospace Technology in Spain, which serves as a forum for relevant stakeholders to collaborate and innovate. It also supports the definition of a Strategic Agenda for Spanish Aerospace Research and acts as an advisory body.²¹

25 - ACA - Aerospace Cluster Association

ACA is a nationally open cluster that has 73 members from different cities in Turkey. The cluster establishes cooperation with domestic and international projects, offers trainings and contributes to SME growth in the Aerospace and Defence industries.²²

²² https://www.hukd.org.tr/?lang=en, last accessed 6th of December 2023





¹⁶ https://www.enea.it/en/enea-agency.html, last accessed 6th of December 2023

¹⁷ https://nag.aero/nag/about-nag/, last accessed 6th of December 2023

¹⁸ https://www.aedportugal.pt/en/about/, last accessed 6th of December 2023

¹⁹https://www.clean-aviation.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/Clean%20Sky%20Region%20Brochure_2018.pdf, p.15, last accessed 6th of December 2023

²⁰ https://www.eacp-aero.eu/members/hegan-basque-aerospace-cluster.html, last accessed 6th of December 2023

²¹ https://plataforma-aeroespacial.es/pae/nueva-etapa/, last accessed 6th of December 2023

2.2 Targeting and selection process for new members

The ECARE Stakeholder Group is targeting all regions and countries in Europe with a significant presence in the aeronautics industry. Relevant criteria for targeting include the presence of large aeronautics companies, their supply chains, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), aeronautics clusters, participation in funding programs, and involvement in current or past Clean Sky 2 projects.

To further increase the number of ESG members, the consortium is reaching out to European clusters via the European Aerospace Cluster Partnership. Those cluster are already well connected with the ECARE consortium and not only have the potential to become ESG members themselves but also serve as valuable conduits to funding authorities and business networks in their respective regions. Moreover, the consortium is initiating contact with stakeholders in pertinent regions through established connections. Novel associations are forged through dissemination events, exemplified by the Paris Air Show in 2023.

3 Activities of the ECARE Stakeholder Group

3.1 Onboarding process and involvement of ESG members

To proactively engage new ESG members right from the outset, the ESG manager organizes a meeting with interested stakeholders. During this session, the manager elucidates the project's objectives and outlines the support required from ESG members to successfully attain these goals. The meeting fosters an open exchange, facilitating a comprehensive discussion about the respective stakeholders' activities to identify potential points of relevance. Following the initial meeting, stakeholders can confirm their membership by signing the ESG charter.

If deemed necessary, a subsequent meeting is arranged to brief the new member on current activities and disseminate information about the project. It is the responsibility of the new member to inform their contacts about the activities of the project, particularly in the case of a cluster, where dissemination efforts extend to its member base. In 2024, the significance of dissemination will increase, driven by the active involvement of ESG members in developing the ECARE digital platform. Contributions from ESG members are anticipated to augment the platform's data availability. This was highlighted to all recent new members during the onboarding process as well.



Figure 2: Onboarding process of new ESG members

3.2 Regular ESG meetings

The ESG has the key objective to consistently update its members on project progress and seeking group input on results. To fulfil this goal, a dedicated online meeting is scheduled every two to three months, open to all ESG members and parties interested in joining.

The inaugural meeting was convened on December 2, 2022, before the project official started in January 2023. Its purpose was to introduce the project to interested entities and unveil the concept of the ECARE





Stakeholder Group. Alongside the six consortium members, 13 external participants actively engaged in the meeting.

The second ESG meeting occurred on June 1, 2023. This session aimed to introduce the new project coordinator of ECARE, Benjamin Lopez, and manager of the ECARE Stakeholder Group, Maybrit Brooksnieder, while also presenting the project's progress over its initial five months. Discussions also centred on the purpose and organization of the ESG, leading to the decision to conduct online meetings every two to three months, with regular emails as the preferred communication channel. The meeting drew participation from 14 external attendees.

The third meeting, held on September 14, 2023, featured a total of 23 external participants. Its primary focus was to provide insight into the first two deliverables of the project, generating keen interest. Additionally, members were invited to participate in the upcoming Transnational Workshop scheduled for November 2023. The workshop's agenda was presented, and discussions during the meeting generated feedback on the organization of the workshop.

Concluding the year, the final meeting took place on December 14, 2023. This session with 22 participants included a recap of the Transnational Workshop, particularly beneficial for ESG members unable to attend in person. Another key agenda item involved informing ESG members about their options for increased project involvement, a topic gaining significance for the upcoming year in 2024.

3.3 Dissemination activities

To enhance engagement within the ECARE Stakeholder Group, the consortium implemented various strategies to promote the ESG to relevant stakeholders. One initiative was the development of an informative poster designed to streamline communication. The poster visualizes crucial details about the ESG, such as its purpose, eligibility criteria and benefits of participation. The poster serves as an effective tool for introducing the ESG whenever the consortium receives inquiries. It is included in Appendix A for reference.

In addition to one-on-one interactions with potential participants, the consortium actively participated in events aimed to both draw in new participants to the ESG and effectively disseminate information about the project. One notable event was the Paris Air Show, held from June 16th to 22nd in Le Bourget, France. Recognized as the world's largest air show, this trade fair provided a valuable platform for connecting with representatives from diverse European regions and clusters. Two consortium members, Hamburg Aviation and Aerospace Valley, engaged with a wide range of interested entities, effectively presenting the project and the ESG to the public.

Another significant event was the General Assembly of the EACP held in Limerick, Ireland, from November 8th to 9th. The EACP, representing 45 European clusters across 18 countries, spans the entire aerospace value chain in Europe. A substantial number of EACP members attended the General Assembly, offering a prime opportunity to discuss the ECARE project with European clusters and collect further valuable input from non-ESG clusters. Moreover, the event served as a platform to individually approach specific clusters, resulting in successful additions to the ESG.

4 Outlook for 2024

In the project's second year, the consortium aims to increase the engagement of the ECARE stakeholder group. With the completion of ECARE deliverables in 2023, there is now the opportunity to disseminate methodologies to the ESG members. The strategy of the project involves introducing these methodologies and relevant use-cases through dedicated webinars, aiming to elucidate the tools and motivate ESG





members to integrate them into their respective regions. The next figure presents the main involvement of ESG members for 2024.



Figure 3: Planning of 2024 for ESG members

A pivotal element for the ESG is the forthcoming ECARE digital platform, with testing planned in early 2024. ESG members will benefit from exclusive early access to populate the ECARE digital platform with data pertaining to their calls, funded projects, and stakeholders' competences from their respective regions with a webinar in February 2024. Moreover, they will be offered the chance to become betatesters, allowing them to provide valuable feedback to the consortium. This collaborative approach ensures a seamless integration of the ECARE digital platform into the diverse landscapes represented by our ESG members.

Furthermore, ESG members will be extended invitations to adopt and implement ECARE methodologies for fostering synergies within their respective regions or states, aligning with the established ECARE recommendations. To support this initiative comprehensively, ECARE is actively developing a detailed handbook on synergies, which will provide not only a framework but also incorporate best practices and practical tools for maximizing their effectiveness and impact.

5 Conclusion

In summary, the ECARE project, funded by Clean Aviation, exemplifies a collaborative effort to enhance sustainability in the European aeronautical industry. With a diverse composition of 25 members from ten countries, the ESG plays a central role in project development and result dissemination. The upcoming launch of the ECARE digital platform in 2024, coupled with webinars and a handbook, underscores a commitment to empower ESG members to establish synergies across European aeronautical landscapes.





Appendix A - ESG info poster



ECARE aims at clarifying the existing landscape of regional/national innovation roadmaps and funding opportunities for aeronautical stakeholders. It will also create complementarities and synergies between them to enable the European aeronautical industry achieve the ambitious targets of the CA JU Programme while maximising public funding impact and efficiency.

The ECARE project will develop and disseminate methodologies to create synergy mechanisms applicable to all EU aeronautical regions. These methodologies will be designed and tested in a Pilot involving four major regions of the European aeronautical industry, namely Occitanie and Nouvelle-Aquitaine in France, Hamburg in Germany and Campania in Italy. Over the course of the project, the methodologies will be improved, adapted and tested against the realities of these four regions, turning ECARE into a mature operational guidance project for CA JU and other European regions and countries.

ECARE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (ESG)

WHAT is the goal of the ESG?

- 1. Ensure replicability of ECARE results to other European aeronautics regions and countries
- 2. Reach scalability by including as many European regions and countries as possible
- 3. Support ECARE through consultation at various stages in the project
- 4. Include different perspectives

WHY should you join?

- 1. Opportunity to actively participate in ECARE
- 2. Gain visibility through presentation on the ECARE digital platform
- 3. Access to ECARE methodology with the option to replicate results in your region
- 4. Contacts to funding authorities, regions and clusters with similar interests

WHO can become member?

- 1 Public Authorities
- 2. Cluster Organisations
- 3. Business networks
- 4. Other relevant organisations and regions

HOW can you participate?

- 1. Sign the ESG charter to become official member
- 2. Join online meetings every two months to stay updated
- 3. Other options of participation, e.g. in workshops

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Maybrit Brooksnieder (Maybrit.Brooksnieder@hamburg-aviation.com)

THE TEAM











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