

Bordeaux TechnoWest & Bordeaux Aeroparc

By Christophe Mazel



Promoting the Emerging Micro & Mini UAS Sector at Bordeaux Technowest & Bordeaux Aeroparc

Bordeaux Technowest, a business incubator specialised in Aeronautics, Space and Defence activities and Bordeaux Aeroparc, a structuring project for the world competitiveness cluster Aerospace Valley, aim to foster the development of the Micro & Mini UAS emerging sector and meet the needs of current and coming UAS projects.

Indeed, Bordeaux Technowest Aeroparc, in close proximity to the Bordeaux airport and installations of industry leaders such as Dassault Aviation, Thales Division Aeronautique, SNPE Matériaux Energétiques, SAFRAN / Snecma Propulsion Solide, Sabena Services, EADS Astrium ST, and a number of innovative suppliers reflect all the advantages of a major European site devoted to aeronautics, space, embedded systems and specialised in the strategic activity domain focused on UAS:

- incubators for SMEs and start-up companies, like Fly-n-Sense specialised in design of multi-purpose and autonomous Mini / Micro UAS and embedded systems, who supplies engineering, technical support, operator training as well as system maintenance and offers a flexible line of different platforms meeting standard ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) needs and specific requirements.
- mutual services and shared equipment for businesses;
- top level research and education establishments within the University of Bordeaux and the engineering schools (INRIA, ENSAM, ENSC, IMA, ENSEIRB, MIB Institute Carnot, ICMCB, IMS);
- a concentration of internationally recognized expertise in propulsion, motorization, avionics, space navigation, atmospheric re-entry, business and military aircraft, maintenance, materials and airframes, design and test centres
- a network of highly efficient suppliers in precision mechanical engineering, precision sheet-metal working, electronics, design offices, manufacture, assembly, tests, engineering and related fields;

The concentration of expertise in aerospace professions and technologies around UAS at Bordeaux Technowest Aeroparc, place this technology complex at the heart of the Aerospace Valley world Competitiveness Cluster in Embedded Systems which UAS are part of.

Moreover, with prospects on military and civil markets looking most promising, the development of the UAV sector in Europe and the rest of the world is set to be a key issue in coming years, both for aerospace and defence companies and for all the SMEs that work with them.

Aquitaine hosts many innovative French SMEs in this area, making it a highly attractive region for this emerging sector that is currently taking shape. On the strength of this existing fabric (major groups and innovative SMEs, research centres, aeronautic service centres, UAS testing sites...) the ambition of Bordeaux Technowest Aeroparc wants to develop in this French region a key UAS Cluster for Europe.

Bordeaux Technowest Aeroparc UAS Test Range:

Beyond all the many advantages Bordeaux Technowest and Bordeaux Aeroparc presents and in accordance with its strategy of development of an UAS cluster, there was still one segregated zone to develop in order to completely solve the strategic issue of flying tests. As there were no specific infrastructure used for civilian platform tests yet, except those employed for model aircraft activities, the implementation of such an infrastructure was highly necessary.

Thus, Bordeaux Technowest in association with the French civil aviation authority and French army has an innovative and unique UAS fly test area in France. This project comes within the framework of the reinforcement and development policy of the mini and micro UAS field in Aquitaine.

Bordeaux Technowest Aeroparc test range characteristics:

- Enables civil platforms flights (mini and micro UAVs) combining the advantages of proximity, flexibility of use and maximum security;
- The area covers about 2800 ha (11.0 sq.miles) and is located on the Souge military camp, 15 km west of Bordeaux (Aquitaine, France);
- Maximum length: 8.0 km (4.97 miles);
- Maximum width: 5.5 km (3.45 miles);
- Vertical limit: 2 000 ft (600 m);
- Aerial space segregated in the limit of the Souge military camp (ZRDT Zone). Only used for UAS for civilian applications, under the approbation of the French civil aviation (DGAC) and Bordeaux Technowest;

		Civilian	
		On sight (Out of any urban area and people gathering)	Out sight
Flight Authorisation	<25 kg	Exempt	Necessary (from the French Civil Aviation Authority)
	>25 kg <150 kg	Necessary	
	>150 kg	N/A	

In order to reinforce its UAS cluster dynamism, Bordeaux Technowest will organise, on September 15th and 16th 2010, the first UAS SHOW EUROPE: a business gathering for all stakeholders in UAS, with the objective of bringing together supply and demand on this market.

www.uavshow-europe.com
www.technowest.com