

Spirit AeroSystems to Supply Pylons for the MRJ

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation has signed a contract with the U.S.-based Spirit AeroSystems, under which the firm will design and manufacture pylons (engine suspension systems) for the next-generation regional jet, the MRJ (Mitsubishi Regional Jet), which is currently in development.

Based in Wichita, Kansas, Spirit AeroSystems is the world's largest independent supplier of large components and assemblies for commercial aircraft. Spirit designs and manufactures fuselages, wings structures, pylons and nacelles for many major commercial aircraft manufacturers, including Airbus and Boeing. In addition to its Kansas facility, Spirit AeroSystems has operations in Oklahoma, Scotland and England, and is building factories in North Carolina and Malaysia.

A pylon is a major wing component that holds an aircraft's engine and its casing to the wing. Spirit AeroSystems has manufactured pylons for several large passenger aircraft over the past several decades, and builds pylons for every Boeing commercial airplane in production today.

"Spirit is pleased to partner with Mitsubishi Aircraft in developing this exciting new regional jet," said Mike King, Spirit senior vice president & general manager – Propulsion Systems. "We're excited to show our new customer and fellow team members the quality and capabilities that our employees produce on a daily basis. We look forward to building a successful relationship with Mitsubishi in this endeavor."

Mitsubishi Aircraft President Nobuo Toda said, "Spirit AeroSystems is recognized around the world as the leader in the design and manufacture of assemblies and components for passenger aircraft, and we are extremely happy to be able to work on this project together. We are moving steadily forward with our world-leading partners and development is proceeding on schedule as we prepare for the manufacturing phase of the MRJ project."

In addition to drawing on the proven performance of Spirit AeroSystems, the MRJ Project will use Pratt and Whitney's most advanced and highly efficient PurePower™ PW1000G engine, with other major participating partners including Parker Aerospace (the aircraft's hydraulic system), Hamilton Sundstrand Corporation (various systems, including electrical power, air management and auxiliary power units), Rockwell Collins (the flight control computers and avionics), Nabtesco Corporation (the flight control actuators), and Sumitomo Precision Products Co., Ltd., (the landing gear).

⁽¹⁾ Pure Power™ PW1000G engine was formerly known as the Geared Turbofan™ (GTF) engine.

About Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation commenced operation on April 1, 2008 to support the design, type certification, procurement, sales and customer support of the Mitsubishi Regional Jet. It is currently capitalized at 70 billion yen, with 67.5 percent of this financing being furnished by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., 10 percent from Toyota Motor Corporation, 10 percent from Mitsubishi Corporation, 5 percent from Sumitomo Corporation and 5 percent from Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

About MRJ

The MRJ is a next-generation regional jet that will be based on cutting-edge development and manufacturing technology cultivated by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. during its many years engaged in the development and manufacture of both military and commercial aircraft. The MRJ is a family of 70- to 90-seat regional jets, which will offer both top-class operational economy and outstanding cabin comfort. The MRJ will also mark the first extensive use of composite materials in the main wings and empennage, feature a game-changing engine, and state-of-the-art aerodynamic design, which will significantly cut fuel consumption contributing to improved competitiveness and profitability for airlines. The MRJ will apply advanced mainline jet technology to create a new standard for next-generation regional jets.

About Spirit AeroSystems, Inc.

Based in Wichita, Kan., Spirit AeroSystems is the world's largest independent supplier of commercial airplane assemblies and components. In addition to its Kansas facility, Spirit has locations in Tulsa and McAlester, Okla., Prestwick, Scotland, and Samlesbury, England, and is developing new manufacturing facilities in North Carolina and Malaysia. In the U.S., Spirit's core products include fuselages, pylons, nacelles and wing components. Additionally, Spirit provides aftermarket customer support services, including spare parts, maintenance/repair/overhaul, and fleet support services in North America, Europe and Asia. Spirit Europe produces wing components for a host of customers, including Airbus.

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