

# Airbus seeks PLI scheme for aerospace manufacturing

**IN NEED OF SUPPORT.** Scheme will help boost component production: aerospace major

**Rohit Vaid**  
New Delhi

Aerospace major Airbus India has urged the Centre to extend the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to the aerospace manufacturing sector to help expand the country's base for aerospace component production.

Speaking at Aviation India and South Asia 2025 Summit, Jurgen Westermeier, President and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia, noted that aerospace manufacturing requires significant long-term capital investment.

## INVESTMENT NEEDED

"India needs to have a lot of investment to get things going," Westermeier said.

"We have in India this production-linked incentive. Why not extend this one to the aerospace industry? This

**BIG ORDER BOOK.** Airbus has more than 1,200 passenger jets on order from various India-based airlines

is a growing industry."

At present, Airbus sources nearly \$1.5 billion (₹15,000 crore) worth of components and services from India every year.

Last month, Airbus' board visited India to tour various manufacturing sites and inaugurate training institutes that have been established with support from the aerospace major.

"We are re-engineering parts and producing better quality and more efficient components. India is really an exciting place to be. We

want to further develop the aerospace ecosystem," he added. "We are making complex parts in India and also supporting maintenance and engineering capabilities."

## EXPANDING FOOTPRINT

Besides, Westermeier said Airbus has been expanding its engineering footprint.

"We are hiring up to 20 per cent more people every year in the engineering area," he said.

Recollecting his earlier experience in the country, Westermeier recalled that

during Covid, the industry had downsized, making it difficult to ramp up production of aircraft.

"Without the essential supply chain support from India, the ramp-up would not have been possible," he said. When asked about Airbus' plans to set up a final assembly line (FAL) in India, Westermeier stated that the company already has sufficient capacity to produce aircraft for now.

However, he added that Airbus is producing the C295 military transport aircraft in India with the Tatas.

"We are also building a final assembly line for the H125 helicopter. This final assembly line is a testament to what we believe India is capable of as a market," he said. "We will inaugurate this final assembly line next year in March."

Currently, Airbus has more than 1,200 passenger jets on order from various India-based airlines.

**AIRBUS**