

Aircraft and aerospace at the Lower Elbe.

The Hamburg Metropolitan Region holds third place worldwide as a location for civil aircraft construction, aircraft equipment and maintenance. The focal point of this innovative, powerful growth industry is the world's largest manufacturer of civil aircraft, Airbus Deutschland GmbH, which operates two factories alone at the Lower Elbe (Hamburg and Stade), ¹ Lufthansa Technik AG and the Hamburg airport. These companies offer a full range of goods and services all along the value chain of aircraft construction, in closely cooperation from the design phase through to final assembly. Aircraft construction makes heavy use of sea transport. One of the reasons for Airbus to choose Hamburg-Finkenwerder as their location was the transportation option of transporting large aircraft subcomponents for airbus production by ship. Another address for expertise is KID systems in Buxtehude. They manufacture cabin management systems and serve more than 120 airlines worldwide.

The CFK Valley e.V. is also located in Stade. They are a leading international network of excellence for the entire fiber composite value chain with over 100 regional, national and international members. The VTP (Vertical Tail Plane) Center of Excellence at the Stade Airbus location is among the largest manufacturing sites in Europe for lightweight structures made from reinforced carbon fiber plastics. In July 2009, the ZAL – Center of Applied Aeronautical Research was founded in Hamburg with the objective of boosting cooperation between aviation industry and science. The Hamburg Center of Aviation Training has primary and secondary training, research as well as theory under one roof, pooling all specialist recruitment activities for the Hamburg aviation industry.

The Hamburg Aviation Cluster form an influential network from the economic, business and political areas. It launches cooperative initiatives and projects, for example in research and for securing skilled personnel in the long-term.

¹Not directly located in the Lower Elbe region but still nearby, the two sites for aircraft construction, Varel and Nordenham both subsidiaries of Premium Aerotec GmbH (previously Airbus) also form part of the relevant network in Northern Germany.