

Press Release

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INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE MEETS STUDENTS OF MBDA'S PROGRAMME OF EXCELLENCE AT ISAE-SUPAERO IN TOULOUSE



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On 18th March 2015, the first group of Indian students to be awarded scholarships under the MBDA's Programme of Excellence at ISAE met on campus in Toulouse the Indian Ambassador to France, H.E. Arun K. Singh.

Set up in 2013 by an agreement between MBDA, the ISAE-SUPAERO Foundation and ISAE, this programme contributes towards the funding of scholarships¹ for 20 students and young aeronautical professionals from India enabling them to undertake Master studies at the prestigious French university "Institut Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace (ISAE)" situated in Toulouse (southern France).

During the visit, the Ambassador said: "*The partnership between India and France goes back a long way. One of the fields in which India and France have a close relationship, based on confidence, is defense. Aside from this strategic field, our economic cooperation is growing, including in the aeronautics and high technology sectors. Among the 4.000 young Indians who pursue graduate studies in France, the students of MBDA Excellency Programme at ISAE-SUPAERO and more broadly the Indian students currently studying in this engineering school, will contribute to an increased mutual understanding between our two cultures and will play a leading role in the development of our economic exchanges.*"

¹ These scholarships cover course fees and contribute to the living expenses of the students involved between 2014 and 2017.

The six Indian students, four young men and two young women between twenty two and twenty five years old and graduates from various Indian institutions of higher education, were selected by an admission panel organized and administered independently by the ISAE. On successfully completing their studies, these students will be awarded with an internationally recognized Master in Science in Aerospace, Mechanics and Avionics. They are studying with students from various other countries around the world in a truly international environment. In 2015 and 2016, two more groups of six to eight Indian students will be selected to benefit similarly from the MBDA scholarship Programme.

Olivier Lesbre, President of the Institute and Vice-president of ISAE-SUPAERO Foundation, underlined that ISAE-SUPAERO offers world-class advanced training programs and trains future managers. He said *"Thanks to MBDA's support to this Programme, these future Indian decision makers of aerospace industry have a unique opportunity to acquire scientific and technical skills but also a rich multicultural experience that will be precious to them in the future. These talented students also bring to ISAE-SUPAERO all their culture, their qualities and competences, among them ambition and enthusiasm, which enrich the Institute and contribute to its dynamism."*

From Jean-Claude Dardelet's point of view, Delegate Councillor at the City of Toulouse and Vice-President of Toulouse Metropolitan Area, in charge of the coordination and the promotion of European affairs and international development: *"ISAE-SUPAERO managed to develop strong ties with the national industry and its international partners. These ties are essential for Indian students, as well as for the all the engineers who will graduate from this school. Today, success does not come without international cooperation or without sustainable links between our students who prepare their future, but also the future our city and country. The international influence of our schools and of the Federal University of Toulouse is crucial for Toulouse City. We encourage this type of scholarship programmes which contribute to attract talented students in the European capital of aeronautics and space."*

This Programme is just one of the many initiatives that MBDA is undertaking to establish itself as a trusted, long term partner within India's defense industry infrastructure. Mention should be made also of the backing that the Programme has received from the French state which will be providing visa assistance as well as social welfare benefits, such as health care, to the students during their time in France.

Olivier Martin, Secretary General of MBDA said: *"MBDA is intensely supporting the long term development of the Indian industrial, technical and technological basis. Thanks to the MBDA's Programme of excellence at ISAE-SUPAERO, the training of these young Indian students and young aeronautical professionals could not only benefit to the Indian economy, but also to MBDA and the French aerospace industry."*

H.E. Arun K. Singh also visited the Institut research laboratories, guided by Olivier Lesbre and accompanied by Olivier Martin and Jean-Claude Dardelet, Adviser in charge of international and European relations, City of Toulouse.



Students of MBDA's Programme of Excellence at ISAE-SUPAERO © ISAE Aude Lemarchand

Note to editors

About MBDA

With a significant presence in five European countries and within the USA, in 2014 MBDA achieved a turnover of 2.4 billion euros with an order book of 12.6 billion euros. With more than 90 armed forces customers in the world, MBDA is a world leader in missiles and missile systems.

MBDA is the only group capable of designing and producing missiles and missile systems that correspond to the full range of current and future operational needs of the three armed forces (land, sea and air). In total, the group offers a range of 45 missile systems and countermeasures products already in operational service and more than 15 others currently in development.

MBDA is jointly held by AIRBUS Group (37.5%), BAE SYSTEMS (37.5%), and FINMECCANICA (25%).

www.mbda-systems.com

About ISAE-SUPAERO

A global centre of education and research in the field of aerospace, the Institut Superior de l'Aeronautique et de l'Espace (the Higher Institute of Aeronautics and Space) offers a comprehensive and unique range of courses in aeronautical and space systems engineering: SUPAERO engineer, ENSICA engineer, CNAM-ISAE engineering apprenticeship, 18 Masters and Specialised Masters programmes of the highest international standard, six post-graduate doctorate schools and a large range of continuous training programmes through EUROSAT, a subsidiary jointly owned with ENSTA Paris Tech.

Established in 2007 by the merger of SUPAERO (1909) and ENSICA (1945), ISAE has a faculty of 100 permanent lecturers, 2,000 guest lecturers from the professional world, 1,625 full time students of whom 28% are from foreign countries and nearly 3,000 students undertaking training courses each year.

www.isae.fr

About the ISAE-SUPAERO Foundation

The ISAE-SUPAERO Foundation a state approved nonprofit organization whose main aim is to contribute to the advancement of the national and international reputation of ISAE. The activities of the Foundation are carried out in direct collaboration with ISAE, supporting its work with its students, faculty members and in research. These activities are structured around five objectives: to encourage the development and advance of aerospace research, to consolidate the provision of teaching tools, to develop the entrepreneurial skills of the students, to support the international mobility of faculty members and students, and to promote the social openness strategy of ISAE.

www.fondation-isae-supaeero.org

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