

Airbus signs deals with two Bangalore firms

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BangaloreAircraft maker Airbus SAS on Wednesday announced that it has signed strategic agreements with two Bangalore-based companies, QuEST Global Inc and CADES Digitech, to set up dedicated centres for design of aircraft components and other engineering services.

QuEST would set up a centre of excellence in wing and pylon engineering while CADES would focus on fuselages across different aircraft programmes, said a statement from Airbus without revealing details about the planned investment. The two companies are existing suppliers to the aircraft maker which currently has a captive engineering centre in Bangalore.

"The new agreement aims to consolidate engineering services already bought from several suppliers and to focus on the development of competences with these two tier-one suppliers. Each will have offices in Europe and dedicated centres in India," said the statement.

According to S Ravinarayanan, chairman and CEO of CADES, the company would now undertake end-to-end work in designing fuselages and handle more quantum of work from Airbus. He declined to reveal the investment into the centre, but said his company would hire upto 300 people for the centre.

"India is a strategic country for Airbus and with these agreements we are increasing our already substantial industrial footprint in the country," said Srinivasan Dwarakanath, Airbus VP, industrial cooperation for Asia-Pacific and Middle-East.