

The aeronautical sector and its competitiveness, an analysis within the Pau conurbation

Post-doctoral research

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The aeronautical industry, a sector of excellence in South West France, including the Pau conurbation, is the flagship of French industry. Local aeronautical production networks are locally concentrated in the Ile-de-France region and the greater South West (Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées). In spite of an upturn over the last few years, aeronautical construction is suffering the effects of strong international competition that requires a relentless quest for competitiveness in order to maintain local activity. This is valid at an international scale, and at an intra-national and regional level in the case of France where the different clusters are striving to preserve employment. In this context, it is therefore essential to identify potential threats to competitiveness.

Two potential threats can be put forward in the aeronautical sector:

- The Euro/Dollar exchange rate, of capital importance to the competitiveness of the sector, in view of the importance of exports to “dollar zone” countries. For example, 60% of exports leaving the Aquitaine region are destined for the United States. An over-estimation of the European currency has an immediate impact on competitiveness and is a potential threat to local jobs, in particular owing to the delocalization strategy to countries outside the Euro zone.
- A second threat to corporate competitiveness is the level of qualifications required for the work to be done, which is not met by the local job market. There is effectively a gap between company requirements and the job market offer.

Pau Béarn Pyrénées Conurbation

12 months.