Hungary hungers for aerospace after Red Bull triumph

Hungarian acrobatic ace Peter Honzonyi’s recent success in the Red Bull Air Race World Championship flying his locally built Corvas Racer 300 has given a massive kick to the country’s small aerospace industry.

This is the view of Miklós Hideg, chairman of the Hungarian Aviation Industry Foundation, who is leading the nation’s efforts at ILA to attract foreign investment and find new markets for its suppliers and general aviation manufacturers.

Unlike its central European neighbours the Czech Republic and Poland, Hungary had little investment in aerospace in the communist era. Although Hungarian aviation celebrates its centenary this year, “we have had to start again three times” after two world wars and after 1990, says Hideg.

As a result, Hungary’s aerospace sector consists almost entirely of family-run start-ups, created since the free market was introduced in the 1990s, with no government ownership and little foreign investment. Makers include ultralight builders Corvas Aircraft and amphibian aircraft developer Areas, and in the GA sector HARP was set up in 2006 to promote Hungary’s aerospace sector. “We have not developed in the same way as other countries,” says Hideg. “But we hope to get more attention thanks to our successful airplanes.” Hall 11 houses Hungary’s pavilion.

Cameras focus on VIP market

A small French company that supplies flight test video equipment for military aircraft is zooming in on the business aviation market.

Gemini-based Airborne Video Development (Hall 7, stand 39b) supplies on-board cameras and recording equipment for the Airbus France Rafale and Rostecker tiger, as well as to the national aerospace laboratories in France and the Netherlands and has been in business for 30 years.

Now the company says it has had interest from, among others, Luftbusa Technik, which is considering offering Avid cameras on VIP aircraft to show passengers real-time exterior images.

The latest piece of kit from Avid – which admits its engaged products are “not beautiful because they are so strong” – is the C7000 camera, due on the market late this year.

Avid claims the C7000 has a 5.3 kg (11 lb) camera that will be capable of taking 100 images a second and is particularly suited to flight test environments because it is resistant to cold temperatures.

“It is the first high-definition camera that is small and lightweight capable of flying outside because of its anti-icing capabilities,” says business developer Emmanuel Sanchez.

FAN arrives in Berlin to cheer on south-west Germany industry

Regional cluster the Future Aviation Network is making its debut at ILA to promote the aerospace industry of an area that gives us both the Zeppelin airship and Schlepp-Hirth’s pioneering composite gliders.

Baden-Württemberg, in south-west Germany, is home to a host of aerospace companies, such as software company ARG MBS, sensor specialist ARG, online aviation marketplace Pipistrel, hybrid circuits manufacturer Lewicki Microelectronics, software verification firm Ventec, flexible models expert Witzemann, subsidies company Johann Fauber, and others making including Beurten, CH Schleid, Glider Apoll and Zollern.

Kurt Drachslinger, cluster manager for the Future Aviation Network, says the event is a great opportunity to show the capabilities of the region’s companies and specialist manufacturer techniques, regional bodies estimate that one third of Germany’s 360 aerospace companies are in Baden-Württemberg and that they employ 13,000 people.