Airbus Defence and Space

The Division supported the Company’s overall performance, reporting higher order intake and earnings. Progress was made during the year on key European defence programmes.

Airbus Defence and Space’s net order intake increased by 39% to €11,862 million (2019: €8,520 million), representing a book-to-bill by value of above one. The performance was mainly driven by major contract wins in Military Aircraft, including an order for 38 new Eurofighter jets from Germany and the integration of ESCAN radars for existing German and Spanish Eurofighter fleets. In Space Systems, order intake growth was largely driven by telecommunication satellites and Earth observation and science activities. During the year, the UK Ministry of Defence placed a contract for the Skynet 6A military communications satellite.

Revenues of €10,446 million (2019: €10,907 million) mainly reflected lower volume as well as the impact of COVID-19 on business phasing, mainly in Space Systems. The revenue decrease at Space Systems also reflected the lower order intake of the past years. Underlying profitability, or EBIT Adjusted, increased to €660 million (2019: €565 million), mainly reflecting cost containment measures and lower Research and Development expenses, partly offset by the impact of COVID-19, including on the launcher business.

A total of nine A400M military transporters were delivered, with Belgium taking delivery of its first of seven aircraft in December. The delivery to Belgium means all launch customers are now equipped with the airlifter. In Space Systems, the Solar Orbiter spacecraft and the ocean mapping satellite “Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich” were launched.

Future programmes in focus
On Europe’s Future Combat Air System programme, the Joint Concept Study and Phase 1A of the demonstrator portion progressed.

Meanwhile, negotiations for the Eurodrone unmanned aerial system progressed with the European defence procurement agency OCCAR.

Key achievements 2020
• Germany orders 38 new Eurofighters
• Major telecommunication satellite contract wins
• Book-to-bill by value above 1
• Nine A400M aircraft delivered