

A320 Family Final Assembly Line in Tianjin

Final Assembly Line – Asia

Located in Tianjin, China the Airbus A320 Family Final Assembly Line Asia (FALA) is the third single-aisle aircraft final assembly line location of Airbus worldwide, following Toulouse and Hamburg. It is also the first Airbus Final Assembly Line outside Europe. The FALA is a joint venture between Airbus and a Chinese consortium comprising Tianjin Airport Economic Area Zone & Tianjin Port Free Trade Administrative Committee and China Aviation Industry Corporation (AVIC). Airbus and the Chinese Consortium respectively hold 51 per cent and 49 per cent of the shares of the joint venture.

The site of the FALA extends over a total area of 590,000 m². There are dedicated hangars, office buildings and related facilities. Airbus (Tianjin) Delivery Centre (ATDC) is also located within the site of the FALA. ATDC is a 100% subsidiary of Airbus. The FALA in Tianjin is based on the latest state-of-the-art Airbus single aisle Final Assembly Line in Hamburg, Germany. The aircraft are assembled and delivered in China to the same standards as those assembled and delivered in Europe. The FALA assembles the A319 and A320 of the A320 Family.

In December 2005, the National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC) and Airbus signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Strengthening Industrial Cooperation between the Chinese civil aviation industry and the European manufacturer in Toulouse.

In October 2006, Airbus signed the Framework Agreement with a Chinese Consortium comprising Tianjin Free Trade Zone (TJFTZ), China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC I) and China Aviation Industry Corporation II (AVIC II) in Beijing on the establishment of an A320 Family Final Assembly Line in China. Under the Framework Agreement, the final Assembly Line was set up in the Tianjin Binhai new area, a state level new development zone.

In May 2007, construction started on the Airbus A320 Family Final Assembly Line. The first aircraft sections arrived at the FALA site in July 2008. Sections included the forward and rear fuselage section, a pair of wings, the horizontal and vertical tail plane and engine pylons. That same year, the Final Assembly Line was inaugurated.

In May 2009, the first A320 aircraft assembled in the FALA successfully completed its first flight. By June, it was delivered to Sichuan Airlines through Dragon Aviation Leasing.

In April 2016, Airbus and its Chinese partners extended the successful Joint Venture to assemble A320 Family aircraft in China for an additional 10 years and renamed the site as Airbus A320 Family Final Assembly Line Asia (FALA). The “phase II” covers the period from 2016 to 2025, expands deliveries to the whole Asian region and includes final assembly of the A320neo Family from 2017 onwards. The FALA delivered more than 335 A320 Family aircraft.

A320 Family FAL Asia deliveries

Year	Number of a/c	
2009	11	
2010	26	
2011	36	
2012	37	
2013	46	
2014	47	
2015	50	
2016	51	

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Airbus Tianjin A330 Completion and Delivery Centre

The first agreements on setting up an A330 C&DC in Tianjin, China were signed by Airbus and Chinese partners in March 2014 and witnessed by French President Francois Hollande and visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping. This was followed in October 2014, when Airbus, the Tianjin Free Trade Zone (TJFTZ) and the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) in Berlin, Germany, in the presence of the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, A framework agreement was signed in July 2015 in Toulouse.

The A330 C&DC Tianjin is located near the site of the Airbus A320 Family Final Assembly Line in Tianjin. The C&DC will cover the aircraft completion activities including reception, cabin installation, aircraft painting, engine run and flight test, as well as aircraft delivery and customer flight acceptance.

- The Completion and Delivery Centre (CDC) in Tianjin will be a facility where a flyable aircraft "in green" will arrive from its Final Assembly Line in Toulouse to have its cabin equipped, furnished and the exterior painted.
- It will employ 250-300 people
- The CDC will include a cabin equipping and furnishing facility and a paint shop
- The CDC will have an output of 2 aircraft / month
- First delivery planned September 2017

CABIN COMPLETION

- This plant will perform the completion of the cabin and be nearly as large as an assembly hall with a 210m by 80m floor space and 30m height. 3 aircraft positions will be available

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- The different phases within the Cabin Completion and Delivery Centre will include the installation of: Video, air conditioning, cargo lining, door lining, ceiling panels, seats, curtain rails and curtains, safety equipment, labels, galleys and catering equipment
- All relevant tests will be performed following the installation of these items
- When cabin furnishing is completed, the aircraft will move to the paint shop to be painted and then to the current Airbus Delivery Centre in Tianjin extended for A330 to perform flight acceptance, and finally delivery.

PAINT SHOP

- The paint, as in the rest of Airbus facilities elsewhere, will comply with the latest environmental regulations. They are polyurethane paints and low VOC (Volatile Organic Compound –solvents). Painters use paint guns with a system of electrostatic pulverisation. Thanks to a more even repartition of the paint, this system generates a gain of weight (less paint being use). Fuselage and wings are painted during different phases; the engine supplier paints engines nacelles. The only surface not to be painted is the engine pylon.
- 1500 litres of paint products are used for painting an A330.
- Once dry, the total weight of the paint for an A330 is between 330 kg and 400 kg
- The surface to be painted represents some 2200 m2.

Milestones of Airbus Tianjin A330 Completion and Delivery Center

On 26th March 2014, Airbus and China laid the foundation for taking their fruitful cooperation into the future as relevant agreements were signed in Paris by Fabrice Brégier, Airbus President and CEO, and the Chinese parties, witnessed by the French President Francois Hollande and visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping. According to the agreements, Airbus and China will develop cooperation activities on Airbus wide-body programmes. Airbus and relevant Chinese parties will work towards demonstrating the interest of setting up a wide-body aircraft completion centre in China, which includes cooperation on wide-body cabin interiors with AVIC.

On 10th October 2014, Airbus and its Chinese partners (the Tianjin Free Trade Zone (TJFTZ) and the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC)), re-confirmed their intention to set up an A330 Completion and Delivery Centre in Tianjin, China, by signing a Letter of Intent (Lol). The Lol was signed by Fabrice Brégier, Airbus President and CEO, Feng Zhijiang, President of the TJFTZ and Lin Zuoming, President of AVIC representing the Chinese parties, in Berlin, Germany, witnessed by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

On 2nd July 2015, Airbus and its Chinese partners, namely the Tianjin Free Trade Zone Investment Company Ltd. (TJFTZ) and the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), signed a framework agreement on setting up an A330 Completion and Delivery Centre (C&DC) in Tianjin, China, taking the partnership between Airbus and China a further step forward

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following the successful establishment of an A320 Family Final Assembly Line and Delivery Center in the Chinese city. The agreement was signed by Fabrice Brégier, Airbus President and CEO, Yang Bing, President of the TJFTZ and Pang Zhen, Vice President, Commercial Aircraft, AVIC representing the Chinese parties, at the Airbus site in Toulouse, France. The signature was witnessed by visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and French Prime Minister Manuel Valls. Premier Li has had a tour of the Airbus facility, accompanied by Prime Minister Valls. The framework agreement firms-up the Letter of Intent signed by the three parties in 2014.

On 2nd March 2016, construction got underway for the Airbus A330 Completion and Delivery Centre (C&DC) in Tianjin, China. The A330 C&DC is co-located at the same site as the Airbus Tianjin A320 Family Final Assembly Line and the Airbus Tianjin Delivery Centre. The A330 C&DC Tianjin will cover the aircraft completion activities including cabin installation, aircraft painting and flight test, as well as aircraft delivery and customer flight acceptance. The A330 Family aircraft to be completed at the A330 C&DC Tianjin will be assembled in Toulouse while painting and cabin fitting will be performed in Tianjin.

On 20th September 2017, Airbus has inaugurated its A330 Completion and Delivery Centre (C&DC) in Tianjin, China, taking additional steps in the expansion of its global footprint and strategic partnership with China. At the same time, the first A330 to be delivered from the C&DC was handed over to Tianjin Airlines.