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Gripen: Starrag contract valued at 7 million Francs

Starrag Group produces milling machines valued 7 MCHF for Saab's Gripen E.

Some of the aluminum details you will find in Gripen E, the fighter of which the Swiss Government plans to purchase 22, will be produced on Starrag machines.

“We share common values, see customers at the centre of our thinking and actions, believe in sustainable long-term business and go the extra mile to surpass customers' expectations”, says Starrag CEO Frank Brinken. “Working with Saab is a natural match.”

In fact, the 5-axis machining centres that are meant for delivery in 2015, are not the first ones to be produced for Saab and the Gripen programme. The business relationship between the two companies started in 1992. They then produced four machines, followed by the refurbishing of one more which is now based in South Africa.

The high tech machines will produce aluminum details that need less key and slot joints and fewer notches, thus allowing bigger and fewer pieces to construct the Gripen E fuselage.

“We had the choice to procure the machines on the world market but decided for Switzerland due to the Gripen E industrial participation programme. Saab is committed to bring business to Switzerland, but only if it is based on commercial grounds. In this case it was easy: Starrag is both a competent and competitive partner,” says Roland Spiegel, Senior Purchasing Manager at Saab Aeronautics.

In combination with the procurement of Gripen E, Saab has an obligation to deliver industrial cooperation to the same amount as the value of the Gripen E contract. By the end of 2012, Saab and partners have already delivered 250 MCHF in business with Swiss companies and signed an additional business volume of 65 MCHF this year.





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“We now work to continuously increase this volume, by finding more business both in the defence and non-defence industry”, affirms Henry Johansson, Vice President Gripen Switzerland.

Starrag Group is a global technology leader in manufacturing high-precision machine tools for milling, turning, boring and grinding of small, medium-sized and larger work pieces of metallic and composite materials.

Starrag’s customers are primarily internationally active companies in the Aerospace, Energy, Industrial and Transport sectors. In addition to its portfolio of machine tools, Starrag Group provides integrated technology and maintenance services that significantly enhance customer productivity.

Saab serves the global market with world-leading products, services and solutions ranging from military defence to civil security. Saab has operations and employees on all continents and constantly develops, adopts and improves new technology to meet customers’ changing needs.

Additional information:

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