

The background features a dark blue space-themed scene with a world map. A rocket is on the left, an airplane is in the upper center, a satellite is on the right, and a car chassis is at the bottom center. Sunlight rays emanate from the top center.

The French aerospace innovation cluster Aerospace Valley

November 2011

**aerospace
valley**

Le collectif qui rend
compétitif

Pôle de compétitivité mondial
Aéronautique, Espace, Systèmes Embarqués
Midi-Pyrénées & Aquitaine



“Cluster” versus “pôle de compétitivité”

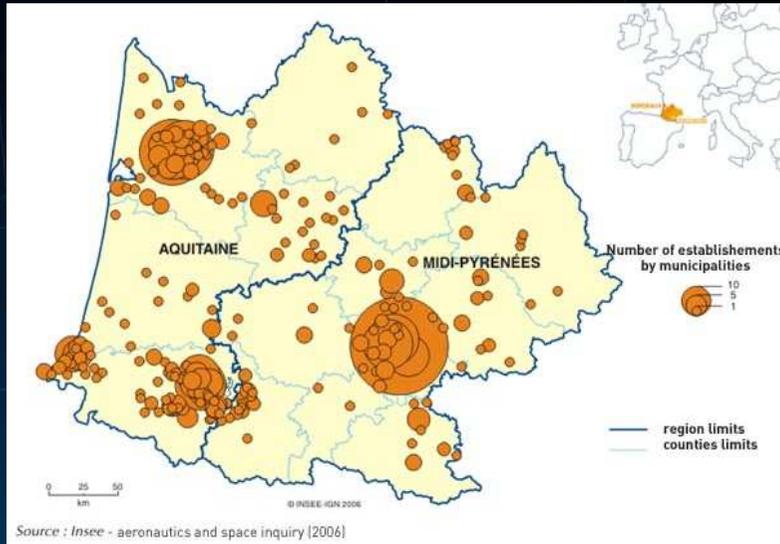
Michael Porter’s definition of cluster as:

“geographically proximate groups of interconnected companies and associated institutions in a particular field, linked by commonalities and complementarities” [Harvard, 1998].

Our interpretation:

- a market oriented “cluster” focuses primarily on SMEs and the entire supply chain
- the regional “pôle de compétitivité” à la française are mainly technology oriented “think tanks” aiming at stimulating innovation and cooperation between industry, research and training (TRL 3-6).

The Aerospace Valley Cluster Association



- Bi-regional aerospace cluster
- Activities: aeronautics, space and embedded systems
- Date of creation: July 2005
- Legal status: Association formed by companies, research centres, training centres and local and regional authorities
- Oct. 2011: 570 members, of which 273 SMEs
- 7 electoral colleges
- President/CEO: Agnès Paillard, EADS
- Permanent staff: 10 people (+ “volunteers”)
- Budget for running costs: 1.6 M€ / year



- **Product portfolio:**

- Civil and regional aviation
- Business aviation
- Military aviation
- Turbo-engines
- Cockpits
- Land gear equipments, aero structures, etc
- Satellites
- Launchers, propulsion and atmospheric re-entry
- Space services
- Automotive and railway electronics



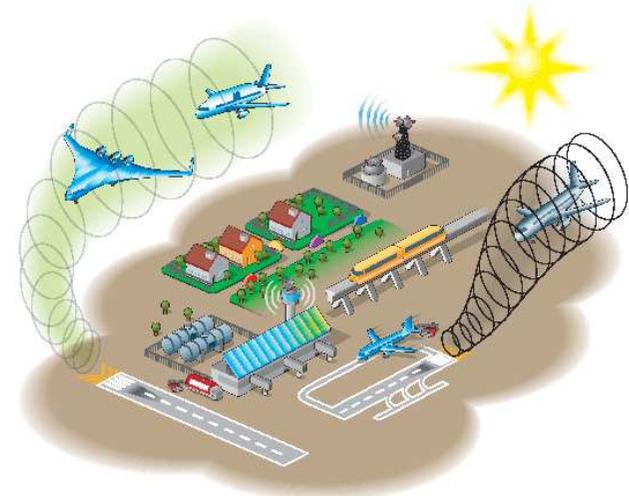
**1500 industrial establishments
= 10 billion € annual turnover
= 80% of industrial work force member of Aerospace Valley**

Cooperative projects resulting of nine strategic core R&D sectors (“think tanks”)

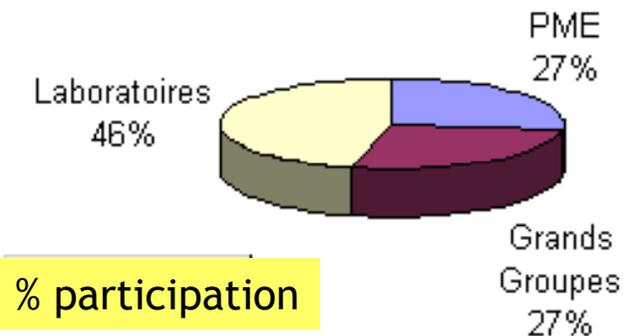
1. Aero-mechanics, materials, structures
2. Energy, propulsion, engines and access to space
3. Air transport safety and security
4. Living Earth and space
5. Navigation, positioning, telecommunications
6. Embedded systems
7. General engineering and collaborative production
8. Maintenance, services, training
9. Autonomous aerospace systems

R&D Funding mechanisms

Cluster « labellizes » the projects that are then financed by mixing funds of public agencies (FUI, ANR, OSEO), territorial collectivities and entreprises (such as to remains Brussels compatible)



Status September 2011:
480 projects approved by AV
246 projects finally financed
accumulated 1500 participants



- Total budget of financed projects: **725 M€**
- Total amount of private funding: **418 M€**
- Total amount of public funding: **307 M€ (45% of FUI)**
(public funding for SMEs: 72 M€)

International Cooperation

6 very high and 5 high-priority target countries

