

I will talk on the subject “Aeronautics in Sweden – Importance and Strategies for the Future”, but I will also talk about why I find the Aeronautics industry so fascinating

- The industry is characterized by extremely complex, high technology products. And there is no room for failure as regards function and performance.
- There exist few other industries with a comparable level of inter-dependence and cross-fertilization of advanced technology.
- No other industry has made so many meetings – between so many people, from so many different cultures – possible.
- Last but not least, the technology requirements of the industry necessitate a high level of top-notch research and development.

The latter aspect explains why most of the world’s large aircraft companies and technology leaders historically have been located in Europe and North America.

This, however, is about to change. As we are all aware, during the last few decades, many developing countries have entered the stage, and aims for an internationally competitive aircraft industry of their own.

The transformation that the global commercial aviation industry is currently undergoing is tremendous.

The recipe for success that we have identified in this highly competitive environment is specialization and collaboration.

Collaboration, not only on the national level, but also on the international level is essential for competitiveness, in order to achieve:

- shared development costs
- a greater overall market for the product, and
- benefits of scale in production.

National domestic markets can no longer alone pay for the development of complex aeronautical systems.

We often talk about the Swedish innovation system, but the relevance of that term can sometimes be questioned, since it now extends to the innovation systems of our international collaboration partners, on the European level, and beyond.

Maintaining and developing our role as an interesting collaboration partner for other leading nations and manufacturers is thus essential.

Today, aeronautics is an industry of great importance to Sweden.

However, it started quite out quite softly, in 1806, when a professor named Robertson carried out a short balloon ascent from Humlegården in Stockholm.

Almost a hundred years later, in 1897, August Andrée, Knut Fraenkel and Nils Strindberg left Spitzbergen on a polar expedition balloon, the Eagle. This trip cost three lives, but fed a couple of ice bears.

From then on, however, aeronautics in Sweden has mostly been a success story.

Today, Swedish companies are – thanks to our unique expertise in engine and aircraft systems – suppliers to the majority of new civil aircrafts, and Sweden is one of five countries that have the expertise and capacity to build competitive fighter aircrafts.

Looking ahead, within a few decades, global passenger traffic will have doubled.

Consequently, the requirements for the aircraft fleet of the future will be huge as regards environmental, safety and efficiency demands. As regards the environmental aspect, the fossil fuel dependency of the industry must be broken.

There is potential for improvement, which Anders will address later, but there is no question that the innovative Swedish aeronautics industry will continue to contribute as regards the future challenges to be addressed.

I have talked about the importance of the success factor “collaboration”.

Today, we take a big leap in this regard. We enter into collaboration with clear and mutual objectives on regional, national and international levels, focusing on synergies with benefits for both the Swedish regions and for Clean Sky.

Västra Götalands regionen, Region Östergötland:

We are proud of you.

Clean Sky Joint Undertaking, Director Eric Dautriat:

You have made a very good decision.

Congratulations to all of you.

Thankyou.