

Press Release

Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik Lands Largest Contract in its History

ZLT Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH & Co. KG sells three Zeppelin NT to the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Goodyear ordered the new Zeppelin NT model LZ N07-101 at costs of approximately 14.5 mio. Euro. The first Zeppelin NT will commence its Goodyear operation in January 2014. Besides the airship sale the deal also includes a close co-operation between the partners. On Tuesday, May 3rd 2011 Thomas Brandt, CEO of Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik presented details of this largest deal in the history of the Friedrichshafen based company. „The Goodyear contract is a milestone in our company history. With this three airship sale we double the worldwide Zeppelin NT fleet.“

Details

The US based tire manufacturer Goodyear ordered three Zeppelin LZ N07-101, the successor model of the Zeppelin LZ N07-100 currently operated in Friedrichshafen. The new version airship costs approximately 14.5 mio. Euro. In close co-operation with Goodyear, Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik will develop further technical modifications for the airships ordered. Amongst others Goodyear and Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik have closed agreements on the joint development of a LED nightsign and a new cockpit display system besides the sale of airships. These improvements will also be available for future Zeppelin NTs. In addition and beyond the delivery of the airships, Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik will supply technical support to Goodyear for the introduction of the Zeppelin NT as well as for the operation, maintenance and repair of the airships.

The airships will be delivered to Goodyear over the coming six years. The first airship will commence its Goodyear operation in January 2014. This first real manufacture to order contract is the basis for synergy effects in Zeppelin's manufacturing and an optimization of the manufacturing cost through bulk procurement of parts and components. Finally Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik was able to receive the backing of the German Federal Government by way of a Hermes guaranty for the sale of the airships.

Co-operation from development to final assembly

Not only the development of modifications, but also the final assembly of the airships proves the close co-operation between both parties. Managed by Zeppelin

Luftschifftechnik, the three airships will be assembled by Zeppelin and Goodyear airship teams at Goodyear's Wingfoot lake airship hangar near Akron, Ohio; there the airships will also perform their first flight. Procurement and production will be managed in Friedrichshafen. Parts and components will be preassembled by Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik before shipment to Akron Ohio. This joint project recalls memories of the successful co-operation between the German and American airship builders in the Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation (1923-1940). This time the co-operation is based on a close teaming in the context of Goodyear's purchase of Zeppelin NT airships but not a joint venture.

Goodyear decides for Zeppelin NT quality

As Goodyear's fleet of airships has been a fleet of blimps for decades, Goodyear's decision for the Zeppelin NT is prove for the excellent properties of the Zeppelin NT. In addition, Thomas Brandt sees Goodyear's' decision for the Zeppelin NT as honor as well. "Since 1925 Goodyear has continuously been manufacturing and operating fleets of airships became the leader in Blimps in the airship industries. The decision for our airship makes the Zeppelin NT the leading product in its industry." With the expiry of the type certificate for the Goodyear Blimps „Spirit of America“, „Spirit of Goodyear“ and „Spirit of Innovation“ the Zeppelin NT will then be flying from Goodyear's US airship bases in Ohio, California and Florida. Goodyear has no intention for commercial passenger flying, but will utilize the Zeppelin NT for its own corporate advertising and VIP passenger flights to support local and national charities.

Andreas Brand, Lord Mayor of Friedrichshafen and chairman of the board of the Zeppelin Foundation is happy about revival of the cooperation of both industry leaders. "Almost 90 years ago Goodyear and Zeppelin bundled their competence and built the most innovative airships of their time. This cooperation will again set new standards." The entry into service of the Goodyear Zeppelin NTs doubles Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik's market presence with the Zeppelin NT. Thomas Brandt sees the potential further sales: „This contracts bears the potential to further establish the Zeppelin NT in the skies and also strengthen the Zeppelin NT operation at it's home base in Friedrichshafen.“

Photos:



Caption:

Visual foretaste: The Zeppelin NT with Goodyear Branding during a charter tour through the Benelux states in summer 2010. Photo: Chris Schotanus



Caption:

Visual foretaste: The Zeppelin NT at it's home Base the Zeppelin hangar in Friedrichshafen, Germany in summer 2010. The airship was branded by Goodyear during a charter tour through the Benelux states. Photo: ZLT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

ZEPPELIN NT

The Zeppelin NT is at present the only type-certificated airship with a rigid framework of aluminium and carbon-fibre frames and longerons. Engines, empennages and the cabin are mounted directly on to this rigid internal structure, thus ensuring that the Zeppelin NT offers the highest levels of safety, comfort and performance. With a length of 75 m and a volume of 8,450 m³ the Zeppelin NT 07 is the largest semi-rigid airship in the world today. The airship is powered by three independent engines, each with 200 hp and a swivelling propeller as well as an additional lateral propeller driven by the rear engine. The cockpit is equipped with full fly-by-wire flight controls. These characteristics open a wide field of application to the Zeppelin NT: passenger flights, aerial advertising, scientific platform for research project, homeland security and media and surveillance missions. The Zeppelin NT, LZ N07-101, has full IFR equipment and is certified by LBA, FAA and EASA for commercial VFR (including night flight), single pilot operation in the commuter category, carrying up to 15 passengers. Since 1997 four Zeppelin NT were built with currently two Zeppelin NT in service: In Friedrichshafen the Deutsche Zeppelin-Reederei operates the airship christened „Baden-Württemberg“ und Airship Ventures the “EUREKA” in Moffet Field, San Francisco, USA.

ZLT ZEPPELIN LUFTSCHIFFTECHNIK GMBH & CO KG

ZLT Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH & Co KG was founded in 1993 and is based in Friedrichshafen at Lake Constance, the historical Zeppelin city of Germany. The object of the company comprises the development, manufacturing and marketing of Zeppelins of New Technology. In June 2001, the receipt of the type certification for the Zeppelin NT and the certification for ZLT Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH & Co KG as an airship manufacturing company laid the foundations for the future of airship manufacturing in Friedrichshafen. The Deutsche Zeppelin-Reederei GmbH (DZR) was founded as an operating company for the Zeppelin NT on 15 August, 2001. The DZR is a fully-owned subsidiary of the ZLT and operates the Zeppelin airships, comparable to an airline in conventional air traffic, and accounts for the training of Zeppelin airship pilots.

GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY

Founded 1898, today Goodyear is one of the world's largest tire companies, with operations in most regions of the world. Together with its subsidiaries and joint ventures, Goodyear develops, markets and sells tires for most applications. Goodyear operates 56 plants in 22 countries. Goodyear employs approximately 72,000 people around the world. The Goodyear Blimps are aerial ambassadors of the company since 1925. Currently three blimps are operated in North America: They are based in Akron, Ohio ("Spirit of Goodyear"); Carson, California ("Spirit of America) and Pompano Beach, Florida ("Spirit of Innovation").

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