

## Air France-KLM and Saudia strengthen MRO ties

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Riyadh: In a strategic move to enhance its technical operations and strengthen ties within the aviation sector, Saudia has signed an MoU with Air France-KLM.

The agreement includes provisions for Saudia to manage the assembly and disassembly of GE90 engines, used in Boeing 777 aircraft, with a commitment to allocate at least 50pc of related work orders to Air France-KLM in exchange for localizing these processes.

The collaboration also explores the creation of a joint venture for GENx engines, powering Boeing 787 aircraft, further elevating Saudia's local MRO capabilities.

This complements its current expertise, including servicing CFM LEAP-1A engines used in Airbus A320neo family aircraft, solidifying its position as a key player in the region's aviation industry.

On the commercial side, the collaboration focuses on enhancing the codeshare agreement between Saudia and Air France-KLM, both SkyTeam members. This includes expanded reciprocal codesharing across a wider range of domestic and international routes, increasing connectivity and frequency.



The agreement also supports Saudia's efforts to optimise its operations at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, enhancing efficiency and the guest experience.

Ibrahim Al-Omar, Director General of Saudia Group, said: "This agreement reflects the visionary leadership of the Saudia Group Board, led by its chairman, Saleh Al-Jasser, Minister of Transport and Logistics. It aligns with the Saudi Aviation Strategy, spearheaded by the General Authority of Civil Aviation, and demonstrates our commitment to advancing the Kingdom's aviation sector."

Benjamin Smith, CEO of Air France-KLM stated: "Saudia is a historic partner of Air France-KLM, and in the context of Saudi Arabia's fast-paced development, we see a mutual interest in expanding our commercial cooperation and pooling our expertise, notably in the strategic MRO activity. Air France-KLM Engineering and Maintenance is already a leader in the field, and further cooperation with Saudia will unlock additional opportunities in the country and in the region."