



## Interview with Jean Yves Longère (Pégase Cluster)

**“Pégase is going to give the region a genuinely unique advantage!”**

The Pégase Cluster is starting to takeoff. It is already starting to spread its wings while waiting for its candidature as a competitiveness cluster to be accepted (which should happen at the next CIAT in February 2007). The cluster is displaying its energy with 120 intended project sheets, and 40 projects under construction. "All projects satisfy the same concept, as Jean-Yves Longère, Director of the Pégase Cluster explains; these innovative projects should favour the emergence of new aeronautical application fields; surveillance missions of sites classified by Unesco, air transport of very large or very heavy objects such as mobile hospitals, etc."

### > What is the history of this cluster?

Jean-Yves Longère: A project for the cluster was submitted during the first call for candidatures made by the Government. It was prepared by the Union des Industries et Métiers de la Métallurgie 13 and 04 (Union of Metallurgy Industries and Trades), and the Government was interested in the proposal and at that time, had measured the potential of the aerospace industry in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. Nevertheless, the Government wanted a stronger involvement of large companies, guaranteeing access to international markets essential for the complete development of industrial activities to be carried out at the cluster. As a result, the project was reorganised. Eurocopter and Alcatel were contacted and agreed to manage the Pégase Cluster, which is obviously quite independent from the world aeronautical cluster that already exists in the South West.

### > Finally, what is the field of action of the Pégase cluster?

J-Y. L.: Its objective is development of new aeronautical and space sectors:  
- airships for transporting heavy and/or large objects such as mobile hospitals or parts for the ITER project,  
- drones to monitor cultural sites or dams,  
- aircraft to work in atmospheres that are too highly polluted for man or inaccessible by land (earthquakes, etc.),  
- flying ships that will put Corsica one hour away from Marseilles...  
In all, a series of new applications at the service of the public. There is no lack of ideas.

### > as demonstrated by the many projects in the cluster!...

J-Y. L.: Yes! The cluster has already pre-labelled 11 projects and has presented 6 to the financial committees (ANR and FUI). We have already received a total of 120 idea sheets and 42 projects are now being set up. Emergence of this cluster is inciting a great deal of interest by creators all over the country who dream of getting their aircraft, airship or drone projects started, frequently after developing it for several years. These creators are prevented from making progress by the combination of many difficulties in financing, starting up a project, knowledge of markets, certification problems, etc.  
The cluster would like to offer solutions to them, not only for aircraft but also for technologies. For example, there is a silencer project that was patented 2 years ago and has been stopped for a question of approval. If the Cluster were to handle this innovation, it could be finalized and implemented, after a procedure including noise suppression tests and approval of noise suppression systems. We are interested in creating such value chains!

### > And what is the final aim of the cluster?

J-Y. L.: Pégase intends to create the highest density of new project leaders in the world, in a genuine aeronautic and space nursery. They will include companies capable of bringing one or two new activities (flying ships, drones or airships) to world excellence standard, providing an impetus to the entire local ecosystem. Eventually, several thousand new jobs can be created within these various small companies. There will also be jobs created in large groups due to densification of this ecosystem. The objective for these large groups would undoubtedly be to provide direct help with their research but also and especially to develop a genuine nursery of regional innovations and an environment that would provide genuine opportunities and differentiating advantages faced with world competition, within the region. The final aim is to create a complete ecosystem to broaden the potential for market development and the international influence of these companies!

### The Pégase cluster: 4 action fields

#### Surveillance

Surveillance missions for territories, zones, cultural sites, industrial sites, natural sites and creation of appropriate solutions (new types of aircraft, etc.) that are flexible, economic and independent.

#### Take action

For example drones, air ships, manned aircraft, flying ships for fast action in inhospitable or polluted environments, or that are inaccessible by land (earthquakes, radioactive atmosphere etc.).

#### Transport

Economic, ecological transport means (flying ships, ULM with electric motor) or transport means capable of transporting exceptionally heavy or large loads: pipelines, bridge piers (airships).

#### Relay information

Light, independent airborne systems to coordinate information following large amplitude public events or special needs (forest fires, etc.).