

Interview with Frederico Lemos, Chief Commercial Officer, Embraer Defense & Security



VAYU: *Embraer has had an active commercial and defence presence in the country, could you elaborate on how you are looking to expand on this legacy in the next few years?*

Embraer proudly joins the nation in celebrating Indian Air Force Day. We salute the courage, professionalism and operational excellence of the men and women of the Indian Air Force, who stand ready every day to protect India's skies and support the nation. Embraer has a strong legacy of collaboration in India with nearly 50 aircraft across 11 platforms operating in commercial, defence and business aviation. Our Legacy 600 jets support VIP transportation requirements for the Indian Government and Armed Forces, while the ERJ-145 platform serves as the foundation of the Indian Air Force's Netra AEW&C aircraft, developed with DRDO's Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS).

The Netra programme remains one of India's most successful examples of indigenous aerospace co-development and has demonstrated strong reliability and operational effectiveness in service.

Right now, we are focussed on the Indian Air Force's Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) programme and we believe that the C-390 Millennium is the right strategic choice for the MTA. As one of India's most important defence acquisition programmes, the MTA must not only strengthen future airlift capability but also advance domestic aerospace manufacturing, technology development, and self-reliance. We believe our partnership and proposal with Mahindra is the right strategic choice to meet India's needs.

VAYU: *The Indian Air Force's Netra AEW&C aircraft which is on the Embraer ERJ-145 platform remains a flagship defence project for Embraer, will you be looking to expand the fleet in India?*

Embraer is honoured to have played a part in building the Netra AEW&C based on the Embraer ERJ-145 platform together with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) through the Centre for Air Borne Systems (CABS). The AEW&C Mk.1 was among the early modern, collaborative and jointly developed projects in the defence and aerospace domain. A technically demanding programme; it involved structural modification of a baseline commercial aircraft to integrate radar and other mission systems. The platform was also equipped with aerial refuelling capability and a self-protection suite (SPS).

We are proud of the successful development of this system and the three Netra AEW&C aircraft in service have delivered proven performance and reliability in real time operations. The user feedback has been encouraging, and of course, we remain ready to support the Indian Air Force in any possible future requirements.



VAYU: *Why do you believe the C-390 Millennium is the right solution for the Indian Air Force's MTA requirement?*

Designed and built in the 21st century, the C-390 is the most modern military transport aircraft in its class. It carries more payload than comparable medium lift aircraft while flying higher, faster and farther. It is well suited to India's diverse operating environment, from high altitude Himalayan airfields and remote border regions to island territories and maritime areas. With a payload