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Daher delivers the first of four TBM 940 very fast turboprop aircraft for France's national Flight Test organization

Tarbes, France, October 21, 2021 — The initial TBM 940 from an order of four for DGA-EV, France's government-run Flight Test organization was delivered by Daher today, with these very fast turboprop aircraft modified for assignments in both testing and training.

This handover occurred at the TBM's final assembly line in Tarbes, France as Nicolas Chabbert, the Senior Vice President of Daher's Aircraft Division, provided the TBM 940's keys to General Arvind Badrinath, the Director of the Flight Test organization for the French Armed Forces Ministry's DGA (Direction générale de l'armement) procurement agency.

The four new-production TBM 940s will replace legacy TBM 700s operated since 1992 by the DGA-EV, providing the latest versions of Daher's TBM aircraft family for its varied mission requirements. Included in the French government contract is five years of maintenance support by Daher to keep the TBM 940s in top operational condition.

"These aircraft will modernize the DGA-EV's fleet as the Flight Test Organization contributes to France's development of future defense systems, and aims at being the main certification of military and civil aircraft in Europe." Chabbert said. "We've tailored the TBM 940s to optimize their use and versatility while serving the DGA in applications that include flight testing and safety support as chase airplanes, in liaison flights, and for operations away from the primary test center locations."

Daher delivers its first TBM 940 to France's national flight test department

All four of the DGA EV's TBM 940s will have a hardpoint incorporated in each wing, allowing the installation of various payloads up to 75 kg (165 lbs.) on each hardpoint. The cabin interiors can be rapidly changed from the baseline configuration for personnel transport to accommodate specific installations such as an operator's test console to manage test systems and equipment, as well as sensors, such as an anemometric pole.

The DGA Flight Test Organization operates two main test centers in France: Istres, in the southeast; and Cazaux in the southwest. The Organization's responsibilities include weapons systems qualification as well as the certification of military and civil aircraft. It also provides flight safety expertise for French and European aircraft manufacturers and government agencies.

About Daher – www.daher.com

Daher is an aircraft manufacturer and an industry and service equipment supplier. Daher asserts its leadership in three main businesses: aircraft manufacturing, aerospace equipment and systems, logistics and supply chain services; and achieved a turnover of 1.1 billion euros in 2020. With the stability provided by its family ownership, Daher has been committed to innovation since its creation in 1863. Today, present in 13 countries, Daher is a leader in Industry 4.0, designing and developing value-added solutions for its industrial partners.

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About Daher's aircraft product line – www.kodiak.aero / www.tbm.aero

Daher manufactures two families of single-engine turboprop airplanes: the Kodiak utility aircraft in Sandpoint, Idaho, USA, and the very fast pressurized TBM in Tarbes, France.

The Kodiak 100 Series III is an unpressurized 8-10-seat airplane equipped with Garmin's G1000 NXi avionics, capable of operating on uneven and unimproved runways, or on water in the amphibious version. Its unique combination of robust construction and remarkable 3,530 lb. useful load has resulted in many additional applications for the Kodiak, including special missions, medevac, as a skydiving platform and more.

Current TBM models in production are the TBM 910, equipped with Garmin's G1000 Nxi avionics system, controlled by a keypad; and the TBM 940, featuring Garmin's G3000 avionics with touchscreen controller, an autothrottle and the HomeSafe™ emergency autoland system. Both models offer increased automation and superior performance – a maximum cruise speed of 330 kts. – and high efficiency with a 1,730-naut. mi. maximum range and a fuel consumption of 37 U.S. gallons per hour at economy cruise.

As of September 30, 2021, a total of 298 Kodiak and 1,050 TBM aircraft have been delivered to international owners and operators, with the global fleet accumulating some 2.2 million flight hours.

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