

# INFOSYS:

## Innovative Thrusts in Aerospace



**Kris Gopalakrishnan,**  
President, Joint Managing Director and COO,  
Infosys Technologies

The Aerospace business unit of Infosys focuses on delivering value-added services and solutions to global Aerospace majors and their supply chain. Kris Gopalakrishnan, President, Joint Managing Director and COO, Infosys Technologies, shares with AeroMag Asia's Managing Editor Sunny Jerome, some of his visionary insights and prime strategies

**Managing Editor :** *Infosys being the top ranking IT services company in the world, could you give us an overview of its major contributions to Aerospace and Defense sector, in developing innovative IT and engineering solutions?*

**Kris Gopalakrishnan :** Infosys' contributions in the Aerospace and

Defense sector include:

- Working with Airbus on the inner Fixed Trailing Edge of the wing for the Airbus A-380
- Setting up a Virtual Engineering Center for Spirit Aero Systems
- Working with Triumph Composite on the design of floor panels for the Airbus A-389 freighter

**Q: Could you elaborate on your prime thrust areas: Product design and development, embedded systems, product life cycle management and IT solutions?**

A: Infosys has always believed in providing innovative value-based solutions

to its clients. Strategic outsourcing of engineering services has become an important source of competitive advantage for Aerospace companies with an imperative to reduce costs while accelerating new product development. To accelerate this outsourcing advantage, Infosys has formed a Product Lifecycle and Engineering Solutions (PLES) group, with one of its focus area being Product Development and Design, Embedded Systems and PLM solution for Aerospace.

Product Design services include Concept Design, Detailed design, Analysis and Optimization, Digital Prototyping, Product Lifecycle Management and Engineering Project Management. Services are delivered

in the CAD/CAE/CAM platform of choice of the client. We are providing solution to customers in engineering services from many years. Currently, we are engaged with many major Aerospace OEMs and Tier-1 companies. With this investment, we will be able to assist our clients develop innovative and cost-effective solutions for next generation.

The Aerospace business unit of Infosys focuses on delivering value-added services and solutions to global Aerospace majors and their supply chain. It not only provides ADM, Enterprise Applications services and process consulting but also cutting edge solutions like KBE and RFID.

**Q: When we look into various segments - civil aircraft, military aircraft, helicopters, space applications – how big is the Infosys stake in each? How do you prioritize?**

A: Our current thrust is primarily on the civil aerospace business. This is primarily driven by the constraints imposed by statutory clearance required for working with the defense segment.

In the Civilian Aerospace Segment Infosys is working with major Aerospace leaders like Boeing, Airbus, Spirit Aerosystems and Triumph Group for companies.

**Q: We hear a lot about Composites, and how you have played a role in the design and development of A380, the world's largest passenger aircraft produced by Airbus. How groundbreaking is Infosys offering, how big is its role in providing the resources and the tool?**

A: We are actively contributing to the composite designs of Aircraft structures for major current Aircraft programs. As an example, Infosys has provided Design and Analysis solutions for the floor structure for the A380 Freighter for Triumph Composites.

Knowledge based applications such as Integrated Composites Design, Analysis and Manufacturing simulation tools (AUTOLAY/CADDS Composites) owned by Infosys are being leveraged by global Aerospace companies for Composites development.

Our clients recognize our world-class engineering talent. For example, in the



last year we have partnered with Spirit and Triumph by establishing offshore engineering centers of excellence for them here in India. Our clients see great value in this service as the availability of qualified aerospace engineers continues to dwindle globally. We will continue to invest in building our engineering capability to support the future growth of this industry.

**Q: What do you envisage for India in terms of commercial aircraft industry, given the recent boom in civil aviation? How do you assess the prospects for India in developing a competitive, cost-effective commercial aviation sector?**

A: India is certainly a fast growing market for the commercial aviation industry. There are thus going to be significant investments by Indian operators and corresponding offset obligations. This represents a significant business opportunity for Indian players both in the manufacturing and services space – which is hard to ignore.

The Government policy on offsets will also give a boost to this sector in India.

**Q: Is Infosys eyeing the emerging Asian market for aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul at any level, IT or engineering?**

A: We are exploring the market and will service our clients across various geographies.

**Q: You speak of a Global Delivery Model and offshore global outsourcing. How**

**applicable is it in the field of aerospace development?**

A: All the engagements that we currently service in the Aerospace segment leverage the global delivery model. An excellent example of this is the use of the Global Delivery Model for the Design and Development of the top and bottom skin extensions on the A380 inner fixed trailing edge. For Airbus, this resulted in shorter lead time and faster roll out which in turn reduced program cost for this development.

**Q: Could you throw more light on some of your strategic alliance partners in the field of aviation, and the core missions that you are involved in?**

A: Infosys has certainly invested in alliances in the Indian Aerospace Industry. These include the MOU that we have in place with key aerospace players like HAL and NAL. We believe that these alliances would assume increasing importance towards servicing customer needs as the Aerospace practice evolves within Infosys.

Alliances for PLM - MatrixOne

**Q: You have been involved with Indian LCA, Hansa etc. What do you think is our edge in terms of global model for engineering?**

A: Infosys has invested in acquiring AUTOLAY (CADDs-Composites) from ADA which was a technology spin-off from the development for the composites structure of the LCA.

We are confident that the acknowledged

IT capabilities demonstrated by India coupled with the aerospace engineering talent available in the Government and defence research organizations will play a significant role in shaping the landscape of the Global Aerospace industry.

**Q: Infosys insists on winning in a flat world. How much more flat can the world get?**

A: Firstly, the current wave of globalization and technology adoption is just the tip of the iceberg. Though there are some concerns about the rise of protectionist sentiment, most experts expect this global integration to continue for some time. Secondly, companies are not only beneficiaries of the flat world, but are also contributing to flattening the world further.

Take Infosys itself for example. We leveraged globalization, regulatory changes, technology and demographic advantages to offer IT services and solutions through a Global Delivery Model. In other words, we used opportunities created by the flat world to become successful. At the same time, however, our success showed other companies, particularly those in the Western markets, the opportunities they have available to them and these companies started their own IT operations in India, China and other countries. In other words, by showing what is possible, our success contributed to trends that are making the world flatter even as we speak.

## Kerala: Surging ahead on the digital highway



Today, Kerala is one of the most sought after IT investment destinations in the country. A pro-enterprise Government, availability of cost-effective bandwidth, quality human resource and an unmatched cost advantage make Kerala a dream destination for IT majors. Infosys, Wipro, TCS, Sutherland, USTRI, Cognizant, IBS, Tata Elxsi, NeST, OPI, Allianz Cornhill, ACS, McKinzie and E&Y, to name a few. Within a few years of setting shop, most of these companies are ramping up their presence by having their own campuses. Besides, several infrastructure providers have entered and many others are in the process of occupying the IT space. A true endorsement of the opportunities that beckon IT investors to God's Own Country.



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