

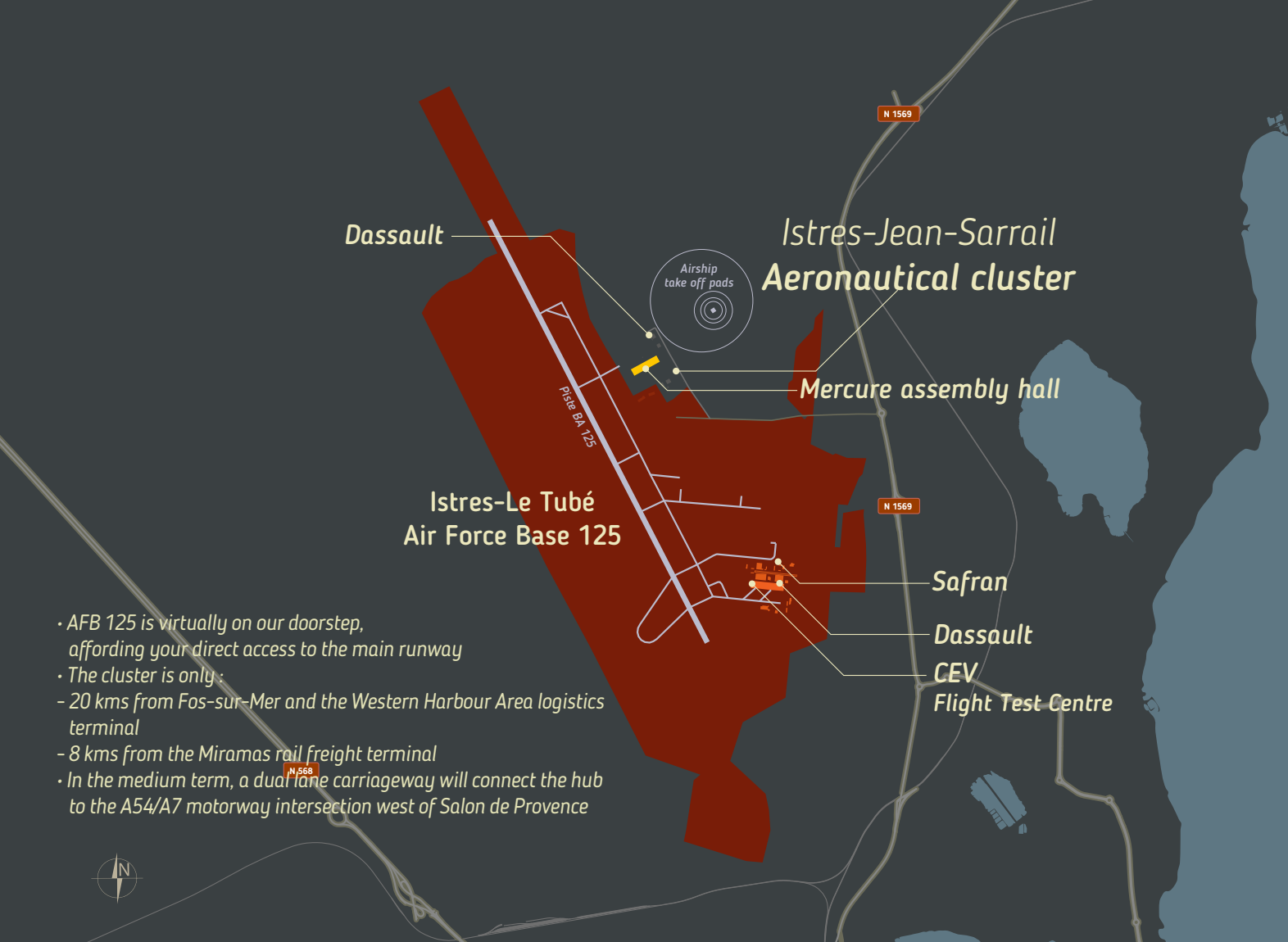


# Istres aeronautical cluster



**PÔLE**  
**AÉRONAUTIQUE**  
**ISTRES**  
**JEAN SARRAIL**

# A strategic geographical location for entrepreneurs



Geographically the cluster is ideally positioned at the crossroads of the Mediterranean basin, Northern Europe, logistics hubs for shipping, air and rail freight and some remarkable landscapes and cultural features.

Istres West Provence (IWP), showcasing entrepreneurship and bringing you :

- The biggest harbour and industrial zone in southern Europe
- The Port of Marseille Authority's Western Harbour Area
- A European gauge inland waterway system linking the Gulf of Fos to the inland harbour in Arles, Lyon and Chalon-sur-Saône
- The region's leading rail freight terminal and a high speed train connection
- Two multimodal logistics hubs to European standards including railway connections
- A European standard road and rail transport terminal

## The Istres-Jean-Sarrail aeronautical cluster

is ideally located right at the heart of a multimodal logistics hub with the Marseille-Provence international airport only 40 minutes down the road and the Aix-Marseille high speed train station 50 minutes away. The cluster features direct access to the AFB 125 main runway that can accommodate military and civilian transport aircraft.

Setting up your company on the Istres-Jean-Sarrail aeronautical cluster will afford you easy access to all kinds of freight transport modalities such as air, rail, road and shipping lines.

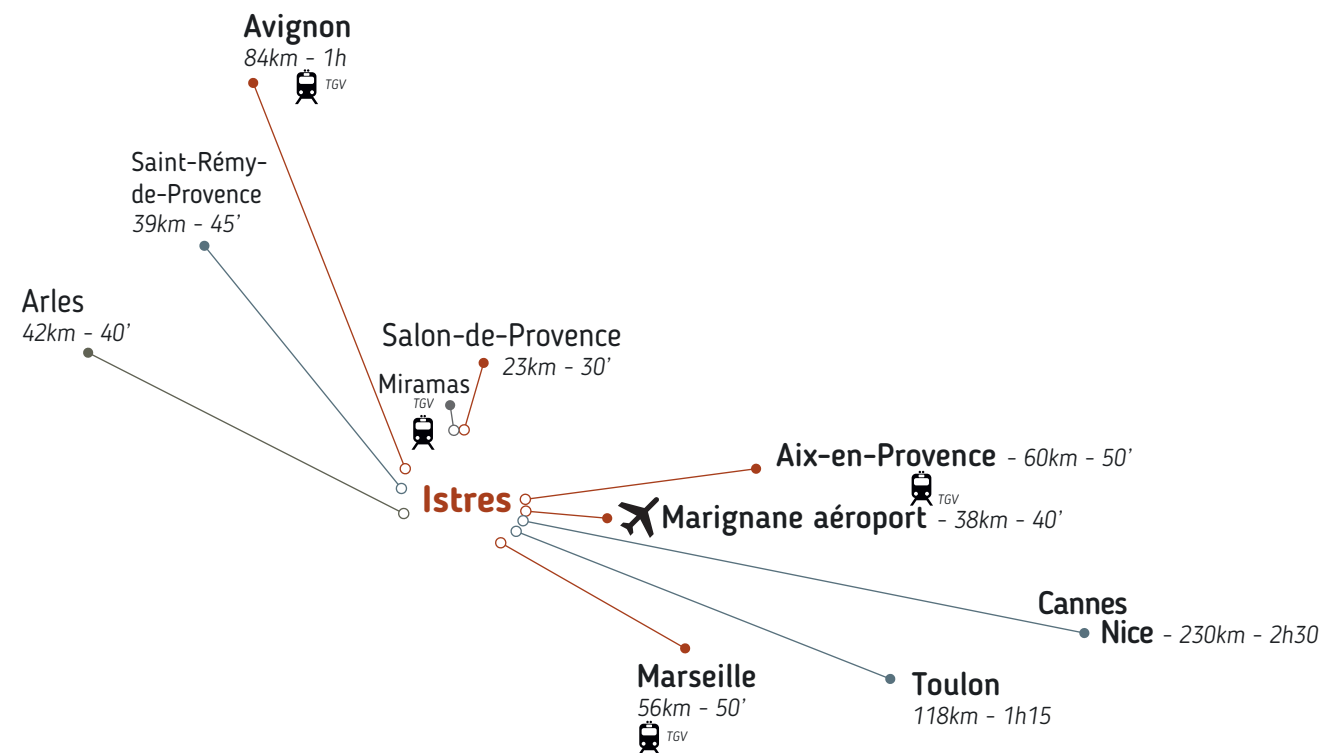
Featuring the leading port in the Mediterranean, tied into a tightly woven infrastructure with logistics hubs, IWP stands out as a world class business cluster linking Europe and the Mediterranean. The Euromediterranean Development Programme, Europe's biggest urban redevelopment programme, affords high value added services and a world class tertiary sector.

Aix-Marseille-Provence also bases its development on a diversified economy, an installed industrial base, centres of excellence in higher education, research and ten competitive business hubs. Higher education and research form a tightly woven fabric thanks to the three technology hubs in Château-Gombert, Luminy and l'Arbois which are valuable assets for supporting innovative projects.

These strategic priorities are growth-generating assets for AMP's Economic Development Agenda that has been designed to enhance quality of life for local inhabitants in terms of sustainable development, mobility, housing, business and of course, employment.

The aeronautics and mechanical engineering industry is one of the six top priorities for developing business opportunities in the area.

The Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolitan area was set up on 1 January 2016 and currently comprises 92 cities, towns and villages and 1.8 million inhabitants.



## Jean Sarrail

Jean Sarrail was a test pilot and a fighter pilot during WW2.

During the course of his career he tested more than 75 prototypes including the Mirage III, and the most famous of all, the Leduc that his name was to be associated with. He ended his career as Director of the Flight Test Centre.

He departed this world in Istres on 7 July 2012, at the ripe old age of 93.



# An industrial site focussing on aeronautics on an exceptional scale

Our culture encapsulates the industrial economy, sustained demographic growth and a young population to enhance the development of an industrial site dedicated to aeronautics on an exceptional scale.

The site covers almost 33 hectares :

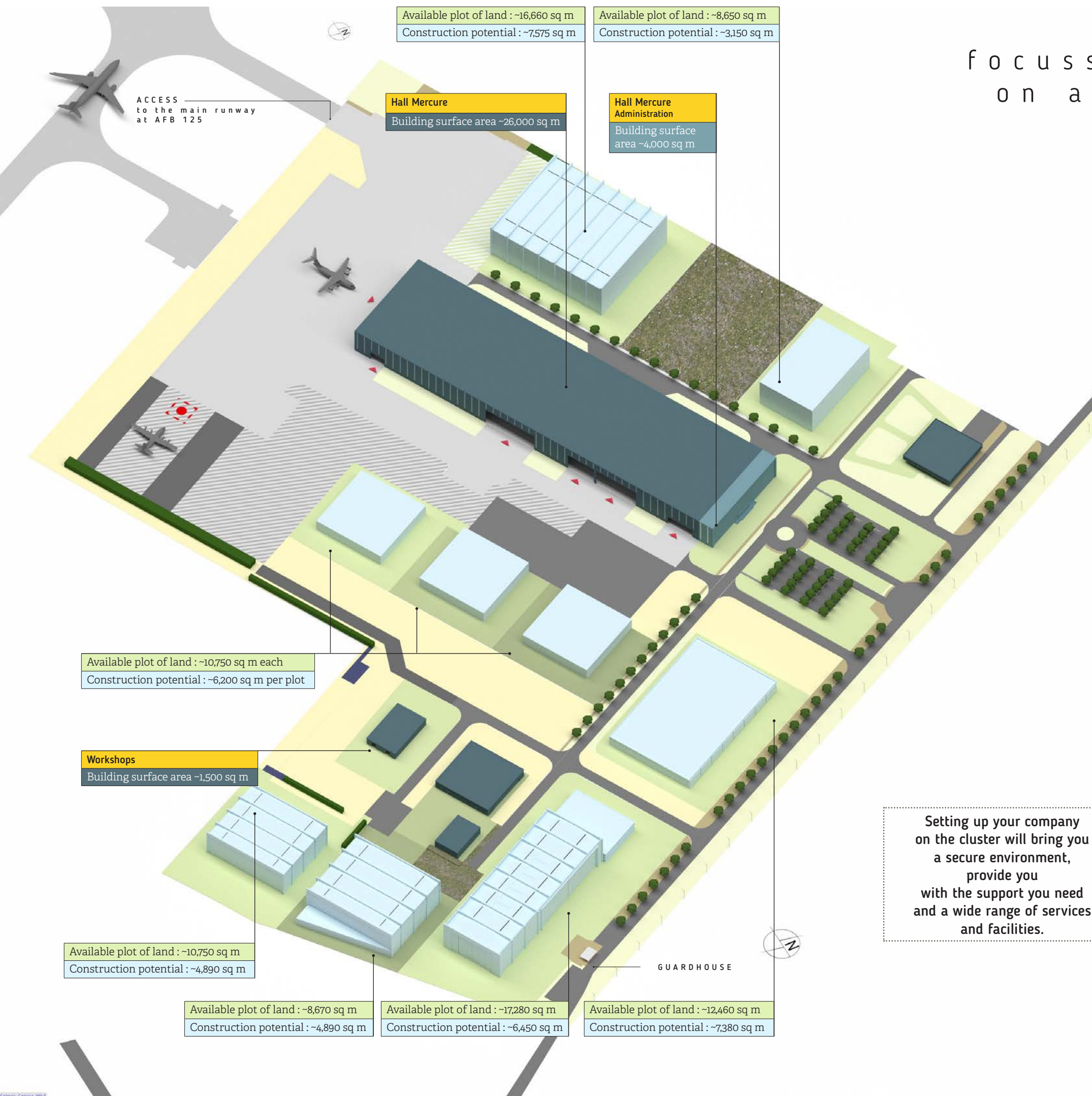
- 4.5 hectares specifically dedicated to aeronautics with direct access to the runway
- 6 hectares readily available for aeronautics and particularly for the Airship Village project which is to become the industrial hallmark for the airship industry
- The Mercure assembly hall : comprising 26,000 sq m (including 20,000 sq m of floor space for workshops and a further 6000 sq m on the mezzanine floor), comprising 4,000 sq m of tertiary sector floor space divided into 750 sq m standalone units on the eastern side of the building
- A 7 meters high, single storey, 1,500 sq m workshop, at the southern end of the zone, refurbished in 2017, to Labour code standards. This building can accommodate staff and equipment from AFB 125 via the gate that opens onto the runway in addition to affording plenty of scope for development and expansion.

The Istres-Jean-Sarrail aeronautical cluster can cater to many solutions for buying or renting office space and land for construction.

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Setting up your company on the cluster will bring you a secure environment, provide you with the support you need and a wide range of services and facilities.



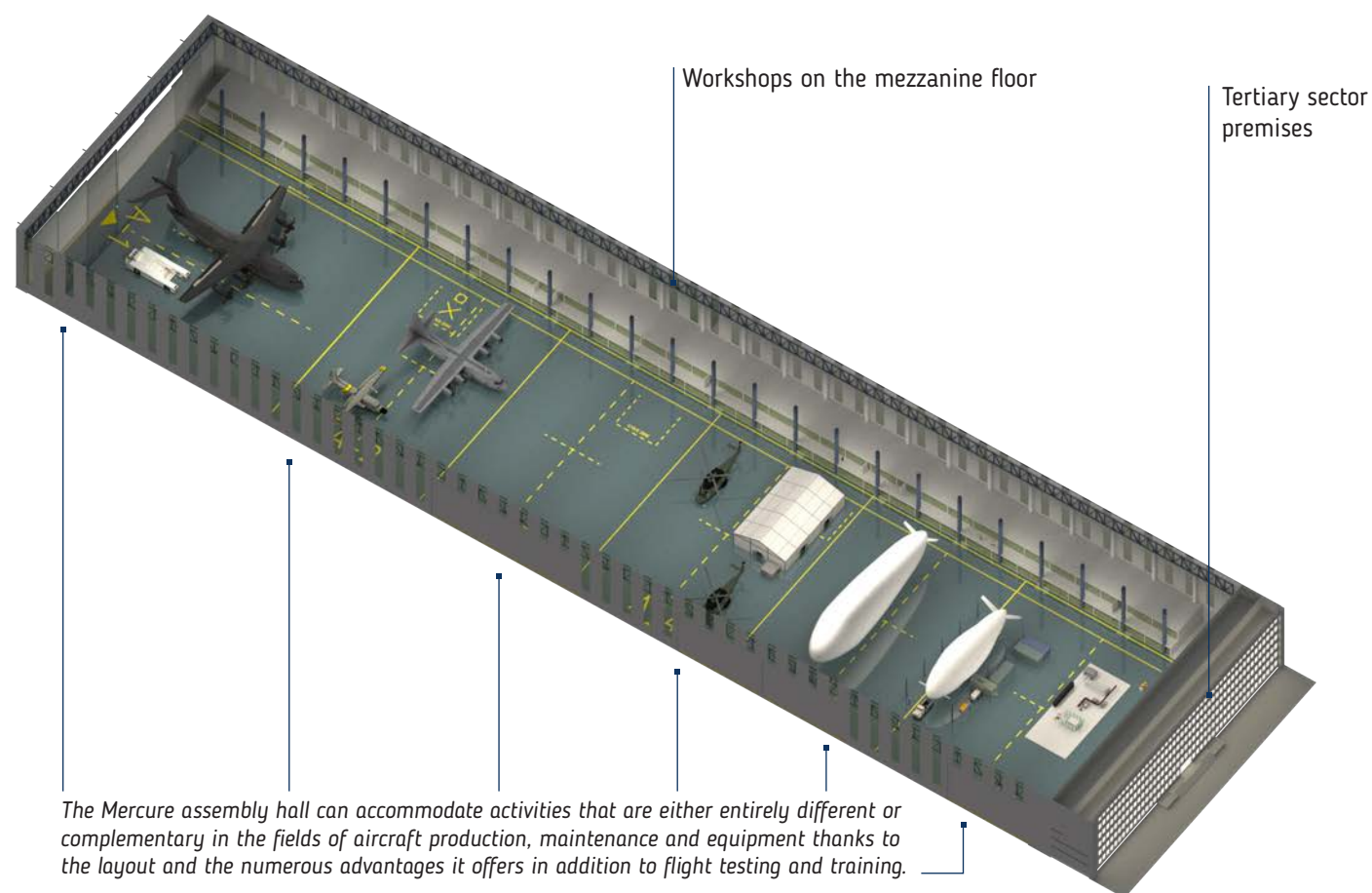




The Mercure assembly hall : affording direct access to one of the longest runways in Europe

## An ideally located industrial building of exceptional dimensions

The Mercure assembly hall is a 26,000 sq m industrial asset (comprising 20,000 sq m of workshop space and 6,000 sq m on the mezzanine floor), with 4,000 sq m of tertiary sector floor space divided into 750 sq m standalone units on the eastern side of the building.



When you set up your company on the Istres-Jean-Sarrail cluster, you will be part of the R&D dynamics.



Up until 1975, the building was used for assembling the Mercure commercial aircraft which was Europe's first ever non-military aircraft programme and that was entrusted to Dassault Aviation as the industrial architect.

### This industrial building of exceptional dimensions will be available in 2019

Mercure assembly hall offers floor space of 20,000 sq m to a height of 17 m up to the roof frame. Workflows can be organized to include six workspaces of 4,000 sq m on average in addition to lab space and offices.

This building is right next door to a unique centre of expertise that is in a class of its own where you can test if your new applications are viable in addition to certifying aircraft.

With the deployment of the Airship Village project, the SAFE CLUSTER competitiveness hub is working on a platform project that will offer certification support services, testing and the new factory of the future organizational set-up.

All of these premises are ideal for aircraft maintenance and equipment requirements in addition to responding to the needs of cutting edge technology companies with offices that are fit for purpose for innovative aircraft R&D.





Stratobus ©Thales Alenia Space - Emmanuelle Briot



## A growth-generating ecosystem unique in Europe

Istres and AFB 125 have been the scene of a number of test flights and the very first public demonstration flight of NEURON the European combat drone for which Dassault Aviation is prime contractor under the authority of the DGA.

2016 © Ville d'Istres

When you set up your company on the cluster, you will become part of an integrated aeronautical supply chain

The cluster will be home to the AIRSHIP Village project and be the industrial nerve centre for the AIRSHIP industry of tomorrow as planned by the «Transport and Industry of the Future» programme to be managed by the SAFE Cluster competitiveness hub under the aegis of the Ministry of the Economy. In 2019 the STRATOBUS™ platform will deploy the TD1 demonstrator developed by THALES ALENIA SPACE. The lighter-than-air airship will service permanent observation and telecom assignments from an altitude of 20km.

The Regional Authorities have decided to provide support for and be a stakeholder in new airborne services with an innovative territorial marketing approach. The Region will be supporting the development of airborne applications in the fields of observation, detection, surveillance, rescue, telecommunications, heavy load transportation, according to a sustainable development model.

Accordingly, the Istres-Jean-Sarrail hub will fit into the Regional Operations Development endeavour and more specifically logistics, sustainable mobility and the industry of the future

In the immediate vicinity of AFB 125 and associated aeronautical facilities, a true centre of expertise dedicated to testing and certification has materialized in Istres thanks to Government and companies from the aeronautical sector.

Setting up your company on the aeronautical cluster in Istres will afford you a highly integrated aeronautical environment and ecosystem

Charles Monier AFB 125 is a prime asset for the French Air Force as the main runway is 5,000 metres long and is one of the longest in Europe. The base has test and evaluation facilities that the Air Force and the Fleet Air Arm use for flight testing, in addition to aircraft manufacturers and equipment providers working for the defense industry such as DASSAULT, THALES and SAFRAN.

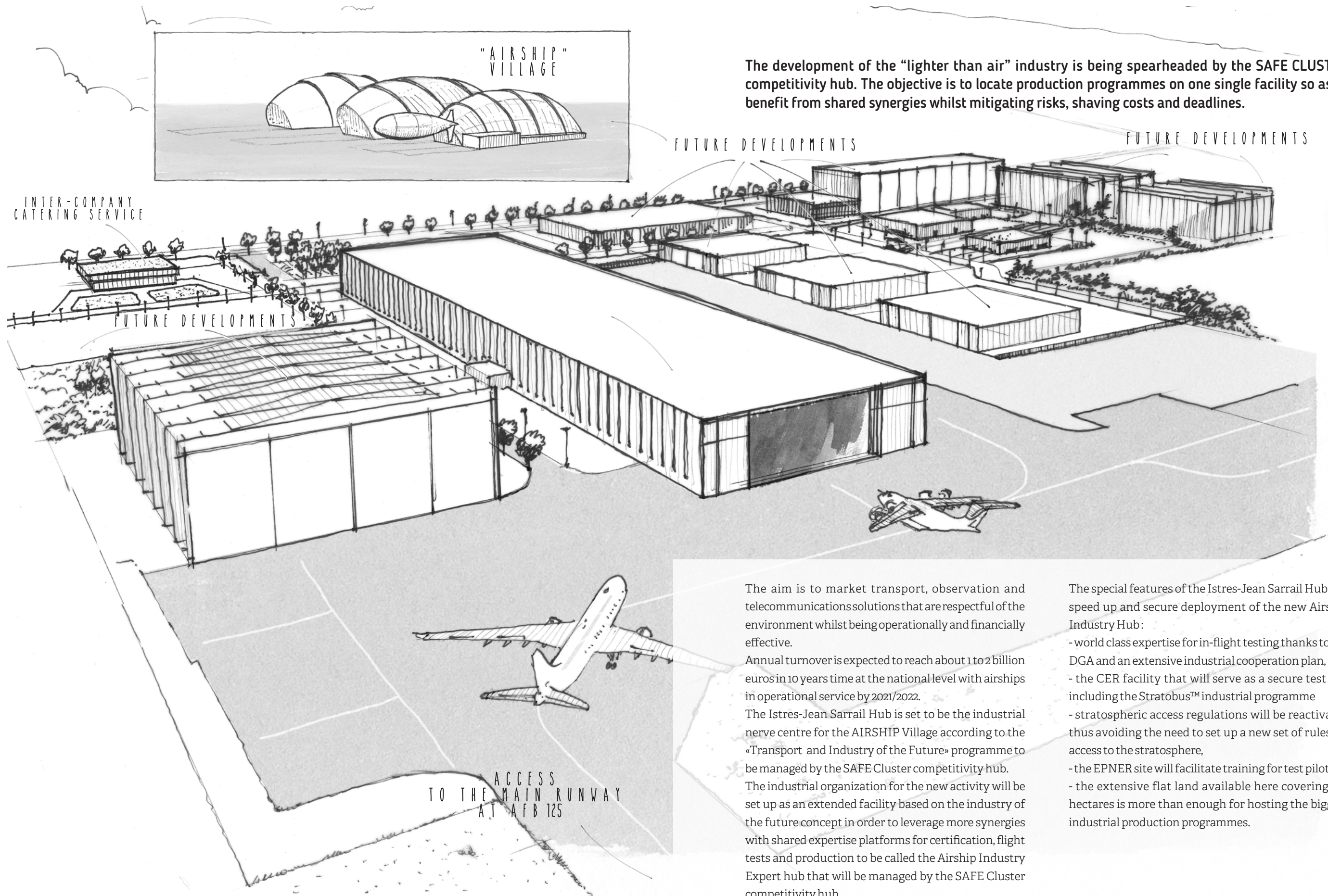
Given the length of the runway and the safety equipment available here, the base has been used for emergency landings by distressed civilian aircraft in addition to being a potential landing facility for the US Space Shuttle. The base has a world class skills and expertise centre for flight simulation and ground or airborne flight testing, thanks to the DGA *in-flight* testing centre and the test centres belonging to the aeronautical firms on site involving a network of more than 1,500 experts.

The fact that SAFRAN just chose Istres as its new test bench shows how real leading edge skills are.

The «Istres-Jean-Sarrail» cluster is close nearby and is part of the Aix-Marseille Metropolitan area where AIRBUS Helicopters are already operating (in Marignane) in addition to providing a tightly woven network of aeronautics subcontractors.

Istres is hosting the Training centre for UIMM technology industries in addition to a new technical aeronautical facility in connection with the airship industry and the aviation cluster.





View of the project pending regulatory and administrative clearance.

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