

New airship to be developed in Friedrichshafen

Friedrichshafen - Following the successful introduction of the Zeppelin Neuer Technologie NT 07, the corporate members of ZLT Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH & Co KG have given the starting signal for a larger version and preparation work for its first production series.

The airship will be known as the NT 14, with the figure 14 standing for the volume of approximately 14,000 cu.m. The NT 14 will be about 85 m long and have a diameter of about 16 m. It will be manufactured in Friedrichshafen.

The success of the Zeppelin NT 07 in the past years and in 2004 in particular has led to a growing interest in Zeppelin airships world-wide. In order to be able to offer a market-oriented and economically interesting product in the short term, ZLT Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH & Co KG began mid-2004 to examine the technical and economical aspects of a larger version. These initial studies showed that the best cost-benefit effects could be achieved by increasing passenger capacity to 19 while retaining most of the important sub-systems. Increasing passenger capacity to 19 means that the NT 14 will be certified in the same category as the NT 07, thus allowing experience gained on the latter to be used to the full. Certification by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) will be decisively simpler. Many systems such as powerplant, cockpit, flight controls and important ground equipment will remain unchanged, thus helping to keep development costs and time low. Flight operation profitability of the larger version will, therefore, be greater than that of the NT 07.

The corporate members of ZLT Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH & Co KG have given the starting signal for the development of the NT 14. In addition, they have also given the go-ahead for a first production series for the international market and commercial operation through the ZLT-owned Deutsche Zeppelin Reederei. Development and construction is to get underway immediately so that the first Zeppelin NT 14 can start commercial flights in the autumn of 2008.

In an initial statement, the President and CEO of ZLT Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH & Co KG, Dr. Bernd Sträter, expressed his pleasure at the decision. „After a Zeppelin NT 07 was delivered to the Japanese company Nippon Airship Corporation and hangar capacity became available, the corporate members have quickly taken a strategically far-reaching decision which is of great importance not only to the market but also to our employees. All the employees are highly motivated and eager to face this new challenge,“ Dr. Sträter remarked.

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PRESSEINFORMATION



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