

A350 Track Cans

The new kid on the block...

During the last couple of months at Aerosud the very first A350 trackcans have taken shape after many months of preparation, planning and trials. As one of the latest programmes undertaken by Aerosud the new programme is still in children's shoes and as with children it is still experiencing growing pains. The intensity of the growing pains have however been dampened to a certain degree, the years of experience gained from the A320 track can sister programme has proven most useful in developing and implementing the new A350 track can programme at Aerosud. The trackcans will be installed on the leading edge of the new A350 Airbus to accommodate the leading edge slat mechanism retracting into the fuel tank behind the main spar. There are 22 trackcans in a set, 11 on each wing.



A trackcan assembly consists of the centre section, end cap, flange and nozzle. The detail components are welded together and undergo a variety of heat and surface treatments before the assembly is finally painted. A chromate free anodizing process is used in combination with a water based paint system which is kinder to the environment. The programme is a pioneer in being the first programme to use a water based paint at Aerosud.

The end cap and centre section are both formed parts while the flange and nozzle are machined parts. The tools used to produce the somewhat challenging centre section shape have been developed at Aerosud and the centre sections are also manufactured in-house. Trimming of the centre sections before welding still remains a challenge and a new trimming method is in development to ease and speed up production. The manufacturing of the end cap, flange and nozzle have been entrusted to both local and international suppliers.

As with all new programmes in the industrialization phase there are many new challenges that need overcoming in order to succeed in the end, and with every ship set of trackcans delivered the road forward becomes smoother. So far we have delivered the first full Shipset and in the process of completing the shipping of Shipset 2 & 3.

*A350 Track cans
By Herman Steyfler*

