

Sonaca 200 takes off

The new reference of aviation training Sonaca 200 impresses users and generates pre-orders.

Key facts

- Sonaca 200 is the name that has just been assigned to the first aircraft assembled, in Belgium, by Sonaca Aircraft.
- The aircraft stands out on the market of general aviation thanks to its stunning flight performances and characteristics, its reliability and reduced operational cost.
- While under ongoing certification, the aircraft registers pre-orders from the first European customers.

In late 2015, the Sonaca group announced the creation of the subsidiary "Sonaca Aircraft" dedicated to the development, certification and market launch of a new training aircraft named Sonaca 200. The two-seater single-engine, specifically designed for pilots' training and leisure flights, is currently under certification.

An aircraft designed by and for pilots

Sonaca Aircraft gambled on starting from the users' needs. Pierre Van Wetter, Marketing & Sales Director of Sonaca Aircraft details "We chose to meet key-players from all over Europe (flight schools, aero clubs and private pilots) in order to help us define the specifications. This is when the idea of designing a single-engine two-seater aircraft dedicated to training and leisure was hatched. Our objective was clearly to develop the most appropriate machine to meet the market expectations."

The aerodynamic performances, the easygoing handling capability and reliability make the aircraft ideally suited for pilots' training.

A « made in Belgium » aircraft EASA certified

A demonstration aircraft is currently being tested in Belgium and neighbouring countries. "The first feedbacks from users are excellent. We are identifying the last modifications to be made. These are mostly structural and aim at improving the reliability, the robustness and maintenance cost" declares Pierre Van Wetter.

Sonaca 200 will be EASA¹ certified for a maximum take-off weight (MTOW²) of 750kg and cruise speed of 115 knots³. In addition to the obtention of the type certification, Sonaca Aircraft has initiated a procedure of DOA⁴ et POA⁵ certification. « The production site will be certified according to European norms. We will be allowed, to a certain extent, to modify the aircraft without introducing new certification requests; which will enable us to limit costs, to be autonomous and reactive » states Pierre Van Wetter.

Ambitious and innovative industrial project

With a capital of more than 2 millions euros, Sonaca Aircraft is owned at 65% by the aeronautic supplier Sonaca and at 35% by The Airplane Factory. « Benefitting from the financial support of renowned industrial actors guarantees a financial solidarity to the project and enables us to move forward quickly with the commercialisation of the aircraft" Yves Delatte comments, CEO of Sonaca Aircraft.

¹ EASA CS-VLA : European Aviation Safety Agency Certification Specification for Very Light Aircraft

² MTOW : Maximum Take-Off Weight (Masse maximale au décollage)

³ 115 knots correspond to 213 km/h.

⁴ DOA : Design Organization Approval

⁵ POA : Production Organization Approval

On the general aviation market, the aircraft stands out thanks to reduced maintenance cost, low fuel consumption (including unleaded gasoline) and quality of the after-sales service. "As subsidiary of the Sonaca group (direct supplier of Airbus, Dassault, Embraer and Bombardier), Sonaca Aircraft offers a technical support of international class to its aircrafts, including delivery of replacement parts and repair solutions within 48h in order to minimise aircraft grounding » contends Yves Delatte.

Assembled in Belgium, the aircraft is already commercialised. The first deliveries are planned for (end) 2017. A 4-seater version of the machine is being studied.

Sonaca 200 Technical specifications

ENGINE :

- BRP Rotax 914 F – 115 hp

SEATS :

- Number of seats : 2

DIMENSIONS :

- Wingspan : 9,15 m
- Length : 7 m

WEIGHT AND LOAD :

- Empty weight : 430 kg
- Maximal mass at take-off : 750 kg
- Fuel capacity : 140 l (2 x 70 l)

PERFORMANCES :

- Max cruise speed : 115 knots
- Climb rate : 750 feet per minute

STRUCTURE :

- Fuselage and wings : Aluminium Alloy
- Landing gear : Fibreglass + epoxy resin

CONSOMMATION :

- 18 l/hour

PRICE :

- Base rate (March 2016) : 175 000 euros.

Photo Sonaca 200



Notice to editors

Pictures available upon request from frederique.jacobs@jacobs-pr.com.

About Sonaca Aircraft

Sonaca Aircraft is a new subsidiary of Sonaca. The company capital is owned by Sonaca, The Airplane Factory (TAF) and the co-founders of Sonaca Aircraft: Sophie Lancereau, Carl Mengdelh et Pierre Van Wetter.

Sonaca Aircraft combines the expertise and know-how of both companies : the engineering, certification and production from Sonaca's side, the design and assembly from TAF's side.

Sonaca Aircraft's primary objective is to develop, certify and commercialise a new two-seater aircraft specifically designed and adapted for training and leisure.

An initial prototype was assembled, in April 2015, at Johannesburg and brought to « Brussels South Charleroi Airport » after a journey of 8 days and more than 55 hours of flight time throughout Africa.

More information : www.sonaca-aircraft.com

Contacts



Pierre Van Wetter
Head of Marketing & Sales
Sonaca Aircraft
Email : pierre.vanwetter@sonaca-aircraft.com
Tel : +32 71 25 57 61



Frédérique Jacobs
External Communication
For Sonaca Aircraft
Email : frederique.jacobs@jacobs-pr.com
Tel : +32 479 429 636