DEUTSCHE AIRCRAFT HIGHLIGHTED SUSTAINABLE AVIATION PROGRESS AND D328ECO AT ILA BERLIN 2026

News / Events / Festivals, Manufacturer

At ILA Berlin 2026, Deutsche Aircraft showcased its continued progress in sustainable regional aviation, highlighting the research?driven achievements supporting the development and industrialisation of the next?generation D328eco turboprop. Company's presence underscores its long?term contribution to Germany's climate?compatible aviation research landscape, including activities supported under the LuFo Klima programme. Over recent years, Deutsche Aircraft has focused its research and validation activities on propulsion, fuels, structures and noise, establishing a consistent, evidence?based approach to advancing climate?compatible aviation solutions.

Fredric Fischer, Director Roadmap & Innovation at Deutsche Aircraft commented: "ILA Berlin 2026 gives us the opportunity to demonstrate how research excellence, strong partnerships and a clear industrial roadmap come together to advance sustainable regional aviation.Our focus is on turning validated research into reliable, certifiable aircraft solutions,"

Lars Brandt, R&T Program Manager at Deutsche Aircraft added: "At ILA 2026, we show how flight?test data, structural validation and fuel?compatibility research are systematically integrated into the D328eco programme to support on?time, industrial?ready development."

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At ILA Berlin 2026, the company demonstrates how applied research is delivering measurable and verifiable impact in support of the D328eco's industrial objectives:

- **Clean combustion & SAF readiness:** Demonstrated operation with 100% synthetic, zero?aromatic fuel, combined with ongoing cooperation with Pratt & Whitney Canada to advance Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) compatibility – supporting a sustainable entry into service and reinforcing Germany's leadership in clean?fuel research.
- **Advanced testing:** Extensive structural and vibration testing campaigns provide high?fidelity data to improve structural modelling accuracy and enable seamless systems integration.
- **Acoustic optimisation:** Precision modelling and flight?test data are used to develop a noise certification strategy targeting performance beyond current regulatory requirements for regional turboprop aircraft.

This integration of national research programmes with industrial aircraft development reflects Deutsche Aircraft's long?standing commitment to reliable and certifiable innovation.

As part of its static display at ILA Berlin 2026, the German Aerospace Center presents the D328 UpLift research aircraft in its current configuration, illustrating the instrumentation and systems infrastructure used for ongoing validation trials.

The aircraft features a preliminary research cabin and visible external measurement equipment, including a nose?mounted air data boom. These elements demonstrate how aerodynamic, environmental and systems data are gathered during flight?test and research campaigns, offering visitors direct insight into the technical foundation supporting the development of future regional aircraft.

Deutsche Aircraft works closely with DLR and key industry partners to reinforce Germany's role across the global sustainable aviation value chain – from research and validation to industrial execution.

A highlight of this collaboration is the UpLift-D328-Simulator, presented by DLR at the show. The simulator serves as a ground?based virtual testing environment supporting flight?test preparation, mission planning and systems?integration activities. It enables the evaluation of research missions and pilot?training concepts in a virtual setting, contributing to risk reduction and efficient development within Germany's aviation research ecosystem.

By showcasing the technical foundation of the D328eco, Deutsche Aircraft strengthens Germany's aviation research ecosystem and continues to mature the technologies required to bring a climate?compatible regional aircraft to the global market.

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