



EU ITAKA project and KLM perform the longest worldwide commercial flight program using sustainable aviation biofuels

- Europe's major biojet fuel initiative, ITAKA (*Initiative Towards sustAinable Kerosene for Aviation*), has launched today (May 16th) its first demonstration flights thanks to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines program, to strive for a 1% mix of sustainable biofuel use by 2015.
- Alternative fuels for aviation are highlighted in the EU environmental agenda as a top priority, aiming to achieve an annual production of two million tonnes of sustainably produced biofuels by 2020.

Framed on ITAKA project, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has launched today, May 16th, the first set of a program with 20 long-haul biojet flights using an Airbus A330-200 aircraft, which will be the longest worldwide commercial flight program using sustainable aviation biofuel reported to date.

Departing from Schiphol airport (The Netherlands), the aircraft will fly to Aruba and Bonaire *sustainable islands* in the Dutch Caribbean as part of an agenda of activities focused on sustainability. The first flight will be received by the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mr. Michiel Godfried Eman.

The fuel to be used in the first flights consists of a 20% blend of Used Cooking Oil-based (UCO) renewable jet fuel supplied by ITAKA partner SkyNRG and standard fossil kerosene. This blend is fully ASTM D1655 compliant and, therefore, suitable for commercial flight operations. Progressively, the biofuel production for the next set of flights programmed within the project is foreseen to come from an energy crop, *Camelina sativa*, which is being currently grown and processed for this purpose.

These demonstration activities represent the longest program of commercial biojet flights reported to date. The outcomes of these flights will generate valuable data such as engine and fuel systems performance as a result of the biofuel use. These data will be compared against standard fossil kerosene usage parameters in order to assess its behavior and promote the use of biofuels in the aviation sector.

The European Union (EU) is seen as a leader in global environmental policies and is well-known for its ambitious targets regarding GHG reduction. As a result, there is a strong commitment for greening the aviation sector. This objective has been structured along several axes, such as the **Clean Sky Joint Technology Initiative** (a public-private partnership dedicated to the development of new, green airframes and engines), the **EU Single European Sky Advanced Research (SESAR) Programme to modernise the European air-traffic management system**, and the **development of alternative fuels for aviation**, under which biofuels are considered, but also non-biomass and non-fossil based fuels. ITAKA is an on-going example of EU research and innovation efforts towards the development of sustainable biofuels for aviation.

The main objective of the ITAKA Project is to support the development of aviation biofuels in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner, improving the readiness of existing technology and infrastructures. The project counts with the cooperation of 11 partners from 8 European countries (SENASA, NESTE Oil, Airbus Group, Camelina Company España, Manchester Metropolitan University, RE-CORD, SkyNRG, CLH, EPFL and Biotechgen) and a representative from the Brazilian aircraft manufacturing industry, Embraer.

This demonstration flights program is the result of a collaborative effort that reflects the EU and aviation sector aim to make air transport compatible with the current global environmental challenges.


About ITAKA: www.itaka-project.eu ;


Further info & interviews: Dr. Inmaculada Gómez
igomez@senasa.es




This project is co-funded by
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Partners


	SENASA Project Coordinator
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	Airbus Group
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	Asociația Centrul de Biotehnologii Microbiene BIOTEHGEN
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	Camelina Company España (CCE)
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	Compañía Logística de Hidrocarburos S.A. (CLH)
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	Consorzio per la Ricerca e la Dimostrazione Sulle Energie Rinnovabili (RE-CORD)
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	École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
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	EMBRAER
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	Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)
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	Neste Oil
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	SkyNRG
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Collaborators

	KLM
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