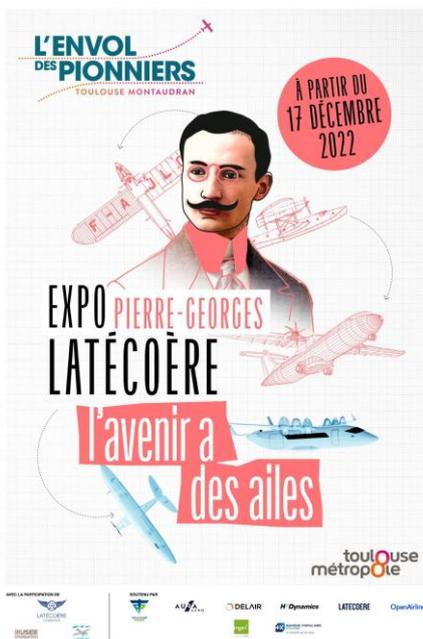


NEW 2022/2024: EXHIBITION

**“Pierre Georges Latécoère, The Future Has Wings”:
an interactive exhibition exploring the challenges for
aviation pioneers past and present**

PRESS PREVIEW TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION
Thursday 15 December at 1.30 p.m.



Starting on Saturday, December 17, 2022, through an original museological facility, Pierre Georges Latécoère, aeronautics pioneer, is “back” thanks to this new exhibition at the Montaudran site in Toulouse, which he established over 100 years ago... Its objective? Share his experience as a visionary entrepreneur and help visitors meet today’s aviation challenges. L'Envol des Pionniers offers a new temporary exhibition dedicated to Pierre Georges Latécoère, originator of the great history of aviation in Toulouse. More than a century after the construction of the first aviation plant in Toulouse, in the Montaudran district, Pierre Georges Latécoère returns to the location of his assembly site, on the exact spot of L'Envol des Pionniers. Through staging and re-enactments, the exhibition reveals to visitors Pierre Georges Latécoère’s career and shares with them his experience as a visionary entrepreneur in the 1920s. What if this experience could help us to shed light on and address today’s aeronautical issues? Through an interactive and fun itinerary, visitors can “follow” the wise advice of Pierre Georges Latécoère in order to imagine the aircraft of tomorrow, and their proper use... And discover what today’s Toulouse pioneers, faithful heirs of Pierre Georges Latécoère, are imagining... The future has wings!

OPEN DOORS WEEKEND 17 and 18 December

For the opening of the exhibition “*Pierre Georges Latécoère, The Future Has Wings,*” L'Envol des Pionniers invites the public to an Open Doors Weekend, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 December 2022, with many activities for all the family.

DISCOVER THE CHALLENGES OVERCOME BY AVIATION PIONEER PIERRE GEORGE LATÉCOÈRE

Starting on Saturday, December 17, 2022, L'Envol des Pionniers will be presenting an original exhibition on the entrepreneur and founding father of postal aviation, the Aéropostale: **Pierre Georges Latécoère.**

In an immersive scenography that immerses visitors in the atmosphere of the aircraft assembly workshops of the 1920s, the exhibition retraces the journey of this visionary who built the foundations of Toulouse, **one of the world’s aerospace capitals on the historic site of L'Envol des Pionniers.**

A LITTLE HISTORY...

*It all began in 1917, right in the midst of the First World War. Pierre Georges Latécoère, then head of a company manufacturing wooden wagons, responded to a request by the French government and set up in Toulouse, in the **district of Montaudran** (on the current site of **L'Envol des Pionniers**), the region’s first aerospace construction company. In just six **months**, **he, who had never built any aircraft**, managed to deliver up to six aircraft a day to the French army.*

*Anticipating the end of the war, Pierre Georges Latécoère refocused his company and decided to **convert his military aircraft into civilian ones** and to use unemployed pilots from the First World War.*

The exhibition **“Pierre Georges Latécoère, The Future Has Wings”** thus retraces the path of this pioneer who, when no-one wanted to believe him, managed to achieve the impossible: **to create air routes connecting people across several continents beyond deserts, oceans and mountains.**

From Toulouse to Barcelona on 25 December 1918, then from Toulouse to Rabat in Morocco the following year, continuing through Dakar in Senegal (1925) and from Buenos Aires to Brazil (1929), Pierre-Georges Latécoère managed to found a truly international-scale aeronautical organisation in a few years.

Through many historical objects and original mediation features, the visitor will meet this man who transformed the airline industry and the future of Toulouse. Through loans from the *Latécoère Foundation* and the *Musée de l'Hydraviation de Biscarrosse*, the exhibition invites visitors to discover the most emblematic aircraft such as the **Laté 28**, the **Laté 300** or the **Laté 521** seaplane.

Henceforth, the distribution of mail would not only be done by trains or boats but also by air... On December 25, 1918, accompanied by pilot René Cornemont, the entrepreneur flew from the Toulouse-Montaudran airfield to Barcelona. This was the very first reconnaissance flight of the Lignes Aériennes Latécoère.

INSPIRED AND INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF TODAY'S NEW PIONEERS

*The exhibition offers a space dedicated to today's Toulouse entrepreneurs, committed to continuing the legacy left by Pierre-Georges Latécoère. **Pioneers in their industry, they dared to go beyond technological limits to develop clean, reliable and efficient aircraft and solutions for tomorrow's aviation.***

The public will find out about six partner companies (Aura Aero, Delair, Latécoère, Openairlines, H3Dynamics), engaged in the decarbonisation of the air sector through iconic projects such as the Delair company's hydrogen drone or the start-up Aura Aero's model of their electric aircraft.

IMAGINING THE PLANE OF THE FUTURE WITH TODAY'S AVIATION PIONEERS

Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to participate in **a challenge on tomorrow's aviation**. The exhibition invites the public to familiarise themselves with **the new environmental issues for aviation** through an interactive tour and the presentation of current experiences of pioneering Toulouse entrepreneurs working to decarbonise aviation.

Thus, while drawing inspiration from the pioneering values of Pierre Georges Latécoère, visitors, children and adults alike, will have to **imagine a sustainable aircraft or drone**. To do this, they will have to **form a team**, define the energy they want to use (hydrogen, electricity, etc.), explore their impact on the design of the aircraft and define routes to consume less or reduce their carbon footprint...

The visit of the exhibition will end “with” Pierre Georges Latécoère who, thanks to an original facility, will address the visitors directly to decode with them the choices they made during their challenge. The right time to remember **the values of a pioneer: boldness, courage, perseverance, rigour...**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Exhibition to be explored from Saturday 17 December 2022 until December 2024.

Admission with the purchase of a ticket to L'Envol des Pionniers including permanent and temporary exhibitions.

REQUEST FOR ACCREDITATION FOR THE PRESS PREVIEW VISIT on 15 December at 13.30

To take part, please register for accreditation with **Florence Seroussi** f.seroussi@semeccel.com or **Nils Barba** n.barba@semeccel.com

SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

> Open Doors - free admission on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 December 2022

The Envol des Pionniers invites the public to a special “open doors” weekend on the weekend of December 17 and 18, 2022 with access to all its permanent and temporary exhibitions and many events for all the family, free of charge

> Special “2022 Christmas holiday” programming: special events for the whole family

Find out more <https://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com/>

The Envol des Pionniers is a facility of Toulouse Métropole.

SEMECCCEL operates scientific culture sites dedicated to all audiences: the Cité de l'Espace and L'Envol des Pionniers. Learn more at: www.semeccel.com

This exhibition was produced with the participation of:

La Fondation Latécoère and Le Musée de l'Hydraviation and L'Association Laté 28

This exhibition is supported by:

Toulouse Pioneers, Aura Aero, Delair, H3Dynamics, Latécoère, OpenAirlines, MGEN, Banque Populaire Occitane

ABOUT L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS AND SEMECCEL

Dedicated to the early days of aeronautics, the creation of the Lignes Aériennes Latécoère and Aéropostale and the birth of Air France, L'Envol des Pionniers is located in Toulouse Montaudran, on the historic site from which the Aéropostale planes left between 1918 and 1933 for Africa and South America. L'Envol des Pionniers brings back to life this human adventure that contributed to the birth of civil aviation, making Toulouse one of the world's aeronautics capitals. L'Envol des Pionniers is a facility of Toulouse Métropole, opened at the end of 2018 with the support of the Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region and the ERDF and with the participation of the Ministry of National Education and partners Altran, Ailes Anciennes de Toulouse and INA.

L'Envol des Pionniers is managed by SEMECCEL, a mixed economy company created at the initiative of the City of Toulouse, whose shareholders are Toulouse Métropole, the City of Toulouse, the Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, CNES, Airbus Defence and Space, Météo-France (founding members of the Cité de l'Espace) as well as Thales Alenia Space, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations and Caisse d'Epargne de Midi-Pyrénées. L'Envol des Pionniers has as partners MGEN, La Banque Populaire Occitane, ENEDIS, Aura Aero, Latécoère, Delair, OpenAirlines, H3Dynamics and is also supported by the association Les Amis de L'Envol des Pionniers.

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