

# L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS

TOULOUSE

PRESS PACK

A LEGENDARY SITE

toulouse  
métropole

# L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS

## TOULOUSE

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS explains the adventure of the Aéropostale and its aviators, Antoine de Saint Exupéry, Jean Mermoz, Henri Guillaumet, on its historic site at Toulouse-Montaudran.



**20 DEC 2018**  
**OPENING OF THE SITE**  
History of L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS



**2H 30MINS**  
**ON AVERAGE**  
for a visit to L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS



**35,000**  
**VISITORS**  
hosted each year  
(excluding the Covid context)



**1200 M²**  
of permanent and  
temporary  
**EXHIBITIONS**

## WHO SHOULD VISIT L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS?

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS is accessible to all audiences, regardless of visitors' ages, children and adults. The site's staff are aware of hosting visitors with disabilities and the exhibitions have the advantage of facilities suitable for the various forms of disability (subtitling, braille, level access, etc.).

To sum up,  
L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS is  
aimed at everyone who is  
curious!

# THE BASICS

## AN AUTHENTIC SITE, RICH IN HUMAN CHALLENGES AND AVIATION ADVENTURES ...

**A PERMANENT EXPOSITION** to relive the major moments of the beginnings of civil aviation in Toulouse and its pioneers with a series of human stories: Les Lignes Aériennes Latécoère and La Compagnie Générale Aéropostale which contributed to the birth of Air France. The site invites you to discover an adventure which is both human and technological.

**A TEAM OF PRESENTERS** in period costume to immerse visitors in the heart of the 1920s in the early days of mail transport by air. A journey to encounter the pioneers of aviation in Toulouse through the characters of the time: pilots, mechanics, passengers, canvas-workers.

### A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION:

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

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!

**THE GUIDED TOUR, "LE TOUR DE PISTE" [THE RUNWAY TOUR],** to explore the historic places which make up L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS such as the General Stores, workshops, Château Petit-Espinet Raynal, the airfield, the Radio House, the Mail Car.

**A SCREENING AND CONFERENCE THEATRE** to immerse yourself in images from the history of the Toulouse-Montaudran historic site.

## ... AND LEGENDARY AIRCRAFT AND VEHICLES

A life-size replica of the **Salmson 2A2**, the first aircraft used on Les Lignes Aériennes Latécoère to transport mail by air.

A **mail car** to try out the experience of sorting the mail between Paris and Toulouse, as did the "ambulants," travelling postal workers in 1930.

# A LEGENDARY SITE

- It all started in 1917, right in the middle of the First World War. Pierre-Georges Latécoère, head of a company making wooden wagons, answered the French Government's request and set up in Toulouse, in the Montaudran district, the first aviation construction company in the region. In only six months, this man who had, however, never produced aircraft, achieved the exploit of delivering up to six aircraft a day to the French military.
- Anticipating the end of the war, Pierre-Georges Latécoère redirected his company and decided to convert its military aircraft into civil aircraft and use the unemployed pilots of the First World War. From then on distribution of mail would not only be carried out by trains or boats, but also by air ... Thus, on 25 December 1918, accompanied by pilot René Cornemont, the entrepreneur took off from the Toulouse-Montaudran airfield to Barcelona. This was the very first reconnaissance flight of Les Lignes Aériennes Latécoère.
- Thus was born the grand epic of L'Aéropostale which would see many pilots such as Antoine de Saint Exupéry, Jean Mermoz, Didier Daurat and Henri Guillaumet take off in iconic aircraft such as the Salmson 2A2 and the Bréguet XIV.
- On 1 September 1919, the company opened the Toulouse / Rabat line and thus established the first link between Europe and Africa. Extensions to Casablanca, Fez, Oran and Dakar followed. From 1919, Bepo di Massini, Pierre-Georges Latécoère's faithful friend, became a director of Les Lignes Aériennes Latécoère and obtained permission to fly over Spain from the authorities and then from the various African countries crossed by the pilots of La Ligne. In this way he took an active part in the construction and reputation of La Ligne, fiercely defending Latécoère's work.
- On 11 April 1927, Pierre-Georges Latécoère sold Les Lignes Aériennes Latécoère to Marcel Bouilloux-Lafont who renamed the company «Compagnie Générale Aéropostale». This era marks the beginning of France / South America air connections, particularly with the inauguration, on 1 March 1928, of the Toulouse / Buenos Aires line. Thanks to the commitment of Marcel Bouilloux-Lafont and the attention to detail of Head of Operations, Didier Daurat, La Compagnie Générale Aéropostale developed and spread many lines to Uruguay, Argentina, Patagonia and Chile. On 12 May 1930, the company achieved the first commercial air crossing of the South Atlantic. But the following year, it was put into receivership. Its merger, on 7 October 1933, with four other airlines contributed to the birth of the company Air France. In the 1970s, the French company established its Centre de Revision de Toulouse (CRT) [Toulouse Maintenance Centre] at Montaudran, the runway and hangars then serving as a maintenance centre for aircraft until December 2003.

**L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS invites visitors to relive the extraordinary human adventure of L'Aéropostale on its authentic site at Toulouse-Montaudran. From the early days of Lignes Aériennes Latécoère to contributing to the creation of Air France, via the CGA, Compagnie Générale Aéropostale, the site tells about the daily lives of those who worked to give birth to civil aviation in Toulouse, La Ville Rose, up to Toulouse becoming the World Aviation Capital.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Aéropostale revolutionised communications between people. For example, the time taken to transport mail between Toulouse and South America went from 23 days in 1919 to 8 days in 1930.



## SOME MAJOR DATES

In total, 12,500 km of lines were opened thanks to trail-blazing by committed pilots:





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## A DIVE INTO THE STORIES WHICH FORGED THE LEGEND OF L'AÉROPOSTALE

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS plunges visitors to the heart of the human adventure of L'Aéropostale. Through stories, workshops, unusual encounters, mediations and immersive experiences, young and old encounter committed women and men who did not then realise the exploit they were achieving. They were all devoted to a single mission: transporting the mail on time whatever the conditions, allowing people to be connected to each other, beyond deserts, oceans and mountains. The public finds out about the ingenuity and tenacity which these pioneers had to show to fly across the continents and their dangers.

Discovering the human adventure experienced by committed and courageous men and women, such is the promise of L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS.



AG SAINT-EXUPÉRY -  
3338 M.



AG GUILLAUMET -  
2579 M.

AG MERMÖZ -  
2732 M.

## A HISTORIC AND AUTHENTIC SITE TO WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PIONEERS OF L'AÉROPOSTALE

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS is set up on the historic lands of L'Aéropostale. In 1917 the entrepreneur Pierre-Georges Latécoère set up his company in the Montaudran district, to the southeast of Toulouse. A strategic location which was not chosen by chance since in the middle of the First World War, Toulouse, La Ville Rose, was far from the front, and seemed to be an ideal place for the production of military reconnaissance aircraft.

A visionary, Pierre-Georges Latécoère transformed his industry from the end of the war and launched Lignes Aériennes Latécoère. Civil aviation in Toulouse was born. From then on aircraft were used to transport mail. By visiting L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS, the public discovers the places where several hundreds of people from Toulouse worked for more than 80 years:

**The General Store**, where aircraft parts were stored and which today houses the exhibitions and the screening and conference hall of L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS.

**The Radio House**, from where engineers and technicians communicated with crews.

**Château Petit-Espinet Raynal** which housed the administrative operations of the site as well as the office of the famous Head of Operations, Didier Daurat.

**The Airfield** from where the first aircraft, linking Toulouse to Barcelona, took off on 25 December 1918 and which was gradually transformed to a real runway by Air France by establishing the CRT (Toulouse Maintenance Centre) which operated until 2003.

**The Grandes Halles Latécoère**, listed as a Historic Monument, where the aircraft of Lignes Aériennes Latécoère were made.



© Fondation Latécoère



### The «Runway Tour»: a guided tour to discover the adventures and stories of the historic site of L'Aéropostale

To best immerse visitors behind the scenes of L'Aéropostale, L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS offers a trail of one hour, presented by a presenter in period costume, incarnating one of the pioneers of aviation in Toulouse.

This guided tour allows all visitors to discover the entire historic site of Toulouse-Montaudran. Throughout the trail, the public relives the story of this cradle of Toulouse aviation through the great adventures which marked the epic of L'Aéropostale.



## A LIVELY AND IMMERSIVE MEDIATION

The success of L'Aéropostale relied on the involvement of many people motivated and committed to meet the shared task: **transporting mail by air at all costs**. So, up to 80 pilots, 250 mechanics, 53 radio technicians, 250 sailors, 900 administrative staff and a team of around 20 canvas-workers, etc. rubbed shoulders on the Toulouse-Montaudran site to meet, together, this unprecedented challenge.

To go and meet these pioneers who lived in these places, to find out about their work and their daily lives, L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS offers visitors an immersive and lively experience involving characters in period costume throughout the tour (pilot, mechanic, passenger, canvas-worker, etc.). In this way, by addressing the audience at a turn in the exhibition hall and telling the stories of the incredible adventure of L'Aéropostale, the presenters plunge visitors into the daily atmosphere of the Toulouse-Montaudran workshops.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Women played a major role in the successful emergence of aviation at the beginning of the 20th century. They worked as canvas-workers. They were responsible for producing the canvas needed to manufacture the wings of the first aircraft.



### Become an «ambulant» [travelling sorter] for a brief historic moment in the «wagon postal» [mail car]

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS offers the public the chance to enter a genuine "Wagon Postal" from 1930, presented by the Musée des Anciens Ambulants [Museum of Former Travelling Sorters] in Toulouse. This presentation plunges visitors aboard a mail car connecting Paris to Toulouse.

During a wander through the "Wagon Postal", the public can relive the story of the travelling sorters who sorted the mail by night between 1845 and 1995. For 150 years, the railway line between Paris-Austerlitz and Toulouse-Matabiau was used every day by hundreds of travelling sorters of the Post Office who, like the pilots of L'Aéropostale, had only one watchword: «the mail must get through!» So, every letter was sorted during the journey then collected at dawn by L'Aéropostale's pilots so it could be sent as quickly as possible to its addressee in Spain, Africa or South America. Postal workers had to sort more than 500 letters in only 15 minutes, i.e. more than 2000 letters an hour!

*The postal wagon: a Toulouse Métropole project in partnership with SNCF, Région Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée, Musée Postal des Anciens Ambulants de Toulouse, INA, Musée Air France and Air France.*

### A genuine experience: sort 50 letters in one minute

In addition to finding out about this real race against the clock, visitors are invited to try for themselves carrying out the job of a travelling sorter at the beginning of the 20th century. They have to sort a series of 50 envelopes in a set time and all that ... immersed in the conditions of the time: the noise of the steam train, flickering lights, etc. will await them in this real dive into the heart of postal sorting in the 1930s.







© Manuel Huynh - Fondation Latécoère

## GOING TO MEET LEGENDARY PILOTS AND AIRCRAFT

From its inception, L'Aéropostale has been the stuff of dreams for young and old. Whether through its legendary aircraft, such as the Salmson 2A2, the Bréguet XIV and Laté 28, or its iconic pilots such as Antoine de Saint Exupéry, Jean Mermoz and Henri Guillaumet, L'Aéropostale's story is told in the most famous novels.

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS has a life-size replica of the famous Salmson 2A2 on display. Built in Toulouse-Montaudran from 1918, this legendary aircraft is a two-seater, single-engine biplane in canvas-clad wood. It can be found in L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS' Aircraft Hangar. This real-size replica was produced by the Association des Ailes Anciennes de Toulouse.



© Collection Musée Air France

## L'Envol des Pionniers and its partners are launching the unprecedented reconstruction of a Laté 28, legendary aircraft of L'Aéropostale.

At the initiative of Toulouse Metropole, L'Envol des Pionniers launched in March 2022 a major project aiming to produce an identical reconstruction of a Laté 28 in the very place they were built almost 100 years ago! Over a period of five years this project has the ambition of handing on the pioneering spirit and working in project mode to the younger generation.

The Laté 28 is a monoplane aircraft of 19 metres in length commissioned in 1929 and considered as one of the first modern commercial aircraft. Capable of accommodating up to eight passengers, it was at the origin of many exploits pulverising several speed records. It was aboard a Laté 28 that aviator Jean Mermoz successfully crossed the South Atlantic for the first time with mail in 1930.

To bring this reconstruction project to life for its visitors L'Envol des Pionniers will be organising several presentations during exceptional events. The assembly of the aircraft will take place in the Air France hangars, formerly engine workshops located across from L'Envol des Pionniers.

This project is being carried out in association with the Académie de Toulouse, the Association Laté 28, with the support of the Cercle des Machines Volantes and in partnership with MGEN and Banque Populaire Occitanie.

## An educational project in partnership with 12 Lycées Technologiques and Professionnels of the Académie de Toulouse

The construction of the replica of the Laté 28 will be carried out by the students following in the footsteps of the pioneers of L'Aéropostale. They will be supported by the Association Laté 28 which will monitor the smooth running of the work and bring to bear all the technical expertise of the aircraft production.

This project is an **exceptional teaching tool** for handing on the values and know-how of yesterday in terms of the technologies of today. It also aims to promote the technological and professional sectors.

## DISCOVER THE GREAT PIONEERS OF L'AÉROPOSTALE

Literature and cinema were greatly inspired by L'Aéropostale's story. And with just cause, the most famous pilots had many adventures on their flights over deserts, mountains and oceans. L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS invites visitors to find out about these men who defied the impossible to achieve real exploits.

So, through personal items and immersive sets, the public finds out about the stories of adventurers such as Jean Mermoz and his flights over the Atlantic Ocean and Henri Guillaumet. During the visit, visitors take a seat in the barracks of the aviator-writer Antoine de Saint Exupéry in Cap July, at the heart of the Sahara Desert and can feel the atmosphere of the time. By reading the letters he wrote to his mother the public can also find out about the isolation in which the author of *The Little Prince* was sometimes immersed.

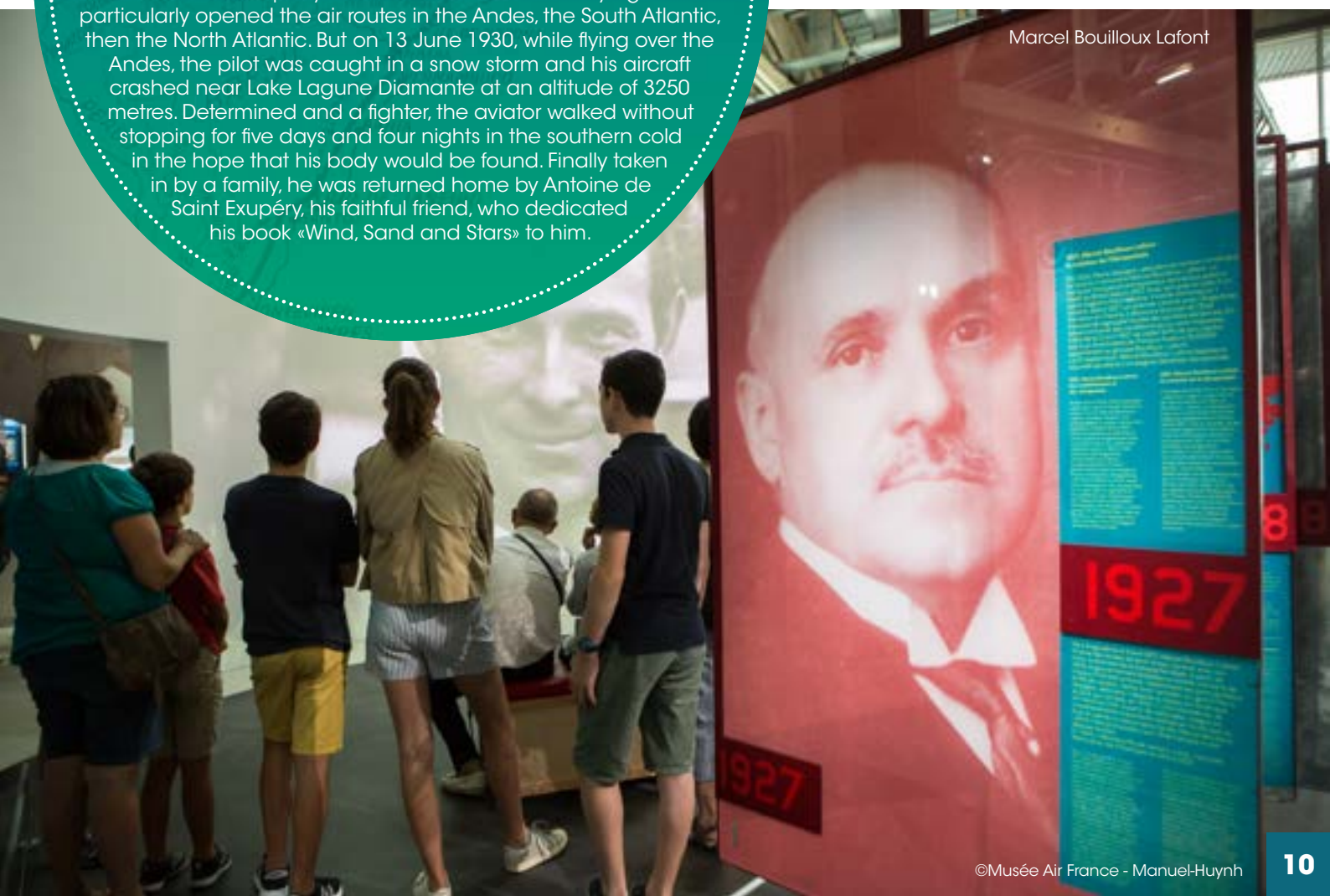
### Discover a film testimony about Henri Guillaumet's accident during his flight over the Andes Cordillera in 1930

In the permanent exhibitions of L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS, visitors can discover in images the harrowing testimony of the pilot Henri Guillaumet during his flight over the Andes Cordillera. Hired by the Latécoère company in 1926, he carried out many flights and particularly opened the air routes in the Andes, the South Atlantic, then the North Atlantic. But on 13 June 1930, while flying over the Andes, the pilot was caught in a snow storm and his aircraft crashed near Lake Lagune Diamante at an altitude of 3250 metres. Determined and a fighter, the aviator walked without stopping for five days and four nights in the southern cold in the hope that his body would be found. Finally taken in by a family, he was returned home by Antoine de Saint Exupéry, his faithful friend, who dedicated his book *«Wind, Sand and Stars»* to him.

### DID YOU KNOW?

During his return from the Andes Cordillera, Henri Guillaumet confided in his friend Antoine de Saint Exupéry: «What I did, I swear to you, no animal would ever have done.» This sentence was retranscribed in the novel *«Wind, Sand and Stars»* by Antoine de Saint Exupéry (Editions Gallimard).

Marcel Bouilloux Lafont





# CONNECTING PEOPLE BEYOND DESERTS, OCEANS AND CONTINENTS

## ONLY ONE WATCHWORD, THE MAIL MUST GET THROUGH!

Renowned Head of Operations for Les Lignes Aériennes Latécoère then the Compagnie Générale Aéropostale, Didier Daurat, a First World War pilot, was an extraordinary figure. Strict, inflexible and unwavering by reputation, he established a very precise set of rules to guarantee flawless punctuality. So, every day, he ensured that the mail left Toulouse-Montaudran on time, regardless of the weather and seasons. His regularity and control of risks enabled the company's sustainability.

Didier Daurat also understood that the success of L'Aéropostale was primarily based on the commitment and will of the people on the ground. So, around him, hundreds of employees, pilots, mechanics, engineers, radio technicians, canvas-workers, etc. busied themselves and worked together to ensure that the mail got through at all costs.





## SHARING MANY STORIES ABOUT L'AÉROPOSTALE

Throughout the visit, the public discovers many stories from pilots, mechanics, etc. about L'Aéropostale. Each story is documented, delivered with collector's items, told by a presenter ... to immerse visitors in human and technical exploits.

### DID YOU KNOW?

On 8 March 1919, during a journey between Toulouse and Rabat in Morocco, Pierre- Georges Latécoère took a copy of the newspaper Le Temps dated 7 March and a bunch of fresh violets, the emblematic flower of Toulouse, the «Ville Rose.» He gave them to General Lyautey and his wife to prove the speed of air transport. The newspaper had never been delivered so quickly and the flowers were still fresh.

## L'AÉROPOSTALE: STRONG HUMAN VALUES SHARED BY ALL

The Aéropostale adventure is teeming with strong and timeless values such as entrepreneurship, mutual assistance, working together, organisation, fraternity, respect, courage, diplomacy, as well as discipline and perseverance.

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS attaches particular importance to highlighting these qualities by presenting the pioneers who dared to go beyond preconceived ideas to see further, greater, like Pierre-Georges Latécoère, who, in 1918, said: «I did all the calculations again, they confirm the specialists' opinion: the project is impossible. There is only one thing we can do: achieve it.» The pilots, too, surpassed themselves to achieve many exploits: flying over deserts, oceans and mountains. They also showed courage and humility. None of them hoped to become a legend and yet, that's what they all became. By conveying the values which motivated the teams and which led to L'Aéropostale's success, L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS wants to infuse boldness and the desire to dare into younger generations.



### **"Pierre Georges Latécoère, The Future Has Wings": an interactive exhibition exploring the challenges for aviation pioneers past and present** **Starting Saturday, December 17, 2022**

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'Hydravation 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.

**For further information:** <https://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com/profil/presse/>

# L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS TOULOUSE



## THE PLACE WHERE THE LOVE STORY BETWEEN TOULOUSE AND AIRCRAFT WAS BORN

### TOULOUSE: CRADLE OF AVIATION

Since the establishment of Les Lignes Aériennes Latécoère in 1918, Toulouse has continually declared its love of aircraft. In 1927, following the acquisition of the company by Marcel Bouilloux-Lafont, the Compagnie Générale Aéropostale was established. It was from the Toulouse-Montaudran airfield that iconic pilots such as Jean Mermoz, Henri Guillaumet and Antoine de Saint Exupéry took off. Toulouse then became one of French civil aviation's epicentres and many routes were opened to Africa and South America.

### FROM AN INDUSTRY TO AN AVIATION REGION

Over the years, Toulouse saw the aviation sector grow exponentially in the region.

Emile Dewoitine, previously in charge of the Salmson 2A2 series production, opened his design office in Toulouse at the beginning of the 1930s. He was one of the founding fathers of what was to become the aircraft manufacturer AIRBUS.

On 7 October 1933, the airline AIR FRANCE was founded after the acquisition of Compagnie Générale Aéropostale and the merger of four airlines (Air Orient, Air Union, CIDNA and Les Lignes Farman). In the 1970s, the AIR FRANCE company established at Toulouse-Montaudran, the Toulouse Maintenance Centre (CRT). The runway and Latécoère hangars would serve as a maintenance centre for the company's aircraft until December 2003.

The district in which L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS is located was known from then on as Toulouse Aerospace. It housed B612, a building hosting particularly the world competitiveness hub Aerospace Valley and IRT Saint Exupéry; a world-leading computing hub; major schools such as ISAE-SUPAERO and ENAC; ONERA, the aviation and space research laboratory; CNES, the French space agency, the Midi-Pyrénées Observatory, etc.

### TOULOUSE: World Capital of Aerospace

**AIRBUS**, the world number one in the civil aviation market.

More than **6,000** researchers live in Toulouse.

**Cutting-edge aviation innovation centres**, particularly IRT Saint Exupéry and the Aerospace Valley competitive hub, ONERA, etc.

**63%** of European jobs in the aviation sector.

**19,000** students studying science and in major higher education schools such as ENAC, ISAE-SUPAERO, etc.

**Toulouse has also today become European Space Capital**



# L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS TOULOUSE

## A UNIQUE OFFER DEDICATED TO SCHOOLS

Accredited by National Education, L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS provides an offer completely designed for school audiences, from kindergarten to senior year. L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS' educational team, is continually coming up with new ideas to offer new products suitable to every age. The workshops complement the knowledge acquired in class in various school subjects: French, history, geography, mathematics, science and technology, communication etc.

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES DESIGNED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL EDUCATION AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF MGEN

The academic projects described in the following pages are produced in collaboration with National Education (Toulouse Academy) and MGEN. Teachers who are Policy Officers for National Education work with L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS to design these workshops and educational projects.





## Educational and teaching workshops on the history of L'Aéropostale

### PILOTS' STORIES

Pupils from Year 1 to Year 6

Duration: 45 minutes

A learner pilot is preparing to experience his maiden flight. Pupils help the young aviator to find his mail in the sorting carriage and get the equipment needed for this new adventure. Through the letters, they find out together about the incredible stories of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and his comrades, pilots of L'Aéropostale.



### ANTOINE DE SAINT EXUPÉRY ADVENTURE

Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6

Duration: 1 hour

#### *Toulouse, 1930:*

In his workshop at Montaudran, a mechanic of La Ligne welcomes the class to prepare a surprise for the pilot Antoine de Saint Exupéry. Pupils, divided into teams, handle period objects, solve puzzles during their visit, follow the adventures of the author of *The Little Prince* and take part in a collaborative game which retraces the pilot's life at the time of L'Aéropostale.





## MONTAUDRAN COURSE

Pupils from Year 7 to Year 13

Duration: 1 hour

### *1927 on the Toulouse-Montaudran airfield.*

Pupils, led by the Head of Operations, become trainees visiting the Montaudran site. Through objects and testimonies of the time, they find out about La Ligne, life as a pilot as Antoine de Saint Exupéry tells it and the various jobs of the men and women who contributed to the fabulous adventure of l'Aéropostale.

## Les Amis de L'Envol des Pionniers: a relay in transmitting the History of L'Aéropostale.

For L'ENVOI DES PIONNIERS, handing on the history of Toulouse-Montaudran and L'Aéropostale to younger generations is a key mission. So, through intergenerational encounters children meet women and men who experienced the creation of L'Aéropostale. To do so, the educational team works in close collaboration with LES AMIS DE L'ENVOI DES PIONNIERS. The association is intended to connect all friends (pioneers' families, individuals, associations, foundations, companies, etc.) who chose to share, mention, perpetuate and hand on the experiences and values which the pioneers of L'Aéropostale have bequeathed to younger generations.

**Further information:** <https://amis-envol-pionniers.fr/>



# THREE SPONSORS WHO CULTIVATE THE PIONEERING SPIRIT

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS is supported by three exceptional sponsors who, day after day, achieve crazy dreams.

## DORINE BOURNETON

**Dorine Bourneton is a French aviator, writer and speaker. The only survivor of a plane accident at the age of 16, she became the first paraplegic woman in the world to be an aerobatics pilot.**



She accepted becoming the sponsor of L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS and reflected at the inauguration of the site on 20 December 2018, «The pilots of L'Aéropostale inspired me and gave me the desire to fly as I wanted to be like them. These pilots had accidents and they picked themselves up and took the controls again. Their story gave me a great deal of courage.» A real pioneer, she says: «It is my life, [...], full of trials, surprises and victories. At the age of 16 (...) I couldn't imagine achieving a demonstration of high-flying aerobatics at the show at Le Bourget. I didn't know that one day in May 1991, a plane accident would cost me my legs. This accident did not cost me my destiny. I am building it every day with the same enthusiasm.»

To find out more: [www.dorinebourneton.fr/](http://www.dorinebourneton.fr/)

## BERTRAND PICCARD

**Bertrand Piccard is a pioneer, an adventurer at heart. A Swiss explorer and doctor, he achieved the first round the world voyage by balloon and is the initiator and co-pilot of the solar aircraft SOLAR IMPULSE, with which he carried out the first round the world voyage without any fuel in 2016.**

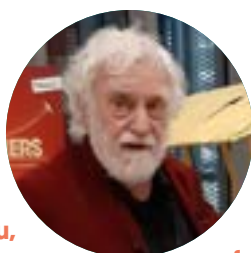


He says: «I will never forget the moment when I saw the Apollo 11 rocket take off for the moon. I was 11 years old at the time. I thought then: these astronauts have a dream which is greater than their fear of failing. These heroes dare the impossible. They are undertaking something which no man has ever done before them. That is the pioneer spirit. That moment was one of the turning points of my life.» «The first book by Antoine de Saint Exupéry that I read is Wind, Sand and Stars, he didn't call it Sky of Men [Title in French is Land of Men]: it was the human side, the dream of being human and making one's life. Flying is a metaphor. Today, it is about connecting people to themselves, to their heart, to their mind and allowing them to transcend themselves.»

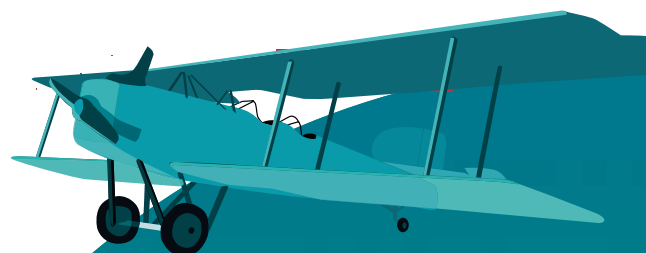
To find out more: [www.bertrandpiccard.com/](http://www.bertrandpiccard.com/)

## PEF

**Pierre Elie Ferrier, known as PEF, is a French author-illustrator of books for children and young people recognised by the educational community. In 1980, he invented the character of the Prince de Motordu, read by a multitude of generations of children in France.**



His first success «La belle lisse poire du prince de Motordu» sold more than a million copies. This recognition led him to work with school teachers and orthophonists. His books combine tall tales and «mirror» literature in which children love to find themselves. Pef plays with the French language: wordplay, minimal pairs, phonetic writing which he supports with colourful illustrations. This year, PEF became the sponsor of L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS' educational activities. Fascinated by the history of L'Aéropostale, he moreover states that he was inspired by the incredible epic of Les Lignes Aériennes Latécoère for his book «Motordu Pilote d'Avion.» In January 2020, PEF gave L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS his personal model of a Bréguet XIV on a 1:3 scale.





# ORGANISING RECEPTIONS AND SEMINARS AT L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS

With its flexible 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>, L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS welcomes companies for events of any kind. On the very place which supported the extraordinary adventure of the pioneers of L'Aéropostale, its dedicated team supports professionals in organising seminars or events.

## THE SITE OFFERS 5 SUITABLE AND FLEXIBLE SPACES:

### LA SALLE DES PIONNIERS

**Area:** 200 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Capacity:** up to 150  
people in theatre  
mode  
(49 people under  
Covid measures)

### LA SALLE DES MÉCANOS

**Area:** 50 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Capacity:** up to 30  
people in theatre  
mode  
(16 people under  
Covid measures)\*

### LE HANGAR AVION

**Area:** 300 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Capacity:** up to 300  
people in theatre  
mode  
(79 people under  
Covid measures)\*

### LE CHAMP D'AVIATION

**Area:** 8,630 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Capacity:** depends on  
the configuration

### LA COUR LATÉCOÈRE

**Area:** 200 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Capacity:** depends on  
the configuration

*\* Limits may vary depending on the  
changes in Covid measures.*

## A VARIED CULTURAL PROGRAMME:

To find out about events organised at L'ENVOL  
DES PIONNIERS, visit our website

[www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com](http://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com), our Facebook  
page or our Instagram account.



## ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS attaches special importance to making culture accessible to all. This is why the site implements many actions on a daily basis allowing everyone to come to discover the place and take part in the many events, conferences and workshops organised throughout the year.

This commitment is reflected in various ways and adapts to each disability. Accordingly, the layout was thought out for people with reduced mobility. Videos are subtitled and tours in French sign language are organised. Finally, booklets in braille and large characters are available at reception to explore the site.

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS has the **Tourisme & Handicap** label, a State brand which identifies establishments responding to the specific needs of visitors with disabilities, whether they are auditive, mental, motor or visual.



RE PUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

On 1st June 2022, L'Envol des Pionniers was awarded the Accessible Tourism Trophy in the «Places to Visit» category.

The award was presented at the Handica trade fair in Lyon and rewards the actions undertaken by Toulouse Métropole and L'Envol des Pionniers to promote accessibility for all.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

To find out about our opening times and days: consult our website

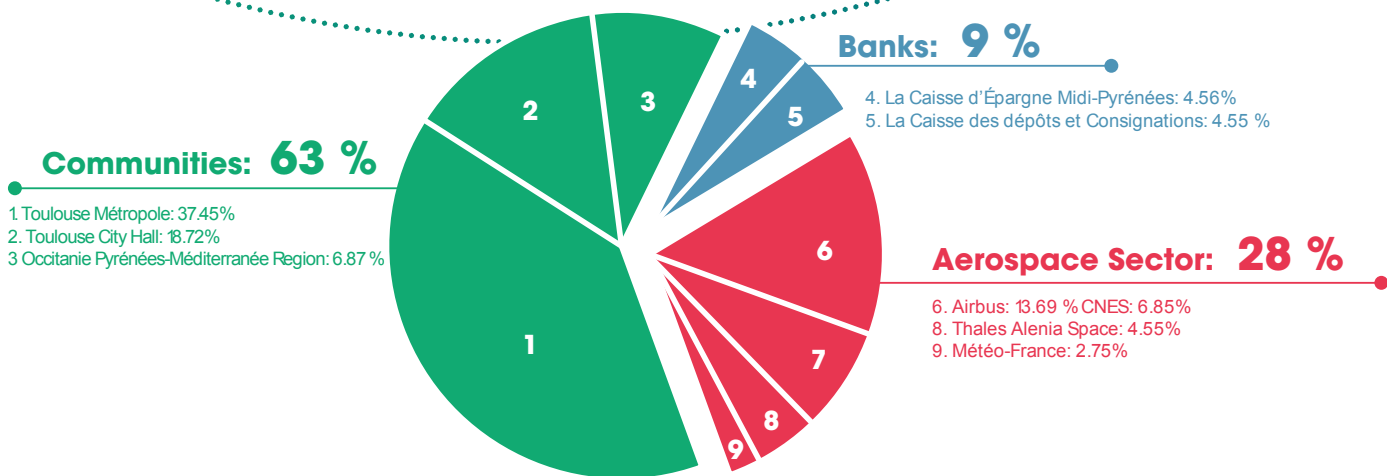
L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS  
6 rue Jacqueline Auriol  
31400 Toulouse  
Tel.: 05 67 22 23 24

Informations on:  
[www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com](http://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com)

# SEMECCEL, OPERATOR OF L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS AND CITÉ DE L'ESPACE

## BREAKDOWN OF SEMECCEL'S CAPITAL

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS is a facility of Toulouse Métropole managed by a Mixed Economy Company (S.E.M). SEMECCEL, whose capital is held by:



SEMECCEL also operates Cité de l'espace.  
Information on [www.semeccel.com](http://www.semeccel.com)

## Partners Involved

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'Épargne 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.

### PHOTO CREDITS :

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### Online Press Room

<https://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com/profil/presse/>

### Links to the website and social networks

[https://linktr.ee/lenvol\\_pionniers](https://linktr.ee/lenvol_pionniers)

**lenvol-des-pionniers.com**

