L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS

TOULOUSE

This is where it all started, This is where the adventure continues!



PRESS KIT

toulouse métropole

EDITOS



OUR SPONSOR

Dorine Bourneton,

Aviator, speaker, writer and sponsor of L'Envol des Pionniers

« Since I was a child, spellbound by the stories of L'Aéropostale told by my father, aviation has fed my dreams. Growing up in an isolated village forges the imagination: Jean Mermoz, Antoine de Saint Exupéry, Henri Guillaumet... these adventurous figures inspired me... After my accident in 1991, their strength carried me through: they too had fallen, they too had recovered. I wanted to fly again, become a pioneer in turn. A few years later, I became the first female aerobatic pilot with a disability. Like yesterday's aviators, I refused to give up.

When L'Envol des Pionniers suggested I become a sponsor, it was self-evident. This place embodies everything that has carried me through: the legacy of these air pioneers, but also the fight for inclusion and resilience. I accepted this mission to share my experience and prove that everyone can pick themselves up and chart their own trajectory.

L'Envol des Pionniers continues to pass on this vital force and it is essential. »



OUR SPONSOR

Bertrand Piccard,

Explorer and physician, Chair of the Solar Impulse Foundation

« I was not born in time to hear Pierre-Georges Latécoère decide to achieve what the experts considered unfeasible; to fly with Saint Exupéry, Mermoz and Guillaumet; to win, flight after flight, the status of nobility in aviation. And yet I am nostalgic about it. Nostalgia for this pioneering spirit that draws us to what has never been accomplished, that accepts the unknown, doubts and question marks to stimulate our creativity and performance.

That's what pushes me forward. The Latécoère epic is much more than a stage in the history of air transport, it is a philosophical heritage, a demonstration of courage, respect, risk-taking, human and sometimes superhuman values.

This is an example to always follow in our daily lives. To live like the heroes of La Ligne is to really live. It's up to all of us to understand, at a time when we desperately need pioneers and explorers to develop a better quality of life on this Earth. »



INSTITUTIONAL VIEWS



Jean-Luc Moudenc
Mayor of Toulouse,
Chair of Toulouse Métropole

« For more than a century, a steadfast link has united Toulouse and aviation, and we are committed to promoting this part of our Toulouse heritage. On the historic site of Montaudran, where it all began, L'Envol des Pionniers continues to bring to life the legacy of this great adventure, by retracing particularly the establishment of the Latécoère factory in 1917, then the epic of L'Aéropostale and the journey of those who thus built the reputation of the Ville Rose in this field. L'Envol des Pionniers, which I inaugurated in 2018, offers top-flight exhibitions, and takes part in disseminating knowledge, alongside other metropolitan scientific culture establishments, to the great pleasure of visitors, the people of Toulouse, school groups,
etc. »



Arnaud Mounier
General Director of L'Envol des Pionniers (SEMECCEL)

« L'Envol des Pionniers is a place like no other. More than a museum, it is a unique place, deeply rooted in the history of Toulouse, which immerses the visitor in the atmosphere of the Roaring Twenties in the heart of the Montaudran district, the cradle of French commercial aviation. Here, we feel, we understand, we meet. We meet the great figures of L'Aéropostale, we experience their exploits and we soak up the strong values of the time... But L'Envol des Pionniers is not limited to transmitting history: it resonates in the present, using it as a springboard to imagine tomorrow.

This ambitious project is carried out by SEMECCEL (also operator of Cité de l'espace), a recognised stakeholder in innovative cultural mediation. It designs and renews immersive educational presentations and organises many events for the public and educational groups. It hosts many inspiring seminars for companies. And because vocations are often born from a spark, L'Envol des Pionniers is aimed at all audiences and especially the youngest, to inspire them, stimulate them and, perhaps, give birth to new pioneers among them. »



Isabelle Ferrer
Chair of L'Envol des Pionniers (SEMECCEL),
Vice-Chair of Toulouse Métropole

« Toulouse has a unique relationship with aviation, forged by more than a century of innovation, daring, and human adventure. It was here that the grand dreams of conquering the skies took shape and a world-renowned aeronautical heritage was built. L'Envol des Pionniers brings this founding legacy to life by sharing it in a concrete, vibrant, and accessible way with all audiences. Here, history is not static: it is told, shared, and serves as inspiration for the generations of today and tomorrow.

Deeply committed to the connection between innovation, business, and the passing down of knowledge, I believe in the importance of building bridges between memory and the future, between scientific culture and economic development. Through this iconic site - the starting point of the love story between Toulouse and aviation - we aim to instill in young people a taste for boldness, inspire future careers, and remind everyone that great achievements always stem from a collective vision and concrete commitment.

More than just a place of remembrance, L'Envol des Pionniers is a vibrant space, open to the future, that plays a full part in enhancing the European and international reputation of Toulouse, the capital of aeronautics and a hub of innovation. »





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NEW

The Toulouse Pioneers Space

A new space dedicated to those who keep the pioneering spirit alive in Toulouse

L'Envol des Pionniers is opening **the Toulouse Pioneers** Space at the heart of its permanent exhibition. Conceived as a meeting place between the past and the future, this space celebrates the spirit of daring, innovation and pushing one's limits that has always driven Toulouse's pioneers.

Through a documentary film lasting around ten minutes, visitors discover the members of the **Toulouse Pioneers collective** – Toulouse-based entrepreneurs who draw inspiration from the legacy of the Aéropostale pioneers to devise and develop innovative and disruptive solutions in the field of mobility.

The film shows how these men and women are carrying on this culture of boldness and, in doing so, are inspiring their teams, their companies and, more broadly, the whole region to follow in their footsteps. Each of them is opening up new horizons and, in turn, inspiring future generations.



From left to right : S. Douce (Delair), A. Mounier (Semeccel), M. Pech (Ascendance), I. Attal (Latecoere), A. Feray (OpenAirlines), T. Mahé (Latecoere), S. Moisan (OpenAirlines) and V. Ducamin (Aura Aero)



Le Café des Pionniers

A Culinary Journey Back to the Roaring Twenties

On Wednesday, July 1st 2026, L'Envol des Pionniers opened "Le Café des Pionniers." Inspired by the cafés of the Roaring Twenties, **its meticulously crafted design promises visitors a complete immersion in the festive atmosphere of the 1920s.** Every detail of the decor contributes to this unique experience. An antique cash register, a wood-burning stove, a gramophone, mirrors, wall sconces and vintage posters are paired with antique or weathered furniture to recreate the aesthetic of the 1920s. The richly decorated walls, warm colors, and period-inspired tableware further enhance the venue's authenticity. The immersive experience continues with a soundtrack evoking the musical styles of the interwar period, while the staff, dressed in the style of old-fashioned café waiters, help bring back to life the friendly spirit of those establishments. Open to the public without an admission ticket, the Café des Pionniers welcomes visitors, neighbourhood residents, passersby, and professionals to a unique, welcoming setting in Toulouse.

A menu inspired by the Aéropostale's stopovers

The Café des Pionniers offers a selection of tapas inspired by the destinations that have shaped the history of the Aéropostale. The dishes, served in shareable portions, pay homage to the various stopovers made by pilots as they traveled between France, Spain, North Africa, and South America. Foie gras, a charcuterie board, gazpacho, empanadas, and vegetable samosas make up a varied menu, complemented by cold drinks, coffee, tea, cocktails, and sweet treats. Echoing the routes of civil aviation pioneers, this new venue complements the experience offered by L'Envol des Pionniers and highlights Toulouse's role in the history of civil aviation.

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS, IN BRIEF

Understanding the Aviation Destiny of Toulouse

It was right here, on the old runway of the Montaudran airfield, that one of the greatest pages in the history of French and world civil aviation began on December 25, 1918. Since then, Toulouse has not stopped designing and building aircraft... And the famous historical runway still resonates with the noise of the propellers of Mermoz, Guillaumet, Saint Exupéry and Air France aircraft.

Cultivate your Boldness by Drawing Inspiration from the Pioneers

L'Envol des Pionniers invites visitors to embrace the values of openness, team spirit and boldness that characterise the Toulouse spirit. With this powerful lever as inspiration, visitors will find the universal keys to accomplish their most ambitious projects. The choice of this place owes nothing to luck.
Here the spirit of the pioneers of L'Aéropostale of the Roaring Twenties meets that of the aviation and space innovation of today's stakeholders. Welcome to the land of innovation!

L'Envol des Pionniers, in Figures

2018
Opens to the public

1 200 m² of exhibitions
1 permanent exhibition
1 temporary exhibition
1 guided tour
2hrs 30 mins average visit time
40,000 visitors / year

1 iconic aircraft
1 genuine postal sorting wagon from 1929
1 reconstruction of Didier Daurat's office
280 objects in our collection (documents, instruments, personal effects)

6 500 school students hosted every year
3 National Education approved educational workshops
1 Laté 28 Project

5 bookable spaces for businesses
50 business events hosted every year

1 business collective « Toulouse Pioneers »
3 exceptional sponsors

1 « Tourism & Disability » certification for the 4 disabilities



In the Footsteps of L'Aéropostale, Beyond the Walls

While some of the facilities of L'Aéropostale have now disappeared, the Toulouse-Montaudran district has preserved many historical buildings that are evidence of this great adventure. A walking route around L'Envol des Pionniers allows visitors to extend their immersion by exploring at their leisure iconic locations of the time, such as the Maison de la Radio or the former airfield.

THE MAJOR DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1917

Pierre-Georges Latécoère acquires the land of Toulouse-Montaudran to build an aircraft manufacturing company for the French Army.

May 1918

Pierre-Georges Latécoère conceives of a bold project: the creation of commercial airlines between France and South America to transport mail.

25 December 1918

Pierre-Georges Latécoère carried out the first test flight between Toulouse and Barcelona and created Lignes Aériennes Latécoère, which became the CGEA (Compagnie Générale d'Entreprise Aéronautique) the following year.

From 1919 to 1925

Gradual opening of airlines between France, Morocco and Senegal.

11 April 1927

The CGEA became La Compagnie Générale Aéropostale following its acquisition by industrialist Marcel Bouilloux Lafont.

October 1927

Antoine de Saint Exupéry becomes a station manager at Cap Juby. This is where he wrote «Courrier Sud».

12 May 1930

Jean Mermoz makes the first commercial air crossing of the South Atlantic on a Laté 28.

13-20 June 1930

Henri Guillaumet is the victim of an accident in the Andes Mountains. He is found and saved after a week of searching.

31 May 1933

SCELA (Société Centrale pour l'Exploitation des Lignes Aériennes) buys the assets of L'Aéropostale which had been put into judicial liquidation.

7 October 1933

SCELA becomes Air France

From 1933 to 2003

The former Aéropostale site in Toulouse-Montaudran became one of Air France's technical maintenance centres.

20 December 2018

Opening of L'Envol des Pionniers

MONTAUDRAN, CRADLE OF GLOBAL CIVIL AERONAUTICS

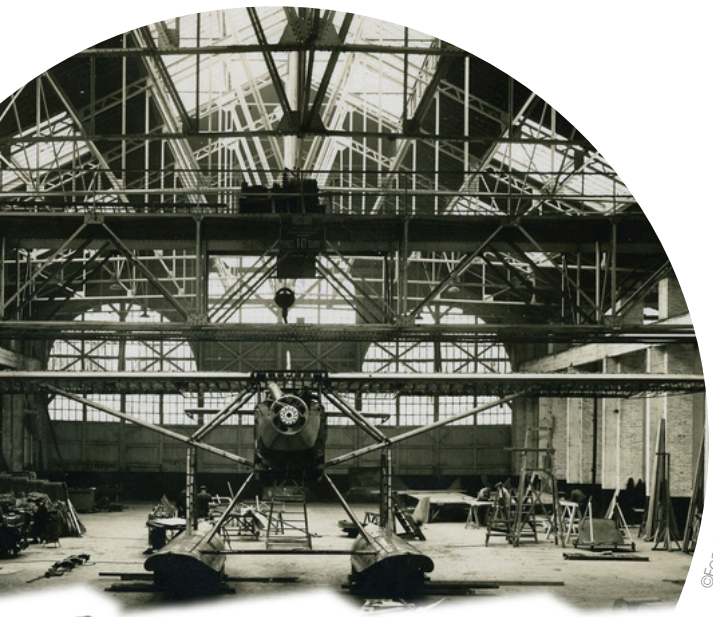
While Toulouse today enjoys an international influence in the aviation field, it owes it to the **bold vision** of the entrepreneur Pierre-Georges Latécoère. It was in the Montaudran district that he created, in 1917, the first aircraft factory in the city. The following year, he inaugurated his first airline, thus launching **an extraordinary human and industrial adventure.**

From then on, Toulouse has continued to innovate, design and build aircraft. In 1927, the creation of the Compagnie Générale Aéropostale, resulting from the purchase of Lignes Latécoère, extended this dynamic. From the Montaudran runway, **legendary pilots (Saint Exupéry, Mermoz, Guillaumet)** connected Toulouse to Africa, then to South America, laying the foundations of modern air transport. This founding period was not the result of government policy, but of boldness, a **pioneering spirit** and a fierce desire to open new airways.

Over the decades, this initial impulse has given rise to a **real aviation industry.** Figures like Émile Dewoitine set up the first design offices there, heralding, through reorganisations and mergers, the birth of a European giant: **Airbus.**



©Fondation Latécoère



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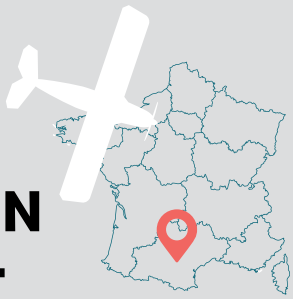
Toulouse & Aircraft in Figures

TOULOUSE,

WORLD AVIATION CAPITAL



A complete ecosystem has gradually been constructed. In addition to the factories and assembly lines, renowned engineering schools such as ISAE-SUPAERO and ENAC, research centres such as ONERA or CNES, as well as innovation centres such as IRT Saint-Exupéry, Aerospace Valley, not to mention a multitude of start-ups.

It is, therefore, not surprising that Toulouse is now recognised as **the world capital of aviation and space.** Its economic dynamism, its international attractiveness and its image as a city of innovation have their roots in this unique story, born here in Montaudran.

The legacy of the pioneers of L'Aéropostale resonates with **the bold spirit** of today's Toulouse pioneers. This state of mind, so typical of the Roaring Twenties, is still here on the territory of Toulouse and **continues to inspire** those who imagine tomorrow.

450
companies in the aviation and space sector
(Toulouse Métropole)





OF FRENCH R&D in aviation
(Toulouse Métropole)

130,000
students, including **15,000 foreign students**
(Toulouse Métropole)



65,000
jobs
(Toulouse Métropole)



+1,300
GRADUATE STUDENTS PER YEAR at ISAE-SUPAERO and ENAC
(ISAE-SUPAERO and ENAC)



Airbus Headquarters,

WORLD NO. 1
IN THE CIVIL AVIATIONMARKET
(**27,000** employees in Toulouse)
(Toulouse Métropole)



EXPERIENCE AN IMMERSIVE ADVENTURE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PIONEERS OF AVIATION

It is right here, on the old runway of the Toulouse-Montaudran airfield, that one of the greatest stories of French and world civil aviation began on December 25, 1918. Since that day, the site has continued to evolve, and it is all this human and technological history that the exhibition of L'Envol des Pionniers traces.

A Living and Immersive Mediation

Throughout the tour, visitors meet **mediators in period costume** embodying the pioneers of L'Aéropostale. Through spontaneous interventions, they tell the great and small stories of this adventure, and revive the atmosphere of the place at the time of the Roaring Twenties.

Stories of Pioneers

L'exposition The exhibition offers a journey to the heart of the Roaring Twenties and invites visitors to discover the adventure stories and exploits of the legendary pilots. Along the way, visitors sit with Antoine de Saint Exupéry in Cap Juby, discovering the **moving letters** he wrote to his mother, sharing the solitude, wonder and dangers of the desert. They then relive the **perilous crossing** of the South Atlantic by Jean Mermoz, then the extraordinary survival of Henri Guillaumet after his **crash in the Andes Mountains.**

The experience extends to backstage at L'Aéropostale, attending, as if in secret, a job interview conducted by the demanding operations manager **Didier Daurat,** for whom discipline and commitment were essential.





The Salmson 2A2, the First Aircraft of Les Lignes Aériennes Latécoère.

Mail, Aircraft and Collectors' Items

The exhibition houses a collection of objects testifying to the history of L'Aéropostale. Among the most valuable pieces are **Antoine de Saint Exupéry's gloves, Jean Mermoz's aviation goggles and Henri Guillaumet's cigarette case.** Archive visuals immerse the visitor in the vibrant atmosphere of the Roaring Twenties, recreating the spirit of a time when anything seemed possible. We also find letters stamped «delay due to service», **poignant evidence** of hostage takings and other mail adventures. An iconic aircraft, an authentic **Salmson 2A2**, invites visitors to imagine the old-fashioned comfort of flights at that time.





The Toulouse Pioneers Area

At the heart of the permanent exhibition, **the Toulouse Pioneers Area** celebrates those who embody the pioneering spirit in Toulouse. By giving a voice to the members of the Toulouse Pioneers collective – today's pioneers who are shaping the future of transport – L'Envol des Pionniers is committed to passing on to future generations the values of boldness, innovation and team spirit that have been the strength of the Aéropostale. This space is in keeping with the ethos of L'Envol des Pionniers: that of a vibrant venue, rooted in Toulouse's history and resolutely looking to the future.



The Family Workshop

L'Envol des Pionniers offers families (from 6 years old) an immersive one-hour workshop to relive a key moment in the history of L'Aéropostale: the first commercial crossing of the South Atlantic by Jean Mermoz in 1930. Immersed in the context of the time, young and old take on the role of journalists who came to investigate the preparations for this historic flight. Using a **participatory approach**, families explore iconic places of L'Aéropostale, including an authentic sorting wagon from the 1930s, and face a series of challenges: sort 50 letters in one minute, decipher and deliver messages in Morse, or identify the most suitable aircraft for a mission. This interactive experience allows families to discover the logistical, human and technical issues of L'Aéropostale in a fun way. This family moment **brings together young and old,** allows the transmission of knowledge to the youngest while introducing them to the **values** of cooperation and innovation that marked this epic.



The Sorting Wagon: a Toulouse Métropole project in partnership with the SNCF, the Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, the Musée Postal des Anciens Ambulants de Toulouse, the INA, Air France Museum and Air France.

“AIR FRANCE, A STORY OF ELEGANCE”

THE EVENT EXHIBITION

LAST FEW WEEKS...

An Event Exhibition to Explore until 2027

Since February 2025, L’Envol des Pionniers has been presenting «Air France, A Story of Elegance». The exhibition traces how, over the years, the company has shaped a unique travel experience, combining **comfort, design and French lifestyle.** More than 200 objects, including 18 haute couture uniforms, designer tableware, iconic aircraft features, items of popular culture or advertising objects, immerse visitors in the very special universe of Air France, internationally recognised for its elegance and refinement. The exhibition also covers to the **link between the company and Toulouse,** on the site that hosted one of its primary maintenance centres for 70 years. Design, fashion, travel, technology... this exhibition charms all audiences.

Enter the Legend

The first part of the exhibition plunges us back to 1933, the year Air France was created, at a time when commercial aviation was in its infancy. To charm travellers still used to trains or liners, the young company commissioned the **greatest designers** to design exceptional posters and world maps. A cabinet of curiosities reveals how, through its agencies, Air France informed and reassured its first passengers using models and cut-away diagrams of aircraft illustrating the course of a flight as well as many advertising and popular culture objects.

A Toulouse Story

The exhibition continues in the former workshops of the Air France Technical Revision Centre in **Toulouse-Montaudran**, used by the company for almost 70 years. This iconic place is part of the heritage of L’Aéropostale, integrated into Air France from its creation, and where great names such as pilot Antoine de Saint Exupéry worked. **The cradle of aviation,** Toulouse saw the birth of iconic aircraft of the Air France fleet, such as the Caravelle, the Concorde and the Airbus A320. Superb photos by Jean Dieuzaide illustrate this rich local history.









Take Off in Complete Elegance

From the first flights of the Laté 28 in the 1930s, accommodating only eight passengers, through the Laté 631, a real airliner on which travellers met at the bar in evening wear or the mythical Concorde that connected Paris to New York in three and a half hours, **Air France has always taken care of its image and the comfort of its passengers.** In 1946, with the appearance of the first flight attendants, the company further affirmed its sense of style by **entrusting the creation of uniforms to great couturiers** such as Balenciaga, Dior and Nina Ricci. The experience on board was also refined: crockery designed by renowned designers, menus inspired by French gastronomy, attention paid to children, etc.

Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to discover, as the development evolves, the excellence and refinement that embody the soul of Air France - a strong and timeless identity, deeply rooted in the company's history.

A Guided Tour to Explore Behind the Scenes of French Elegance According to Air France

L'Envol des Pionniers invites visitors to continue their journey in the refined world of Air France through a **45-minute guided tour.** Much more than just a chronological journey, this visit offers an in-depth view of the history of the company, from its creation in 1933 to today, by highlighting the major developments that have shaped its image and its art of travel.

Visitors have access to **little-known stories,** detailed explanations of certain iconic objects, and a look at the customs of the time, sometimes surprising in view of current standards. Iconic aircraft, prominent figures such as the first flight attendants, collaborations with the greatest creators... the visit allows us to better understand how Air France has been able to combine **innovation, refinement and French identity over the decades.**



INSPIRING TODAY'S STUDENTS TO MAKE THEM THE PIONEERS OF TOMORROW



Pierre Elie Ferrier, known as PEF, is a children's author and illustrator and patron of L'Envol des Pionniers' educational programme.

Since childhood, aeroplanes have been a source of inspiration for him. The Aéropostale, its legendary pilots, and in particular Antoine de Saint Exupéry, have been sources of inspiration for him, guiding his imagination as they still guide that of younger generations. By becoming patron of L'Envol des Pionniers' educational programme, PEF has fully committed himself to this mission of passing on knowledge, which he has always believed in. For him, L'Envol des Pionniers is a dream machine, where history comes alive and becomes accessible. His Bréguet XIV found its place there a few years ago, at child height, echoing the passion that drives him: connecting generations through knowledge, emotion and the poetry of flight.

THE EDUCATIONAL OFFER

L'Envol des Pionniers offers an programme entirely dedicated to educational audiences, from kindergarten to Sixth Form. Designed to complement school curricula, the workshops developed cover a wide range of disciplines: French, history, geography, mathematics, science, technology and communication. These educational actions, supported by the MGEN, are developed in close partnership with National Education, thanks to the collaboration of teachers seconded by Toulouse Academy. They have developed educational projects that promote **active learning and stimulate students' curiosity.** Many resources are also accessible online for teachers to prepare or extend their visit to L'Envol des Pionniers in class.

Educational Project: "In the Footsteps of Saint Exupéry"

L'Envol des Pionniers offers an educational programme designed for cycle 3 students (Year 5/ Year 6). From October, each class receives a briefcase containing period objects, photographs, accessories and literary resources in connection with one of the iconic aviators of L'Aéropostale. As the classroom sessions progress, students discover the life of the character by studying the different elements in the briefcase.

They then carry out an oral collective production on an episode of the aviator's life. All formats are possible (play, dance, costume, etc.). Classes are then invited at the end of the school year to come and present their work at L'Envol des Pionniers.



Workshops to Learn by Exploring

Stories of Pilots

year 5 - year 8 - 45 min
An apprentice pilot is about to experience his very first flight. The students help him find the mail he will have to transport to the sorting wagon and equip himself for this adventure. Through letters, they discover together the stories of Antoine de Saint Exupéry and his comrades, pilots of L'Aéropostale.

Antoine de Saint Exupéry Adventure

Year 5 - Year 6 - 1 hour
In his workshop, a mechanic of L'Aéropostale welcomes students to prepare a surprise for the pilot, Antoine de Saint Exupéry. In groups, they operate period objects, solve puzzles and follow the adventures of the author of the Little Prince in a collaborative game tracing his life.

Montaudran Trainees

Years 12 and 13 - 1 hour

Students become trainees visiting the Montaudran site in 1929. Through objects and testimonies of the period, they discover La Ligne, the life of a pilot and the different professions of the men and women who contributed to the fabulous adventure of L'Aéropostale. Students are challenged to try their hand at the technical operations of the time and to make the right choices in the situations presented and according to the skills of the different professions.

TRANSMIT HISTORY, BUILD THE FUTURE

In the Toulouse-Montaudran district, the **pioneering spirit continues to vibrate.** On this iconic site of the beginnings of French commercial aviation, L'Envol des Pionniers brings together several committed stakeholders: some strive to transmit and «revive» for the public this exceptional historical heritage, while others are inventing the future by meeting the great contemporary challenges of aviation.

Les Amis de L'Envol des Pionniers: Transmit and Inspire

Since 2021, the association Les Amis de L'Envol des Pionniers has played a key role in the promoting the history of the site. Made up of enthusiasts, alumni of Montaudran and Air France, descendants of pioneers and aviation professionals, it ensures that **heritage and shared knowledge is preserved,** and provides the connection between yesterday's pioneers and young generations, It works closely with the teams of L'Envol des Pionniers to organise events, meetings and collections of objects but also to offer educational and intergenerational activities for schoolchildren.

For further information: amis-envol-pionniers.fr

Toulouse Pioneers: Inventing the mobility of tomorrow

Launched at the end of 2022, the Toulouse Pioneers collective brings together innovative companies that, like the pioneers of L'Aéropostale, are boldly **tackling today's major challenges** of today's aviation. They share a common vision: to invent a more sustainable, bold and collaborative form of mobility. As active participants in the site's cultural life, they engage with the public to showcase their projects and pass on their commitment to the younger generation.

At the heart of the permanent exhibition, **the Toulouse Pioneers Space** gives a voice to these visionary entrepreneurs who keep the pioneering spirit alive in Toulouse and, in turn, inspire future generations.

Aura Aero - Delair - Latecoere - OpenAirlines - Ascendance

Further information on our website, section «our co-pilots»

The Laté 28 Project: An Unprecedented Educational Project with the Académie de Toulouse

Launched in 2022 by Toulouse Métropole and carried forward by L'Envol des Pionniers, the project aims to exactly reconstruct one of the iconic aircraft of L'Aéropostale: **the Laté 28 (19-metre wingspan)**. Nineteen technological and vocational high schools in Toulouse Academy are taking part in this unprecedented educational project, accompanied by the Laté 28 association. Students take part in all stages, from design to assembly, combining historical know-how and current technologies. This project highlights **professional sectors and promotes excellence.** The delivery of the (non-flying) aircraft is scheduled for 2028, with a final assembly in the former Air France engine workshops, opposite L'Envol des Pionniers.

Further information on our website, section «Educational projects»





A TAILOR-MADE EXPERIENCE FOR PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

L'Envol des Pionniers offers an original event proposal for companies and professionals at the heart of the historic site of L'Aéropostale. More than a hospitality venue, it offers an **immersive experience** around legendary characters such as Antoine de Saint Exupéry, Jean Mermoz and Pierre-Georges Latécoère.

Seminars, meetings, gala evenings, product launches, after-work … here **each format finds an inspiring framework, anchored in strong values** such as boldness, team spirit, perseverance, respect and self-improvement.

The site offers fully privatised spaces, tailor-made technical services, dedicated professional support, as well as original presentations: immersive visits, mediators in period clothing, participatory workshops, etc.

With more than 200 events per year and more than 25 years of expertise in event reception, a responsive team, easy access and free parking, L'Envol des Pionniers (SEMECCEL) is a key player for professional events that are both memorable and meaningful.



5 espaces modulables



Le Café des Pionniers

170 m²

Up to 120 people (cocktail reception)

La Salle des Pionniers

150m²

Up to 130 people (in theatre / cocktail event mode)





L'Atelier de la Ligne

53m²

Up to 14 people at the central table

Le Bureau de Didier Daurat

50 m²

Up to 25 people (in theatre mode)





La Salle des Mécanos

50 m²

Up to 20 people (in a U shape)



A Turnkey Service

L'Envol des Pionniers offers companies a **turnkey formula** to facilitate the organisation of their professional events. In addition to the simple reservation of the venue, this complete service includes the provision of a meeting room, a coffee reception as well as two breaks, lunch in a neighbouring restaurant and a free visit to the exhibitions. L'Envol des Pionniers provides **personalised support** during all stages of the project (organisation, installation, operation) and thus ensures the smooth running of the event.

To learn more about business offers:
https://www.lenvol-des-pionniers.com/en/professionals/



SEMECCEL: STIMULATING CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EMOTION

A recognised stakeholder in scientific and cultural mediation, SEMECCEL operates two major cultural sites: Cité de l'espace and L'Envol des Pionniers. It designs immersive and accessible exhibitions, events and experiences for all audiences, combining emotion, knowledge and innovation.

SEMECCEL also supports partners in France and internationally in implementing cultural projects, thus affirming its global influence.

With more than 20 years of expertise, SEMECCEL federates a vast network of professionals and remains committed to major international networks related to space, aviation and education, making culture a vector of emotion, appropriation and sharing.

A responsible company, SEMECCEL is also committed to an ambitious CSR approach.
L'Envol des Pionniers counts among its partners MGEN, Banque Populaire Occitane, the Latécoère Foundation, Aura Aero, Delair, Latecoere, OpenAirlines, and Ascendance, and is also supported by the association Les Amis de L'Envol des Pionniers.

En savoir plus sur : www.semeccel.com

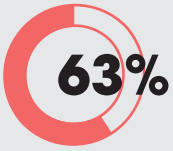
SEMECCEL in 3 Figures

180
employees

21M€
budget

490 000
total footfall on our two sites

Shareholders



Communities
- Toulouse Métropole (37,45%)
- Mairie de Toulouse (18,72%)
- Région Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée (6,87%)



Aviation Sector
- Airbus DS (13,69%)
- CNES (6,85%)
- Thales Alenia Space (4,55%)
- Météo France (2,75%)



Banks
- La Caisse d'Epargne Midi-Pyrénées (4,56%)
- La Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (4,55%)

ACCESSIBILITY

L'Envol des Pionniers attaches particular importance to making culture accessible to all. Since 2021, the site has been registered «Tourism & Handicap» for four disabilities (hearing, mental, motor and visual), a state certification that identifies establishments which meet the specific needs of visitors with disabilities. This commitment is reflected in different ways: layout adapted to people with reduced mobility, subtitled videos, LSF (French Sign Language) tours, Braille booklets, etc. Teams are also trained to welcome visitors with disabilities.

Further information on our website, section «People with disabilities»

TOURISME & HANDICAP
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE







POPULAR EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Throughout the year, L'Envol des Pionniers organises many festive and immersive events to plunge young and old into the very special atmosphere of L'Aéropostale at the time of the Roaring Twenties.

January

Reading Night

Dramatised readings of literary masterpieces.

May

European Museum Night

Free evening opening with many original presentations.

July (every two years)

All bold!

A great event to celebrate boldness in all its forms.

July / August

Summer Open-Air Dance (Guingette) Evenings

Summer evenings to the rhythm of the music of the Roaring Twenties with exclusive entertainment for the whole family.

September

European Heritage Days

Free weekend to explore L'Envol des Pionniers with unprecedented access to spaces usually closed to visitors and an original celebratory programme.

November (every two years)

Stars and Wings Festival

Exhibitions, conferences, literary prizes, flight simulators and entertainment for young and old.

December

Christmas at L'Envol des Pionniers

A dive into the atmosphere of a Toulouse Christmas in the 1920s.

To find out about our other events throughout the year, visit our website, under «The events».

LE CAFÉ DES PIONNIERS

AMBIANCE ANNÉES FOLLES

A Culinary Journey Back to the Roaring Twenties

Le Café des Pionniers invites visitors on **a journey back in time to the heart of the Roaring Twenties.** In a fully staged 160m² space, every detail helps recreate the atmosphere of the cafés that brought Toulouse to life during the early days of aviation. An antique cash register, a wood-burning stove, a gramophone, mirrors, wall sconces, and vintage posters are paired with antique or weathered furniture to evoke the aesthetic of the 1920s. The richly decorated walls, warm colors, and period-inspired tableware come together to create a vibrant setting, faithful to the effervescence of that decade. The immersive experience continues through the soundscape, featuring jazz, Charleston, and tango tunes… Even the service, provided by staff dressed in the style of old-fashioned café waiters, contributes to transporting visitors back to an era when cafés were places for socializing, debate, and celebration.

To extend the experience offered at L'Envol des Pionniers, guides dressed as pilots, mechanics, or fabric-covering specialists will occasionally pass through Le Café des Pionniers. Their presence will add to the atmosphere of the venue and give visitors the impression of sharing a moment in a Toulouse café during the early days of civil aviation.Une carte de tapas inspirée des escales de l'Aéropostale



A tapas menu inspired by the Aéropostale's stopovers

The menu at Café des Pionniers draws inspiration from the places that have shaped the history of the Aéropostale. It features a selection of hot and cold tapas that subtly evoke the countries traversed by the pioneers of aviation (France, Spain, Morocco, Senegal, Argentina, Brazil): foie gras, a charcuterie platter, gazpacho, vegetable samosas, empanadas, and more. Refreshing drinks, coffee, tea, cocktails, and sweet treats round out the menu, making the Café des Pionniers a place where guests are happy to linger for a culinary journey in the warm atmosphere of the Roaring Twenties.









An event venue rooted in Toulouse's aviation history

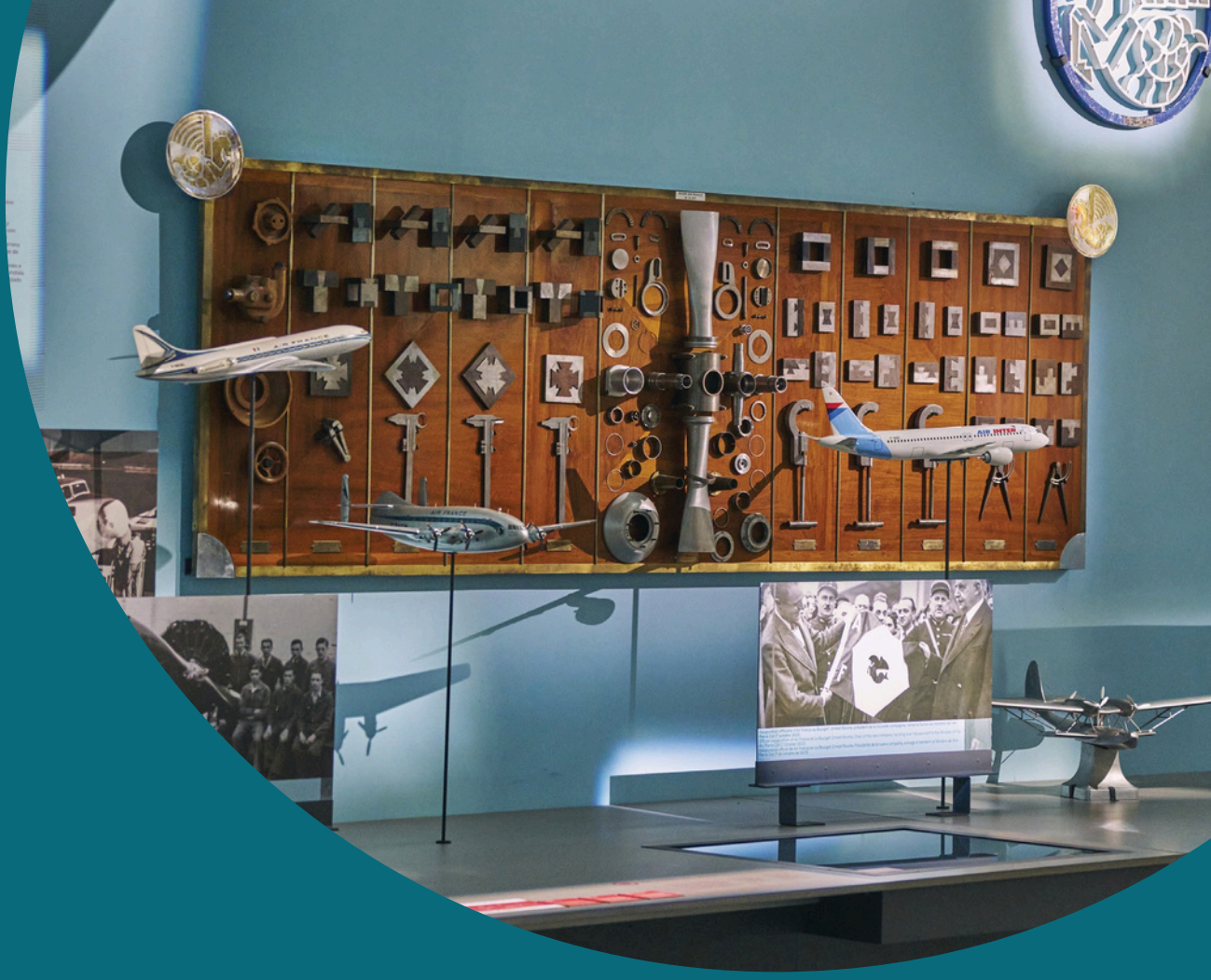
The Café des Pionniers is also an event venue dedicated to businesses, capable of hosting meetings, seminars, conferences, or professional gatherings in a flexible 160 m^2 space. The café's decor, inspired by the Roaring Twenties, immerses guests in a period of excitement and collective enthusiasm, marked by the emergence of aviation and the sense that anything was possible. It was against this backdrop that a decisive chapter in Toulouse's aviation history was written, right here at the site of L'Envol des Pionniers, where Toulouse forged its destiny in this field. **This unique setting allows companies to host an event in a place steeped in history and innovation,** resonating with the spirit of transformation and vision that defined the pioneers of aviation.

THE SHOP



Open to the public during L'Envol des Pionniers' operating hours, **the shop is open to everyone** - no need to visit the museum. It offers a rich and diverse selection for all audiences and all ages: books, games and toys, posters, decorative items, accessories, clothing, stationery, and design pieces inspired by the worlds of aviation and travel. Visitors will find a wide selection of products dedicated to the epic story of the Aéropostale, to Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and his famous *The Little Prince*, as well as to the history of the *L'Envol des Pionniers* site.

Certain items - including specialized books, reproductions, and collectibles - **are hard to find through traditional retail channels, making the shop a go-to destination for enthusiasts of aviation, heritage, and literature.** In conjunction with the special exhibition "Air France: Story of Elegance," the shop also features a section dedicated to the airline. There, visitors can discover a selection of items inspired by the airline's history, its visual identity, and the art of French-style travel, thereby extending the visitor experience centered on this great aviation adventure.



L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS

SITE DE LÉGENDE • TOULOUSE MONTAUDRAN

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