

PRESS RELEASE

FLYING WHALES continues its commitment to the economic, social, and sustainable transformation of Côte d'Ivoire through LCA60T airship technology



Paris, 18 February 2025

On February 14, 2025, in Abidjan, FLYING WHALES took another step towards implementing an airship transport network in Côte d'Ivoire. This project, marking a turning point in the country's economic and social development, was presented at a seminar attended by the Minister of Transport, Amadou Koné, and His Excellency Jean-Christophe Belliard, Ambassador of France. The event included workshops with various Ivorian ministries, local businesses, and experts from priority sectors for the Ivorian state. Numerous local media covered the event.

A visionary partnership for a sustainable future

This seminar follows the agreement signed in January 2024 between the Ministry of Transport of Côte d'Ivoire and FLYING WHALES at the Invest in Bouaké forum. The

agreement aims to establish an innovative air network using high-capacity airships to decarbonize freight transport in Côte d'Ivoire and the broader sub-region. As a pioneering country in Africa for this technology, Côte d'Ivoire is positioning itself as a leader in sustainable development policies and climate change mitigation.

FLYING WHALES' solution in Côte d'Ivoire aligns with an innovation and sustainability approach, envisioning a network that will connect 22 African countries with a fleet of 160 airships. This project will enhance connectivity between urban and rural areas while creating new commercial and environmental opportunities at a regional scale.

A significant contribution to Côte d'Ivoire's economy and social policy

During this seminar, FLYING WHALES presented the findings of an in-depth study conducted in 2024 in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport on the impact of this technology on key sectors of the Ivorian economy. Estimates suggest that the introduction of airships could contribute between +6.25% and +8.45% to Côte d'Ivoire's current GDP.

- **Energy sector:** A GDP increase of +1.5% to +2.5%, accelerating electrification, industrial integration, and energy transition.
- **Mining sector:** A GDP increase of +0.4% to +0.8%, particularly supporting gold mining operations.
- **Logistics sector:** A GDP increase of +0.6% to +1.4%, improving the movement of goods from ports to inland countries and special economic zones in a seamless and decarbonized manner.
- **Agriculture sector:** A GDP increase of +3.75%, particularly by reducing post-harvest losses in high-value sectors (cocoa, coffee, cashew nuts) and improving food sovereignty.

These findings underscore the strong added value of FLYING WHALES' solution for the Ivorian economy and its contribution to job creation, investment opportunities, and socio-environmental benefits.

"This joint project will have a significant positive impact as it will add great value to the industry, the state, and the people," said Tanguy LESTIENNE, General Director of FLYING WHALES SERVICES. *"We are very interested in this solution as it will not only reduce port and road congestion but also improve the country's supply chain and later extend beyond,"* said Minister of Transport Amadou KONÉ.

An initial cooperation agreement was signed during the workshop with the Autonomous Port of San Pedro (PASP) by its Director-General, Hilaire LAMIZANA, and Tanguy LESTIENNE, in the presence of Minister of Transport Amadou KONÉ and French Ambassador Jean-Christophe BELLIARD.

A Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework and strategic positioning

More broadly, following the collaboration initiated in 2024, the Ivorian government and FLYING WHALES are working towards signing a public-private partnership (PPP) for design

and implementation. The goal is to establish FLYING WHALES' pilot project in Africa, with Côte d'Ivoire hosting the first airship base, making the country a pioneer in developing airship networks across the continent.

About FLYING WHALES :

FLYING WHALES is a Franco-Canadian company developing an ambitious and unique program thanks to its innovations, the expertise of its teams, and its industrial consortium: the LCA60T, a rigid airship designed for heavy cargo transport with a capacity of 60 tons. Initially conceived to meet the needs of renewable timber harvesting in remote areas, the LCA60T's unique ability to load and unload while hovering will provide solutions to various logistical and connectivity challenges worldwide with a minimal environmental footprint. This cost-effective solution removes terrestrial constraints for point-to-point transport of heavy or bulky loads. Additionally, FLYING WHALES is developing FLYING WHALES SERVICES, the company operating the LCA60T. Its Canadian subsidiary, FLYING WHALES QUÉBEC, with Investissement Québec as a shareholder, supports the aeronautics program and, in the industrial phase, aims to expand into the American market.

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