



We Protect What Is Dear

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Positive Aviation announces €8 million fundraising to develop the FF72, a water scooping firefighter aircraft derived from the ATR 72-600, successor to the Canadair**

Following the signing at the "AFFE25" (Aerial FireFighter Europe) event in Bordeaux in March 2025 of an agreement designating Bridger Aerospace Group Holdings, the leading operator of CL-415 SuperScooper in the United States, as the launch customer for the FF72 and covering an order for 10 aircraft and an option for 10 additional aircraft, **Positive Aviation is pleased to announce the completion of a fundraising of €8 million from French private investors**, engaged in addressing the issues of civil protection, sovereignty and reindustrialization.

The Toulouse based company, created in 2024 by former Airbus engineers and program managers, designs and manufactures the **FF72, a water scooping firefighting aircraft, derived from the ATR 72-600**, which has similar characteristics to the Canadair CL-415. This derivation consists of replacing the ATR 72's landing gear with two floats, themselves equipped with landing gear and scoops. They give the aircraft the ability to scoop water from water fields (lake, river, sea) to fill 8,000 liters of water in twelve seconds into tanks installed in the fuselage, which can then be dropped on fires in approximately 1 second.

The derivative aircraft approach makes it possible to offer an increased water capacity of 2,000 liters and improved scooping conditions compared to the Canadair, operational availability rates, maintenance and operating costs that are very clearly disrupted, an acquisition price almost half that of a new Canadair, availability from 2028 and production of 12 aircraft per year from 2030. Finally, the range, cruising speed, but also the availability and reliability of this model will make its use possible throughout the year, including during fire seasons in the southern hemisphere.

In a context of a general shortage of air resources in the face of growing needs, this initiative is attracting the interest of many players in the sector and also new players, in particular lessors and operators, both public and private.

With a design office of around twenty people, located at Toulouse Blagnac airport, the company has undertaken, with its industrial partners from the aeronautical and naval industries, the detailed design and manufacture of a first prototype of its product which will fly from the summer of 2026, as part of a 6-year development plan and leading to certification and first delivery at the end of 2028.

**Positive Aviation has just completed an €8 million equity round to finance the development of the FF72 and consolidate the company's French industrial and capital base.** This round of funding brings together the Falcon Investissement fund, supported by Shanghaivest as Lead Investor, the Toulouse-based company NOGA (Doncieux family), the ARTS France company and numerous private investors.

**An additional crowdfunding round of 2 million euros is underway on the WiSEED platform.** Its aim is to bring to fruition and unite the citizen enthusiasm that has accompanied this project since its creation.

“Following the vote of confidence from our launch customer, this fundraising further strengthens Positive Aviation’s trajectory,” said Laurent Schmitt, President and Co-founder of Positive Aviation. “This commitment honors us and allows us to secure funding for the development and manufacturing of the FF72-X1 flying demonstrator, which will make its first flight in summer 2026.”

### **About Positive Aviation**

The Positive Aviation company, founded by 6 former employees of the Airbus group around Laurent Schmitt (48 years old - former Chief Engineer Airbus and Dassault Aviation) and based at Toulouse Blagnac airport, is carrying out the FF72 project, a water scooping firefighting aircraft derived from the ATR 72, successor to the Canadair designed and produced in France, in partnership with aeronautical industrial companies in the South West of France and a shipyard based in Brittany. They are aiming for certification and entry into service by the end of 2028. After a ramp-up in 2029, to respond to the market urgency, the FF72 product will be assembled on a base of new and second-hand ATRs at a rate of 12 aircraft per year from 2030.

With the FF72, Positive Aviation is positioning itself as a key player in the fight against forest fires, offering an innovative and competitive French solution.

More details about Positive Aviation available on <https://positive-aviation.com> or <https://www.wiseed.com/projet/115518222>

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