

ADS Toulouse Member insight – CAV Systems

CAV Systems is a leading provider of ice protection and drag reduction technology to general aviation, commercial aerospace, and defence markets worldwide.

CAV's history can be traced back to 1942, when one of its proprietary technologies – TKS was first formed to tackle the issue of icing on newly formed aircraft.

TKS is installed in over 100 different aircraft variants and is the market's highest performing in-flight ice protection system.

Today, CAV remains the only global supplier of fluid-based ice protection systems and the foremost supplier of laser perforated surfaces.

Innovating on the leading edge since for 80 years, CAV continues to invest in new innovations and capabilities which includes a new 'Bio' fluid. Currently in development, the new fluid, is manufactured from sustainable sources and biodegradable. Fluid ice protection is proven as an alternative to bleed air on large commercial platforms – structure and engine inlet.

A critical technology and manufacturing partner to major commercial OEMs, CAV provides design, manufacturing and consultancy services involving more than 7,000 aircraft, as well as bespoke solutions for new individual aircraft.

Working in metallics and/or composites, CAV offer the lowest power, ambient temperature anti-ice protection system available on the market.

Over the past 28 years, CAV has been the primary partner in 15 FAA/EASA FIKI certification programs. On all programs CAV provided airframe, propeller, and windshield ice protection. This is equivalent to more than one every other year!

Between 1994 and 2022, the CAV team completed more clean sheet FIKI certification programs than any other single company/corporation in the world.

More FIKI aircraft are fitted with CAV equipment each year than any other single brand of ice protection equipment.

The company has an incredible safety record, and there has never been an icing accident or incident resulting from flight in icing conditions with a CAV System certificated for FIKI conditions.

Additionally, CAV's IPS can provide full protection for Appendix O Supercooled Large Droplets – the only ice protection system able to do so. Offering high manufacturing volume with extremely low scrap rates and precision, with the ability to drill to over 800 0.0025in diameter holes per square inch.

CAV's expertise is globally recognised by Airworthiness Authorities and with UK CAA Design Organisation Approval (DOA) status pending – the organisation demonstrates clear and recognised capability and authorisation for self-certification of product design changes, and new Supplemental Type Certificates.

CAV is also the only provider of porous surfaces for use in drag reduction system in use on any current commercial platform. Successfully expanding unique know-how in laser drilling into commercial aircraft markets. Supporting Primes with development of new manufacturing techniques for composite parts to enable their broader application.

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