INTRODUCTION

Saab AB is one of the world’s leading companies in design, development and manufacturing of complete aircraft. Since 1937 Saab has designed and developed more than 15 different types of aircraft. Most of them have been military aircraft but some have been commercial aircraft such as the Saab 340 and Saab 2000.

In all programs the use of composites has steadily increased during the last decades. At present, Saab Aerostructures focus most of the development work on new composite technology which makes it possible to build complex, integrated cost-effective composite structures.

The objective of this presentation is to give an overview of present and future commitments in internal programs such as the Gripen fighter and UAV development programs as well as in external programs in co-operation with partners like Airbus and Boeing.

Saab has a strong tradition in R&D and has been involved in a number of national and international research programs. In this presentation an overview of some of the R&D projects will be given and interesting results will be highlighted.

Finally we will present our view of where to focus the research to be able to provide technology solutions that meets the requirements of the future.