

Bombardier: new assembly line construction planned for later this year

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The deal between Airbus and Bombardier will bring a new assembly plant to Mobile. (Photo: Airbus)

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FOX10 News has learned that construction on a new Airbus assembly line at the Brookley Aeroplex could start sooner than originally discussed.

The new line is being built because of the upcoming partnership between Airbus and Bombardier to build Bombardier C Series passenger jets in Mobile

The new assembly line to be built at Brookley has been talked about for months.

Just a few weeks ago, Bombardier officials were quoted as saying construction on the new C Series assembly plant would begin next year.

But Bombardier's C Series Vice President Rob Dewar told FOX10 News Wednesday, "Our plan is to start construction this

year. Our plans are mostly completed."

Dewar attended the inaugural Southeast Aerospace & Defence Conference being held at the Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel this week.

The meeting brought together about a hundred aerospace suppliers, investors, and others to network and hear the latest developments on projects like the new Airbus assembly line to be built in Mobile.

Dewar said, "The partnership takes effect on July first, so, next week. And that really allows us to go forward and start the contracting and constructing of facilities."

Speakers included Dewar as well as Airbus officials and others.

One power point presentation made by Airbus officials had some eye opening numbers about how Mobile has joined a world wide top ten list.

Mike Lee with the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce said, "I was really excited to hear that Mobile, already, in it's short time in the aerospace industry, is the sixth largest production facility for jet aircraft in the hundred seat and above category."

And projections were that Mobile could move up to fourth in the world by 2021.

Scott Hamilton with the aviation consulting firm Leeham Company was one of the organizers of the conference.

He said presentations by Airbus and Bombardier officials shed light on the new assembly line to be in Mobile.

Hamilton said, "The first airplane will roll out of that factory in mid 2020 to a U.S. customer, presumably Delta, but it could be somebody else. And, then, the ramp up. That is how many airplanes per month are produced, The initial 12 months will be two per month, then three per month, then four per month."

Local business leaders have said the new assembly line is expected to create more than 400 new direct jobs.