

46ESS-72: CFM56 engines

BADUFLE MAXIME

The CFM56 engine designation refers to a range of engines designed and manufactured by CFM International which is a joint venture between the French company Safran Aircraft Engines and the American society General Electrics. Since 1974 many CFM56 have been manufactured and operated for extensive applications (CFM56-2, CFM56-3, CFM56-5A, CFM56-5C, CFM56-5B, CFM56-7B...). Nowadays more than 11,000 operating aircrafts (mainly Airbus and Boeing short and medium haul aircrafts) are fitted with a CFM56 which is the best-selling engine in the history of aviation covering a thrust range from 82.3 to 146.8 kN.

But what is the reason of this success story? Why did this engine become a reference point in its category? Considering the engine's reliability, its constant evolution and also its low operating and maintenance costs we can bring several answers. However, can CFM International rely on its past achievements? As suppliers of "the cheapest engine today in service" according to the customers, the society and the two involved companies now have to build the future. The LEAP engine could define this future and give the key to preserve the momentum induced by the CFM56.