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Proskauer Advises Airbus and Air France on Creation of A350 Component Maintenance Joint Venture

November 20, 2026

PARIS, November 20, 2026 – Proskauer advised Airbus and Air France, as joint counsel, on the competition law aspects of creating Alpha Component Solutions, their joint venture dedicated to component maintenance services for the Airbus A350. The transaction was notified in eight jurisdictions, including the European Union.

The joint venture is owned equally by Airbus and Air France and brings together the capabilities of Airbus Flight Hours Services and Air France Industries KLM Engineering & Maintenance. Its creation, announced on October 28, 2026, aims to meet the growing needs of the global A350 fleet. The joint venture will provide an integrated offering that combines access to a worldwide pool of components with maintenance, repair and supply chain management services.

Proskauer's Antitrust team advised on the competitive assessment of the transaction, prepared the merger control notifications and coordinated proceedings across the jurisdictions concerned, with support from economists at Compass Lexecon.

In the European Union, the European Commission cleared the transaction unconditionally on April 27, 2026, following a Phase I review. The review involved detailed legal and economic analysis of the global market for A350 component maintenance services, including the definition of relevant markets, the reconstruction of market shares and the analysis of tender data to assess the closeness of competition between the parties.

The Commission concluded that other providers of integrated maintenance services and component manufacturers would continue to exert sufficient competitive pressure. It also noted the prospect of entry over the medium term, linked to growth in the A350 fleet and the development of a second-hand parts market.

The Commission also examined the efficiencies expected from pooling the parties' inventories and the complementarity of their logistics networks, particularly in relation to parts availability and supply lead times. While it acknowledged the potential benefits, it did not conclude that all the conditions required for them to be considered had been met, as the transaction could be authorised independently of these gains.

The Proskauer team was led by partner Edouard Sarrazin and included counsel Julie Brousseau and associate Louise Riberat (Antitrust).

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