

Alfor Aviation at Farnborough International Airshow 2026

By Ömer Mafa, Alfor Aviation CEO and Director

Farnborough International Airshow 2026 was a defining moment for Alfor Aviation. As a young company, it gave us the platform to introduce our Internal Loading System, or ILS, to the global aerospace community, and to show that meaningful innovation is still possible in passenger-to-freighter conversion.

For more than 70 years, the industry has relied on the same basic model: cutting a large door into the side of an aircraft. ILS takes a different approach. Containers are loaded through the aircraft's existing lower cargo doors and lifted to the main deck by two internal elevators, so we never touch the fuselage. It isn't a cargo transporter, it's a container transporter, and that distinction lets us cut conversion costs by close to 40 per cent and bring P2F conversion turnaround times down to around three months.

The conversations we had throughout the week confirmed the scale of the opportunity. Growing e-commerce volumes and time-critical supply chains are pushing operators, lessors and airlines toward capacity that is faster to bring online, and there was real appetite for a solution that works alongside the existing conversion ecosystem rather than against it.

Farnborough also gave us the platform to build on our recently announced £50 million investment in a new global headquarters and conversion centre at Teesside, a decision shaped by the Freeport and the region's industrial capability, and one that will create 250 skilled jobs.

Our immediate focus is certification. Ground testing on our proof-of-concept A330-300 begins shortly, with flight testing to follow in the autumn ahead of final EASA STC evaluation, and we expect to be taking first orders in early 2027.

Farnborough reinforced our belief that the future of air cargo depends on practical, collaborative innovation. There is a win here for airlines, lessors and engine manufacturers alike, and we're looking forward to delivering it.



Post-Show Briefs