




Activity report 2025

Skywin 

AERO • SPACE • DEFENCE • (C)UAS
INNOVATION • COLLABORATION • INTERNATIONALISATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Taking on a new
dimension

2025 A year of transition for Skywin.....	3
Skywin 2025 in a Nutshell.....	4
Key figures.....	6
Sectors Trends in 2025.....	8
Projects labeled by the Walloon Government.....	22
Members.....	24
International.....	26
Main local events organized in 2025.....	28
Partners.....	29
Team Skywin.....	30
Governance.....	31

2025 A YEAR OF TRANSITION FOR SKYWIN

In 2025, Skywin continued its transformation to boost its efficiency and meet the new challenges facing the sectors it supports.

The relocation of the cluster to Namur (Ecolys) marks a new step in the operational rapprochement with the Walloon mecatronics cluster Pole MecaTech. This development aims to reinforce synergies between Walloon industrial (Wallonia, in Belgium) and technological stakeholders and to foster more cross-sector collaborations around innovation, internationalisation, and strategic technologies.

This momentum comes at a time when the aeronautics, space, and defence sectors are undergoing profound changes linked to :

- energy transition - decarbonised aviation
- technological sovereignty challenges
- cybersecurity
- artificial intelligence
- and dual-use

In response to these transformations, Skywin continues to play its role as a facilitator of collaboration and a catalyst for innovation in support of Walloon companies and industrial sectors.



Skywin 2025 in a Nutshell

The year 2025 marked a new milestone in the development of Skywin and the aeronautics, space, drone, and defence ecosystems in Wallonia.



In a rapidly changing international context, the cluster continued its mission to support :

- collaborative innovation
- industrial competitiveness
- the international visibility of Walloon stakeholders



Skywin 2025 in a Nutshell

The year was marked by several major developments :

- the continuation of the **WINGS** program focused on decarbonised aviation
- the strengthening of activities related to Space and New Space
- the development of the *Space4Defence* roadmap
- the growing importance of dual-use technologies and European sovereignty challenges
- the strong international momentum surrounding the Paris Air Show
- the international missions focused on Skywin's industrial sectors

Throughout the year, Skywin continued to play its role as a collaboration and networking platform bringing together companies, research centres, universities, and institutional partners.



Key figures



135 Members

- 95 SMEs
- 14 Large companies
- 9 Universities
- 17 Research centres

10 000 JOBS

105 Collaborative projects

Since 2006

€320M total budget

- Private budget - industry
- Public funding for R&D
- Public funding for industry



2025 IN FIGURES

International & Visibility



- 6** major international initiatives carried out with AWEX
- 5** promotional events abroad
- 55** Walloon companies present at The Paris Air Show 'Le Bourget'

Ecosystem



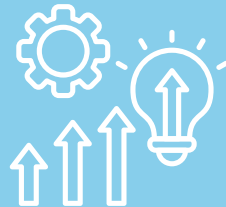
- 4** new members joined into the Skywin network
- 20** workshops and technology meetings
- 4** sector-specific working groups led by the cluster
- 10** networking events and collaborative innovation sessions support for members in international and technology projects
- 600** participants in seminars, workshops and events supported by the cluster.

Social media & Communication

- 92,882** LinkedIn impressions
- 3,836** followers
- 670** new followers in 2025
- 80** articles published
- 50+** events promoted
- 9** newsletters & **1,100+** subscribers communication campaigns throughout the year



SECTORS TRENDS IN 2025





AERO 

AERONAUTICS

Innovation driving low-carbon aviation

In 2025, the Walloon aeronautics sector confirmed its strong post-Covid recovery, with global air traffic and industrial activity exceeding pre-pandemic levels. This renewed momentum continued to benefit major OEMs such as Airbus, while accelerating the transition towards lower-emission aviation.

Skywin continued to support Walloon aerospace stakeholders in addressing the technological and industrial challenges linked to aviation decarbonisation and next-generation aircraft systems.

The WINGS program continued to play a structuring role within the Walloon ecosystem by fostering collaborative innovation projects focused on :

- Aerostructure
- New propulsion technologies
- Communication and embedded systems
- Innovative processes and materials
- Electrification and aircraft energy optimisation



AERONAUTICS

Several **projects supported or labeled in 2025** were directly aligned with these priorities, particularly in the fields of :

- low carbon aviation
- electric actuators
- motor control systems
- composite structures
- advanced aeronautical testing technologies

The sector's accelerated growth also created pressure on production capacities, supply chains, and skilled workforce availability, reinforcing the importance of industrial resilience and technological innovation for the years ahead.

The aerospace sector also continued to strengthen its industrial footprint in Wallonia through new production capacities, industrial investments and supply-chain consolidation initiatives.





WINGS

Walloon **IN**novations for **Green Skies**

Avec le soutien de la



Wallonie



WINGS 2025 - Structuring the future of sustainable aviation in Wallonia

In 2025, the WINGS program continued to play a central role in the transformation of the Walloon aeronautics ecosystem and in the development of low-carbon aviation technologies.

Extended until 2027 by the Walloon Government, WINGS brings together companies, research centres and universities around collaborative innovation projects aimed at accelerating the transition towards a more sustainable aviation.

The program supports the development of strategic technologies linked to :

- aircraft electrification
- next-generation propulsion systems
- lightweight and composite structures
- embedded systems
- energy efficiency
- advanced manufacturing technologies



In 2025, several projects supported within the WINGS framework focused on **advanced testing technologies, electric actuators, motor control electronics and innovative composite structures for future aircraft applications**. **Skywin** also continued to support the coordination, monitoring and international promotion of the programme alongside regional authorities and industrial partners.

WINGS continued to strengthen collaboration across the Walloon ecosystem by fostering partnerships between industrial players, SMEs, universities and research centres, while reinforcing the international visibility of Walloon aerospace expertise during major events such as the **Paris Air Show - Le Bourget**.

A detailed illustration of a satellite in orbit. The satellite has a central body with gold thermal insulation and several large, rectangular solar panel arrays extending outwards. The background shows the Earth's horizon with a blue sky and white clouds, and a small globe of the Earth in the distance.

SPACE 



SPACE

New Space and European sovereignty driving structural transformation

In 2025, the space sector continued its deep structural transformation driven by the rise of New Space, the **acceleration of space data usage, and growing European sovereignty ambitions.**

Despite ongoing challenges at the European level linked to access to space and increasing global competition, initiatives around **Ariane 6** marked important progress towards restoring autonomous launch capabilities and strengthening Europe's strategic position.



Within this context, **Wallonia** further consolidated its positioning in **key strategic domains** :

- earth observation and downstream applications
- space cybersecurity and resilience infrastructures
- satellite systems and launchers technologies
- space data infrastructure and processing capabilities
- dual-use technologies
- defence-related space applications



SPACE



Earth Observation technologies and reusable launch systems continued to play a structuring role within the regional space ecosystem.

Wallonia also strengthened its innovation and research capabilities through collaborative initiatives such as JRI4Space and Space4Relaunch, supporting the development of advanced technologies and future space applications.

The Redu-Transinne-Galaxia area further reinforced its position as a European reference hub for space cybersecurity and related technologies, contributing to the emergence of a unique “space cybersecurity valley” in Europe.

Space activities increasingly converged with defence priorities, with the **Space4Defence** initiative defining a strategic roadmap to support ongoing and future developments in this fast-growing field.

Space4Defence strengthens Wallonia's space contribution towards the structuration of European defence



In 2025, Space4Defence continued to structure Wallonia's strategic approach to space-related defence activities, in alignment with the broader European, NATO and Belgian security and defence space strategy.

The initiative focused on consolidating a transversal roadmap integrating space capabilities into the regional defence ecosystem, while strengthening collaboration between industry, research centres, and public stakeholders.



Key developments in 2025 included :

- the coordination and finalisation of the Walloon Space4Defence roadmap
- the integration of space-related priorities into Wallonia's defence strategy framework
- the structuring of research capacities in Earth observation and reusable launch systems through **JRI4Space** and **Space4Relaunch**
- the reinforcement of synergies between space cybersecurity, defence applications and dual-use technologies



Space4Defence also contributed to the international promotion of the Walloon defence ecosystem through connections with foreign clusters and partners.

In 2026, the priority will be the official validation and deployment of the Space4Defence roadmap, which is expected to become a central structuring tool for the development of the sector.



DEFENCE 

DEFENCE & DUAL-USE



A FAST-GROWING
STRATEGIC SECTOR
IN EUROPE



European policies on sovereignty, security and strategic autonomy are increasingly shaping industrial priorities across the defence ecosystem.

The Walloon defence sector is a structured and fast-developing ecosystem, bringing together large industrial players and a highly dynamic network of SMEs.

Dual-use technologies are becoming increasingly important for Walloon companies, particularly in:

- drones and autonomous systems
- embedded systems
- cybersecurity
- communications technologies
- critical infrastructure resilience

Beyond technological development, 2025 was also marked by the continued structuring of the sector through the Defence roadmap and its extension with a dedicated Space4Defence component, reinforcing coordination between industry, research and public stakeholders.

The ecosystem's international visibility was further strengthened through targeted promotion activities, including major defence-related events.

Defence Industry Brochure
Developed by the Skywin and MecaTech clusters,
featuring a directory of defence industry stakeholders in Wallonia.





(C)UAS



DEFENCE, DRONES & DUAL-USE

A fast-growing strategic sector in Europe

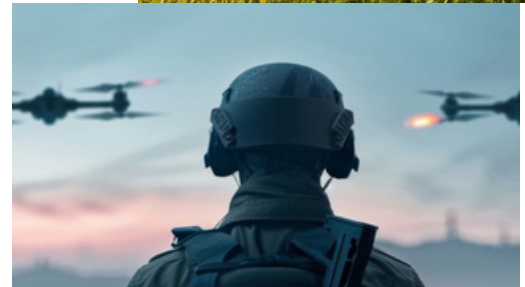
Questions related to sovereignty, security and strategic autonomy are now central to European policies and are accelerating the transformation of defence-related industrial ecosystems.

Wallonia, dual-use technologies are gaining increasing importance at the intersection of the aeronautics, space, digital and defence sectors, particularly in the fields of :

- drones and autonomous systems
- embedded systems
- cybersecurity
- communication technologies
- critical infrastructure resilience
- counter-drone technologies (C-UAS)

Within this context, **Skywin continues to support the structuring of the Walloon ecosystem through strategic roadmaps**, dedicated working groups, and strengthened collaboration between industry, research and public stakeholders.

Recent geopolitical developments have also reinforced the strategic importance of dual-use capabilities and accelerated reflections around agile and scalable defence and security applications.



105 PROJECTS LABELED BY THE WALLOON GOVERNMENT SINCE 2006 - 4 PROJECTS IN 2025



Skywin 

4 news projects in 2025

FLEXTES ECRYR

Smart test bench for electric flight actuator validation

The FLEXTES project develops an intelligent and versatile test bench dedicated to the validation of electric flight actuators for next-generation aircraft.

It supports the transition towards electrified aircraft architectures and contributes to the development of advanced embedded systems.

Project Leader : SABCA Technologies

Partners : CILYX - UCLouvain - CENAERO



Simulation and digital engineering for next-generation aeronautics systems

The ECRYR project focuses on advanced simulation methods and intelligent system integration for future aeronautical applications.

It contributes to the development of new digital engineering capabilities supporting aircraft design, performance optimisation and system validation.

Project Leader : GDTECH

Partners : EHP - Open Engineering - Pix Coating - Mecasoft - ULiège - CSL - UCLouvain - CRM Group

Co-labeled with : MecaTech



ASTERIX ETFIBERS

Development of a new generation of miniaturised multispectral cameras

The ASTERIX project aims to develop compact and high-performance multispectral imaging technologies for future Earth observation, space and dual-use applications.

The project supports innovation in optical systems, miniaturisation and advanced imaging solutions for next-generation aerospace applications.

Project Leader : Lambda-X

Partners : Deltatec - ULBA/LISA - CRM Group



Research, analysis and development of methods for the design, manufacture and characterisation of silicon fibres for the Einstein Telescope project

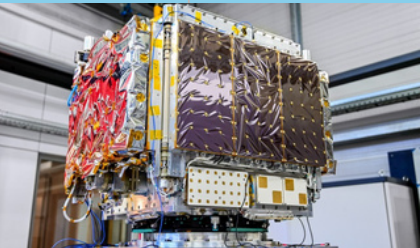
The ETFIBERS project aims to develop a manufacturing solution for silicon suspensions for the third-generation gravitational wave observatory, the Einstein Telescope. The manufacture of the suspensions will therefore be based on the development of a design, an ultra-precise machining process, a post-polishing process and an integration solution enabling their use within the highly specific context of a third-generation gravitational wave observatory.

Project Leader : Wielandts UPMT

Partners : LASEA, UCLouvain, ULiège

Co-labelled with : MecaTech





MEMBERS



Since its creation, the cluster has continuously expanded its network and strengthened collaboration among industrial, scientific, and institutional stakeholders across Wallonia.

In 2025, Skywin further reinforced this ecosystem through the integration of new members contributing to several strategic domains, including :



Throughout the year, Skywin continued to implement numerous initiatives aimed at supporting collaboration, visibility, and innovation within the ecosystem through :

- thematic workshops
- networking events
- international missions
- sector newsletters
- working groups
- the promotion of collaborative projects and success stories



Particular attention was also given to **SMEs** in order to strengthen their visibility and facilitate their integration into Belgian and international industrial value chains.

INTERNATIONAL

SKYWIN MISSIONS & AWEX COLLABORATIONS



Skywin continues to develop its internationalization strategy to strengthen the visibility of Walloon aerospace, space, drone and defence industries, in close collaboration with AWEX, the Walloon Export and Foreign Investment Agency, and with the cluster's international partners.



Wallonia.be

EXPORT
INVESTMENT

This strategy is based on, in particular :

- participation in major international trade shows in the aerospace, space, drones, and defence sectors
- the development of collaborations with foreign clusters and ecosystems
- international economic missions organized with **AWEX**
- welcoming foreign delegations in Wallonia
- participation in European sectoral networks
- the promotion of Walloon technological skills internationally

The year 2025 was particularly rich in international meetings, trade fairs, and economic missions.

Participation in major international events in 2025 :

- **The Paris Air Show 'Le Bourget'**
- Space Tech Expo Bremen
- Space-Comm Expo London
- JEC World Paris
- DSEI London
- CRIAQ Canada Forum Meetings
- Aerospace Meetings Casablanca
- Forum Aerospace Valley Biarritz
- 4th Space Industry Meetings in Southern France (SAFE Cluster)

The Paris Air Show 'Le Bourget' was a major highlight for the cluster members.



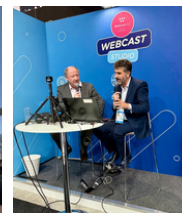
In total, **55 Walloon companies** were present at the Belgian pavilion, illustrating the dynamism and expertise of the Walloon industries.

The show in particular allowed for the showcasing of :

- the advancements of the WINGS program
- technologies related to decarbonized aviation
- dual-use projects
- Walloon space innovations
- the international collaborations developed by the cluster members

Skywin also continued its exchanges with several **European and international ecosystems** in the fields of aerospace, space, defence, and dual-use technologies, notably through the EACP, NEREUS, and ENDR networks.

Complementary actions for visibility and international communication were also carried out throughout the year in order to promote Walloon technological and industrial skills to foreign partners.



Main local events organized in 2025

Drone Working Group & Dual-Use Technologies

Skywin continued coordinating the Drone Working Group with ID2Move and Walloon industrial stakeholders.

Two meetings were organised in 2025 :

- one focused on academic research and technology pitches
- one dedicated to defence applications, dual-use drones and counter UAS challenges

Defence, Sovereignty & International Cooperation

Throughout the year, Skywin supported initiatives related to defence, European strategic autonomy and dual-use technologies.

The cluster contributed to :

- the Defence breakfast organised during the Paris Air Show - Le Bourget
- workshops linked to the Defence roadmap
- AWEX missions and meetings with European and foreign delegations

Earth Observation for Defence Applications

On 3 July 2025, the Earth Observation Working Group, co-led by Skywin and ISSeP, organised a conference at CSL on “Earth Observation for Defence Applications”.

The event presented the progress of the Space4Defence roadmap and highlighted Walloon expertise with strong dual-use potential in the EO sector.

Space4Defence & JRI4Space Workshops

In collaboration with JRI4Space and Walloon space stakeholders, Skywin organised several workshops and working sessions dedicated to the Space4Defence roadmap.

A workshop held in July 2025 enabled the Walloon space ecosystem to review progress and discuss future European space defence challenges.

Future Aeronautical Technologies

Several thematic exchanges and collaborative meetings were organised around key aeronautical priorities:

- electrification
- composite structures
- embedded systems
- artificial intelligence
- propulsion technologies
- advanced manufacturing processes



Main Walloon Partners



Main International Partners



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF DEFENCE-RELATED REGIONS



TEAM SKYWIN

**ETIENNE
POURBAIX**

Director



**AGNÈS
GRANDJEAN**

International / Defence



**THIERRY
CHANTRAINE**

Innovation / Projects / Aero



**JEAN-PIERRE
CHISOGNE**

Space



**ANTHONY
BIEVELEZ**

Projects / Drone / Digital



**STÉPHANE
GUALANDRIS**

Projects / WINGS



ÉMILIE HILT

Communication



GOVERNANCE

Executive Board (2026-01-01)

LEPOT François	Chairman	Safran Aero Boosters
PONTHOT Jean-Philippe	Vice President	ULiège
DIVRY Bruno	Administrator	TAS Belgium
d'OULTREMONT Alain	Administrator	Sabca
VAN HILLE Nicolas	Administrator	Sonaca
COIRBAY Gauthier	Administrator	Thales Belgium
JANSSEN Guy	Administrator	GDTech
du PRE-WERSON Thierry	Administrator	Spacebel
DARTEVELLE Arnaud	Administrator	AMOS
VANEGHEM Bertrand	Administrator	Coexpair
SIMON Daniel	Administrator	EWA (GIWAS)
BARREMAECKER Laurent	Administrator	Wallonie Espace (GIWAS)
CAUCHETEUR Christophe	Administrator	UMons
LIBERT Anne-Sophie	Administrator	UNamur
WINCKELMANS Grégoire	Administrator	UCLouvain
HENDRICK Patrick	Administrator	ULB
GEUZAIN Philippe	Administrator	Wal-Tech (Research Center)
POURBAIX Etienne	General secretary	Skywin
THISQUEN Nicolas	Observer	Representation of the Gouvernement
HAUBERT Isabelle	Observer	SPW - EER
JAIMES CONTRERAS Rafael	Observer	AWEX
CECCONELLO Anna	Observer	WAN

Steering committee (2026-01-01)

LEPOT François	Chairman	Skywin
PONTHOT Jean-Philippe	Vice President	Universities
VAN HILLE Nicolas	Member	Sonaca
DUBOIS Marc	Member	Sabca
DE VRIENDT Olivier	Member	Safran Aero Boosters
du PRE-WERSON Thierry	Member	Spacebel
LEPOT Ingrid	Member	Research Center
POURBAIX Etienne	Member	Skywin
CHANTRAINE Thierry	Participant	Skywin
BIEVELEZ Anthony	Participant	Skywin
CHISOGNE Jean-Pierre	Participant	Skywin
GUALANDRIS Stéphane	Participant	Skywin
GRANDJEAN Agnès	Participant	Skywin



Aerospace cluster of Wallonia

Skywin is the Walloon Aerospace cluster (Belgium) consisting of an association of companies, research organisations and training centres engaged in public-private partnerships and in the implementation of innovative collaborative projects.

Skywin Wallonie asbl
Business Village Ecolys Av. d'Ecolys 2 - Bte 47
5020 Suarlée (Belgium)

info@skywin.be
www.skywin.be

TVA BE 0887.760.430



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