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Scott Edwards-led Netherlands (245/8) stun world No. 3 South Africa (207 all out in 42.5 overs), win by 38 runs in an ODI WC match, P 27



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## French MNC to open aircraft MRO in NCR

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**New Delhi:** French multinational tech giant Thales will open an MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) centre in NCR before the end of next year to service its two big Indian customers — Air India and IndiGo — and airlines of neighbouring countries.

Thales International president and CEO Pascale Sourisse said the company will double the number of engineers it employs in the country, around 1,500 now, within the next three years. Without disclosing the exact investment being made in the upcoming MRO for avionics and inflight entertainment (IFE) systems, she said, “The initial stage will see a couple of tens of millions of Euros invested by us.”

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### CEO PASCALE SOURISSE SAYS

**We will provide the technology to roll out biometric-based DigiYatra for ‘flight to gate solution’ at the Adani Group-run airports. We are in talks with Air India for IFEs they require for their record order of aircraft**

run airports. We are in talks with Air India for IFEs they require for their record order of aircraft. Having an MRO next door, right in Delhi-NCR, for the same is a big plus,” Sourisse, who is in India to mark Thales’ 70 years in the country, told **TOI** Tuesday.

Thales is present in three areas globally — avionics (electronics in an aircraft), defence and digital identity/cybersecurity. “We plan to provide the tech for e-SIMs in India as that is the future of mobile telephones moving away from physical SIM cards,” she said.

The French MNC cur-

rently employs 2,000 people in India, of whom 1,500 are engineers with a Noida centre housing 1,000 and Bengaluru the remaining 500. Airbus had last year selected Thales to equip its commercial airliners like A320, A330 and A350 with a powerful flight management system (FMS) that provides secure access to open-world data and offers airlines an array of new possibilities.

The new system will improve interoperability for airlines and pilots and optimise flight paths to help reduce the carbon footprint of airline operations. “We are develo-

ping a significant part of that new FMS in India. We are always looking for engineers and India produces very high-quality engineers in large numbers,” she said.

“We supply avionics for the Airbus aircraft of both IndiGo and Air India. We also supply IFE and the tech for inflight connectivity. The idea of setting up an MRO in India is to be close to the big customers here and also serve the region from here. India is the fastest growing aviation market globally and the third largest at the moment,” she said. The company plans to expand in India, where it already has several JVs, including one with Bharat Electronics for radars and the other with Reliance for defence. “We are one of the top five cybersecurity firms globally. We are doing a lot of work on that at our Noida engineering centre. That will only grow in coming years,” Sourisse said.