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Top 100, 2008

# Messier-Dowty is flying high

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## Messier-Dowty Ltd

Aircraft landing gear

**Managing Director:** Tim Rice  
**Number of employees in Gloucestershire:** 1,050  
**County base:** Staverton  
**Turnover:** £236m

**M**essier-Dowty Ltd, based at Staverton, has been at the forefront of landing gear technology for more than 75 years.

Its success dates from the innovative solutions of its founder Sir George Dowty in the 1930s, with the development of the first internally sprung wheel, to the advanced landing gears of the world's most modern aircraft.

Messier-Dowty Ltd is part of Messier-Dowty International, a member company of the SAFRAN Group.

Its 44,000sq m Staverton facility employs 1,050 people.

Activities include every stage of part construction from concept to in-service support including design, development, test, production, processing, assembly and product support.

Core competencies at Staverton include a strong engineering function involved in design, research, development and test and systems integration, together with a comprehensive, state of the art production capability.

Its Gloucestershire test facility is the European centre of excellence for the company's landing gear development programs and includes extensive capability for strength, fatigue, drop, endurance, environmental testing and systems integration.

The production focus is on the most technically challenging and critical components, including complex major structures such as large main fittings and bogies for large commercial aircraft, plus main fittings and larger components for military and commuter aircraft.

Programs supported at Gloucester include: Airbus A330/340 family of main gears; A319/320/321 family of main gears; A310 bogies; Airbus Military A400M nose gear; Boeing 787 main & nose structural components; Eurofighter/Typhoon complete landing gear system; Boeing AV-8B nose, main & wing gears; Boeing T-45 Goshawk main gear; BAE Nimrod MRA4 main & nose gears plus landing gear spares support for BAE Harrier, Panavia Tornado, Sepecat Jaguar and Avro RJ.

The design and development team for the main landing gear of Airbus' newest programme, the A350XWB, is also based in Gloucester.

As a leader in landing gear for more than 75 years, Messier-Dowty has been an active employer in the Gloucester community for decades.

The company interacts closely with other local businesses, governments and associations to ensure a positive contribution to the local community. Messier-Dowty supports local associations, projects or charities, either through its staff or direct sponsorship.

It is a long-time supporter of the Cheltenham Music and Cricket festivals as well as the Gloucester rugby team. In addition, it sponsors education through its involvement in the Flying Start Challenge and Cheltenham Science festival.



**WORKFORCE:** The A350 XWB IPT (Integrated Product Team) based at Staverton



**FINISHED PRODUCT:** A319 main landing gear



**HQ:** Messier-Dowty's base in Staverton



**MANAGER:** Tim Rice, managing director of Messier Dowty



**SHOP FLOOR:** General view of assembly department