

Hartzell Engine Tech Announces FAA PMA Approval for Patent-Pending AeroForce V-Band Clamp

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (March 4, 2026) — Hartzell Engine Tech, a Signia Aerospace company, announced FAA PMA approval for its patent-pending AeroForce V-Band Clamp. The approval provides operators with a certified replacement option as they comply with Airworthiness Directive 2023-09-09 requirements affecting turbocharged piston exhaust systems.

Airworthiness Directive 2023-09-09 established a 500-hour life limit on spot-welded, multi-segment V-Band couplings and mandates repetitive inspections following reports of in-service failures. The directive applies to certain turbocharged, reciprocating engine-powered airplanes and helicopters, as well as specific turbocharged reciprocating engines with affected V-Band couplings installed.

With the interim inspection allowance having ended July 17, 2025, many operators must now install compliant replacements. Full details are available under Docket FAA-2022-0891, Airworthiness Directives: Various Airplanes, Helicopters, and Engines;

The AeroForce V-Band Clamp is approved under FAA PMA Supplement 96 following completion of required testing, inspections, and regulatory findings.

“Operators have been managing legacy design issues, inspection burdens, and limited parts availability for some time,” said Marolous Cebulka, Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Hartzell Aviation. “This approval confirms AeroForce delivers a compliant and durable solution engineered to address known failure points in traditional clamps.”

“Something as small as a clamp can ground an aircraft,” Cebulka added. “Our goal is to provide a certified option that restores confidence and supports long-term reliability.”

AeroForce V-Band Clamp Highlights

- Approved under FAA PMA Supplement 96
- Patent-pending design validated through engine cell testing and OEM evaluations
- AeroForce design reduces resistance welds and rivets compared to traditional clamp designs
- Braided wire cable and floating retainer improve durability and ease of installation
- Approved for applicable installations as defined in PMA Supplement 96

The AeroForce V-Band Clamp is now entering production. Part numbers and ordering information are available through authorized Hartzell distributors.

Operators should continue to follow applicable FAA Airworthiness Directives, AMOCs, and aircraft or engine maintenance instructions.

About Hartzell Engine Tech

Hartzell Engine Tech offers a product portfolio consisting of PowerUp Ignition Systems, Janitrol Aero, Plane-Power, Sky-Tec, Lamar Technologies, and AeroForce Turbocharger Systems. Together, these brands provide engine accessories, turbocharging solutions, and aircraft heating systems for general aviation and military applications. For more information, visit <https://hartzell.aero>.

About Signia Aerospace

Signia Aerospace is a global provider of high-performance systems for the aerospace industry. Signia operates complementary business segments including Thermal Management, Mission Systems, Cleveland Wheel & Brake Systems, Hartzell Propeller, and Hartzell Aviation. The Signia brands serve aerospace and defense OEMs and operators worldwide. For more information visit www.signiaaerospace.com.