

Aviation UPDATE

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Mr. Vineet Sood
CEO, Alliance Air
PG 16



Mr. Shubham Moondhara
Head of Corporate Strategy & Business Development
TRANS MALDIVIAN AIRWAYS | PG 20

Twin Otters in Paradise: The Ultimate Maldives Adventure

Trans Maldivian Airways operates an astonishing fleet of 65 DHC-6 Twin Otters, connecting over a million guests to more than 90 breathtaking resorts scattered across the Indian ocean every year.

TMA's seaplane transfers exceed the ordinary; they are an embodiment of pure awe. Over 300 TMA flights take to the skies every single day, strictly adhering to Visual Flight Rules (VFR), giving our guests unparalleled perspectives of the Maldivian archipelago between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

What truly distinguishes the aviation experience in the Maldives from the rest are our Barefoot Pilots, who embrace a unique blend of precision and adventure as they skilfully navigate the seas and the skies, ensuring every flight is as enchanting as the destination itself!

At Trans Maldivian Airways, everyday presents an opportunity for you to embark on a remarkable journey and be a part of a truly unique and extraordinary operation.



TRANS MALDIVIAN AIRWAYS

Your Gateway to Paradise

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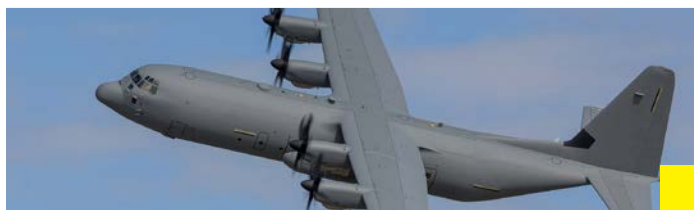


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**B. KARTIKEYA**

The primary focus of Aviation Update is on the fundamental aspects of civil aviation on a worldwide scale, including legislation, problems, technology, safety, new initiatives, infrastructure development, and civil and defence air shows, among other vital topics.

The most recent news in the aviation sector may be found in the Quick Updates section. Beginning on October 23, 2023, Air India, the premier international airline in India, will operate a daily nonstop flight between Kochi, the commercial centre of Kerala, and Doha, the capital of Qatar. The requirement for a quick and pleasant direct route between the two cities will be satisfied by this new flight.

Mr. Shubham Moondhara, Trans Maldivian Airlines' Head of Corporate Strategy and Business Development, is interviewed on the cover page. He discusses the crucial role that TMA has played in the Maldives' growing tourist industry. Don't Miss another insightful Interview with Mr. Vineet Sood, Ceo of Alliance Air.

Engines & MRO section details include AAR and MTU maintenance extensions, the StandardAero Springfield, Illinois Business Aviation MRO shop's announcement of 10 million in facility improvements, and the Pratt & Whitney PW2000 aircraft engine components supply arrangement. You may also learn about Honda aircraft in the Business Aviation section. At the 2023 National Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition (NBAA-BACE), Honda officially unveiled the name of their next light jet, HondaJet Echelon. Learn all the specifics about these stories in the magazine.

Remember to get inside the Air Cargo sector. Yes, there has been a great deal of disruption in both publishing and flying. But Aviation Update will never waver in its commitment to being your go-to source for news, analysis, and insight into this rapidly changing world of aviation electronics. We will remain your go-to source for aviation news and information. Your feedback and constant admiration is what makes us live by! Till we meet again. Take Care & God Bless!!

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Air India concludes acquisition of India's first A350-900 through gift IFSC



Air India has successfully acquired India's first Airbus A350-900 aircraft through a finance lease transaction with HSBC. This is Air India's first financing transaction from its record-setting orders for 470 aircraft.

The transaction makes Air India the first scheduled carrier to have acquired an aircraft from an entity registered in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Air India's first A350-900 is also the first widebody aircraft to have been leased through India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

The transaction was facilitated by AI Fleet Services Limited (AIFS), a 100% subsidiary of Air India, and a GIFT IFSC-registered finance company.

"This landmark transaction marks the beginning of our aircraft leasing business from GIFT IFSC, as AIFS will be the primary Air India Group entity for widebody aircraft financing, playing a pivotal role in the future aircraft financing strategy for us and our subsidiaries. It is also a shot in the arm for the development of a robust aviation ecosystem in India. As a flag-bearer of the country, Air India is happy to support the Government of India's efforts to develop an aircraft leasing hub in GIFT IFSC," said Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial & Transformation Officer, Air India.

"Govt. of India has taken several initiatives to develop the aircraft leasing ecosystem at IFSC in India. IFSCA has been working with the stakeholders

to develop regulatory enablers for aircraft leasing and financing. The steps taken by Air India by establishing a finance company for the purpose of aircraft leasing and financing at IFSC will go long way in developing IFSC as a preferred destination for aircraft leasing and financing in India as well as globally," mentioned Dr. Dipesh Shah, Executive Director, IFSCA.

IndiGo introduces fuel charge to offset rising ATF prices



IndiGo, India's leading airline, is introducing a fuel charge on domestic and international routes, effective 00:01hrs October 06, 2023. The decision follows the significant increase in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, which have surged in the last three months with consecutive price hikes every month. ATF accounts for a substantial portion of an airline's operating expenses, necessitating fare adjustment to address such a cost surge. Under this pricing structure, passengers booking IndiGo flights will incur a fuel charge, per sector, based on the sector distance

Air India announces non-stop flights between Kochi and Doha

Air India, India's leading global carrier, is set to connect Kochi, the commercial hub of Kerala, with Doha, the Capital of Qatar, with a daily non-stop service



from 23rd October 2023. This new flight will fulfil the need of a convenient and comfortable direct connection between the two cities.

AI953 will depart at 0130 local time to reach Doha at 0345 hrs. The return flight AI954 will take off from Doha at 0445 hrs to land at Kochi at 1135 hrs (All Local Time). The flight, operated with an A320neo aircraft, will offer 162 seats (150 in Economy and 12 in Business Class). Air India also operates a direct daily flight from Kochi to Dubai. The new launch is in line with Air India's commitment to expand connectivity and enhance frequency on domestic and international sectors as it keeps augmenting its fleet with new aircraft. The service will further densify and strengthen our operations to the Middle East

VISTARA ADOPTS SITA'S EWAS AND SITA OPTICLIMB® SOLUTIONS TO OPTIMIZE FLIGHT PATHS AND REDUCE FUEL CONSUMPTION



Vistara has become the first Indian airline to deploy both SITA eWAS and SITA OptiClimb® solutions. With this, Vistara aims to significantly improve efficiency in flight planning and operations, reducing fuel burn and thereby reducing carbon emissions by 15,000 tons yearly.

Using SITA eWAS, Vistara will be able to enhance overall flight safety and efficiency by providing pilots with better weather awareness data. It serves as a highly effective mechanism for delivering OptiClimb data.

SITA OptiClimb® leverages historical flight data to predict fuel burn during the climb out and is the industry's only machine-learning solution providing customized climb profile optimization for every flight. This will enable Vistara to save 80 tons of fuel per year per aircraft on average and reduce carbon emissions by roughly 250 tons yearly. For Vistara's entire fleet, yearly fuel savings are estimated to be more than 5,000 tons, leading to a reduction in carbon emissions of more than 15,000 tons.

Sumesh Patel, President, Asia Pacific, SITA, said: "India's aviation industry is accelerating at lightning speed, and we're excited to help leading airlines like Vistara with solutions that supercharge their efficiency, significantly reduce fuel consumption, and support efforts towards more sustainable air travel. We're now seeing an increasing number of Indian airlines looking for smart solutions to optimize operations and enhance the passenger experience."

Captain Hamish Maxwell, Senior Vice President – Flight Operations, Vistara, said: "Continuous improvements in operational efficiency and safety remain key focus areas for us. Advanced technology solutions, such as SITA OptiClimb and SITA eWAS, enable clear enhancements in these areas, which ultimately help us to reduce our carbon footprint. We are committed to continuing on this path and will keep evolving as a future-ready, world-class airline."

Star Air launches flights from Shivamogga starting 21st November

Star Air is thrilled to announce the



introduction of three exciting new daily flight routes from Shivamogga Airport, connecting travelers to the vibrant cities of Hyderabad, the sacred pilgrimage site of Tirupati, and the scenic paradise of Goa commencing on 21st November. What makes this announcement even more special is that these routes will be serviced by our brand new Embraer E175 aircraft, setting a new standard in air travel for our passengers.

Shivamogga to Hyderabad: Non-stop flights daily between Shivamogga and the dynamic city of Hyderabad. Ideal for business travelers and tourists exploring the rich culture and history of Hyderabad. Experience world-class comfort on our Embraer E175 aircraft, complete with luxurious seating and in-flight amenities.

Shivamogga to Tirupati: Direct daily flights connecting Shivamogga with the holy city of Tirupati. Convenient for pilgrims visiting the renowned Sri Venkateswara Temple and other spiritual destinations. Enjoy a seamless journey with Star Air's top-notch service and the unparalleled comfort of our new Embraer E175.

Shivamogga to Goa: Direct daily flights from Shivamogga to the stunning beaches of Goa. Perfect for those seeking sun, sand, and relaxation on the Goan coastline. Immerse yourself in the beauty of Goa, and relax onboard our state-of-the-art Embraer E175 aircraft.

The Embraer E175 is renowned for its exceptional comfort and performance, making it an ideal choice for these new routes. It is an aircraft that has truly revolutionized regional aviation in India with a 2-class configuration featuring 12 luxurious business class seats and 64 best in class economy seats. Passengers can look forward to spacious seating,

Full meal service, priority check-in and baggage handling, and overall a superior travel experience.

IndiGo takes off to Hong Kong: Restarts direct flights between Delhi-Hong Kong



IndiGo, India's preferred carrier, has recommenced direct flights between Delhi and Hong Kong, effective October 5, 2023. This reinstatement aims to strengthen strategic ties, capitalizing on the rich socio-cultural diversity between one of South Asia's largest economies and a vital business and travel hub in the Asia-Pacific region. These flights will serve both business and leisure travelers during the upcoming winter schedule, providing enhanced flight options and a seamless travel experience.

Mr. Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales, IndiGo said, "In line with our strategy to enhance global connectivity and accessibility, we are excited to reintroduce flights from Delhi to Hong Kong, one of the world's most significant financial centres and commercial ports. As the travel landscape evolves, we foresee a growing demand for varied international travel options. This reinstated route caters to such demand, offering travelers an increased accessibility to Hong Kong, and beyond. IndiGo is committed to delivering affordable, on-time, and hassle-free travel experiences across our extensive 6E network."

Air India selects couturier Manish Malhotra for uniforms makeover



Air India announced its partnership with celebrated fashion designer Manish Malhotra to design new uniforms for over 10,000 Air India employees on the frontline, including cabin crew, cockpit crew, ground and security staff.

This is a further step in the manifestation of Air India's new global brand identity as part of its ongoing modernisation programme. Air India expects to commence rolling out the new look for its uniformed employees by the end of 2023.

Campbell Wilson, CEO & MD, Air India, said: "Air India is delighted to be collaborating with Manish Malhotra to realise our shared ambition of representing the very best of a vibrant, bold, and progressive India on the world stage. We are working closely with Manish and his team to combine elements of our brand, our heritage and our culture, together with the unique requirements of the airline environment, for what we hope will be a fresh and exciting new look that supports and represents the new Air India."

Manish Malhotra, a steadfast supporter and traveller of Air India, said: "It's an absolute honour to collaborate with Air India, our national flying ambassadors. Reimagining their uniforms is the onset of a journey of joy and collaboration, and I am excited to embark on it. Our shared ideology is simple yet profound: to evolve without erasing, to modernise without forgetting. Together, we aim to intertwine tradition with the future, crafting uniforms where comfort meets authenticity, wrapped in timeless

elegance."

Malhotra and his team have begun meeting Air India's frontline staff, conducting discussions and fitting sessions with them to better understand their specialised needs.

Adani Ports incorporates aircraft leasing unit in GIFT City



Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary company 'Udanvat Leasing IFSC Limited' to carry out business activity of owning and leasing of aircraft.

Udanvat has been incorporated in GIFT city, Gandhinagar and is yet to commence its operations, the filing noted. It has an authorised and paid-up share capital of Rs 2.5 crore which is divided into 2,500,000 equity shares of Rs 10 each.

Leasing an aircraft can be an alternative to outright purchase for a variety of reasons ranging from practicality to cash flow. In general terms, a lease is a transfer of an aircraft without transfer of title. The owner of the aircraft, or lessor, retains legal title to the aircraft, but transfers possession of the aircraft to the lessee.

The government has been making all-round efforts to transform the country into a global aircraft leasing hub to rival centres such as Dublin or Singapore, by incentivising foreign lessors to commence operations from here.

As part of this, aircraft leasing companies that start operations from the International Financial Services Centre in Gujarat International

Finance Tec-City (GIFT-City) have been exempted from paying corporate and withholding tax on leasing transactions. The Adani Group is already a major player in the growing aviation sector in India, with the group's subsidiary, Adani Airports Holding Ltd., managing seven airports in the country. This includes Mumbai, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati, Lucknow and Mangaluru airports, besides Ahmedabad.

Star Air Expands Services with new flights between Kolhapur and Mumbai



Star Air is thrilled to announce the expansion of its flight services with the introduction of new daily flights connecting Kolhapur and Mumbai under the Government of India's RCS - UDAN scheme. This significant enhancement of our flight network will make travel between these two key cities more convenient and accessible for our valued passengers.

Starting 15th October, Star Air will operate daily flights between Kolhapur's Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj Airport (KLH) and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (BOM). With this addition, Star Air will now offer flights seven days a week on this popular route, providing passengers with greater flexibility and choice in their travel plans.

"Mr. Sanjay Ghodawat, Chairman of Star Air, expressed his excitement about this expansion, stating, "We are pleased to announce the addition of daily flights between Kolhapur and Mumbai. This step aligns with our commitment to providing convenient and comfortable

air travel options to our passengers. We believe this route will not only serve the business community but also tourists and residents who wish to explore the beauty and culture of both Kolhapur and Mumbai.”

Air India launches sale to offer special fares on INDIA-USA routes



Air India has launched a limited-period, #FlyAirIndiaSale, to offer highly attractive fares on all India-U.S. routes in Economy Class and Premium Economy Class (available on select U.S. routes). All-inclusive Economy Class fares start from INR 42,999 (one-way) and INR 52,999 (return). All-inclusive Premium Economy fares start from INR 79,999 (one-way) and INR 1,09,999 (return). Air India’s Premium Economy class is currently available to guests travelling on select routes: Bengaluru-San Francisco, Mumbai-San Francisco, and Mumbai-New York. Bookings under the sale are open for only five days, from 01 October to 05 October 2023, for travel between 01 October and 15 December 2023. Air India operates 47 non-stop flights every week from Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai to five American cities: New York, Newark (New Jersey), Washington DC, Chicago, and San Francisco. The sale fares are also available from several other Indian cities for one-stop flights to the U.S. via Delhi, Bengaluru, or Mumbai. This enables travellers from cities across India, such as Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Chennai, Kochi, and Kolkata, among others, to travel seamlessly to the U.S. at the highly discounted fares

VISTARA ANNOUNCES DAILY NON-STOP FLIGHTS BETWEEN DELHI AND BALI



Vistara announced daily non-stop flights between Delhi and Bali, starting 01 December 2023. This makes Vistara the only airline offering direct connectivity between the two cities currently. Vistara will be deploying its A321LR aircraft, with a three-class configuration, giving its customers the option to fly in Business, Premium Economy, or Economy cabins when travelling on the route. Bookings for the flights are being progressively opened on all channels, including Vistara’s website, mobile app, and through travel agents. Bali has become an increasingly sought-after holiday destination for Indians due to its accessibility, proximity, and hassle-free visa on arrival facility. Commenting on the introduction of the new destination, Mr. Vinod Kannan, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara said, “India is the second-largest source of foreign tourists to Bali, and with hassle-free visa-on-arrival, Bali remains one of the preferred holiday destinations for Indians, besides being popular for MICE traffic. Additionally, as the second largest trading destination for India in the ASEAN region, Indonesia exhibits great potential for business travel as well. We are delighted to be the only airline offering direct connectivity between Delhi and Bali. We are confident that customers will appreciate having the option to travel on India’s finest full service airline on the route.”

United Airlines orders 60 additional A321neo aircraft



United Airlines has placed an order for 60 additional Airbus A321neo aircraft, supporting the airline’s “United Next” initiative to integrate new aircraft into its fleet and standardizing and enhancing its global network. United previously ordered 50 A321XLR and 70 A321neo aircraft. With this new order, the airline’s direct purchase commitment from Airbus is now for 180 A321 aircraft. “Upon introduction of the A321neo into its fleet in the coming weeks, United will take full benefit of Airbus’ Airspace cabin, providing an exceptional customer and cabin crew experience completely in phase with the United Next initiative,” said Christian Scherer, Airbus Chief Commercial Officer and Head of International. “With regard to operations, the A321neo’s fuel efficiency, lower carbon footprint and lower maintenance and operating costs will be a game changer for our partners at United.” The A321neo provides superior environmental performance featuring the lowest CO₂ emissions per seat in its class. Its significantly lower carbon footprint will support United along its journey to reduce its CO₂ emissions. United’s A321neo aircraft will feature the unrivaled Airbus’ Airspace cabin, which includes a unique welcome area and the latest full LED lighting technologies (which helps to reduce jet lag); new slimmer sidewall panels for extra personal space at shoulder level; improved window views with redesigned bezels and completely integrated window shades; new large overhead bins; and additional elements to enhance the passenger experience.

Southwest Airlines orders 108 additional Boeing 737 MAX jets



Boeing and Southwest Airlines announced the carrier is increasing its commitment to the fuel-efficient 737 MAX family with an order for 108 737-7s. The new deal supports Southwest's modernization strategy and provides flexibility to expand its fleet.

"We have a long history with Boeing, dating back more than 50 years to the day we commenced service with three Boeing 737 aircraft serving three cities," said Bob Jordan, president & Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Airlines. "They're part of our history and part of our future as we continue to recognize the many efficiencies and cost savings of a single fleet."

The 737 family has long served Southwest by helping fuel the airline's continued growth. Southwest has placed over 300 orders for the 737-7, growing its orderbook to more than 500 737 MAX jets. Once certified, the 737-7 will join the carrier's all-Boeing 737 fleet.

"With the world's largest all-Boeing, all-737 fleet, Southwest is counting on the exceptional efficiency and reliability of the 737 MAX family," said Stan Deal, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "The 737-7 is pivotal to Southwest's long-term fleet modernization strategy, and we are honored to have the airline's continued trust in us to deliver its future fleet."

FedEx Enhances Shipping Experience for E-tailers in India



FedEx Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. and one of the world's largest express transportation companies, is enhancing the online shipping experience for its customers. The new automated e-commerce capability in FedEx Ship Manager™ (FSM) supports small businesses and e-commerce merchants in India, helping them efficiently manage their shipments online.

In addition to India, this service is available across 44 countries and territories in Middle East, Indian subcontinent and Africa, this enhancement to FSM allows businesses to create shipments and paperwork from their online orders in a few simple steps, saving considerable time compared to manually entering information to create shipping labels. Customers will now be able to synchronise their Shopify, BigCommerce, WooCommerce, and PrestaShop store with FSM at fedex.com. More e-commerce platforms and marketplaces will be added over time.

In addition, FedEx customers can now: Link their e-commerce platform or marketplace with FSM to automatically download their order information. Create and print labels for multiple orders in one click and sync with electronic trade documents for a smooth clearance process.

Synchronize update of tracking numbers and order status on sales channels, notifying buyers that orders have been shipped.

Nitin Navneet Tatiwala, vice president

of FedEx Express Middle East, Indian Subcontinent, and Africa marketing, said, "At FedEx, we are dedicated to empowering small businesses and e-commerce merchants by providing them access to digital intelligence. The enhanced FSM, including seamless e-commerce integration and simplified shipping processes, underscores our commitment to being an enabler for SMEs to gain a competitive edge and foster business growth."

FedEx is building out its e-commerce offerings and adding a wide range of solutions. These include B2B marketplace integration through FedEx Compatible and Alliances programs, customizable last-mile delivery options plus direct messaging and convenient tracking through digital tools like FedEx Delivery Manager International and Picture Proof of Delivery which gives consumers the assurance that their package has been delivered to their doorstep.

Çelebi Delhi achieves compliance with TIACA's sustainability programme



Çelebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first Indian cargo handler to participate in and complete the highly esteemed BlueSky Sustainability program offered by The

International Air Cargo Association (TIACA).

Çelebi has diligently scored in all sustainability standards set by TIACA's BlueSky program. This comprehensive program focuses on the environment, society, culture, and leadership, with an emphasis on reducing carbon emissions, conserving resources, supporting communities, improving quality of life, and enhancing efficiency. Completing the BlueSky Sustainability program reaffirms Çelebi's status as a trailblazer in the cargo handling sector.

IndiGo unveils 3 new direct routes to and from Salem



IndiGo is delighted to welcome Salem as a new addition to its network. Salem now proudly stands as the 82nd domestic and 114th overall destination in the 6E network. The introduction of these direct flights will seamlessly connect Salem to Chennai from October 29, 2023 and to Hyderabad, and Bengaluru from October 30, 2023. These new connections are poised to significantly bolster interstate connectivity and advance regional accessibility, aligning with the regional connectivity scheme's objectives. Mr. Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global

Sales, IndiGo said, "We are thrilled to introduce these new routes from Salem (in Tamil Nadu) to the vibrant cities of



Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad. These direct routes not only provide convenient and cost-effective travel choices between these cities but also significantly reduce travel time. As we venture into new skies, connecting people with their favored destinations, we remain committed to delivering on our promise of providing affordable, on-time, courteous, and hassle-free travel experiences across our extensive network."

Air India sets up integrated mega engineering warehouse at Delhi



Air India has commissioned a mega warehouse facility at Delhi to facilitate storage of over 1,000,000 engineering spares that are integral to maintenance, checks and repairs of its aircraft and ground support equipment, in a move

that will further enhance Air India's fleet and operational efficiency and strengthen India's expanding aviation ecosystem.

Located in proximity of Terminal 3, at the Cargo complex of Delhi Airport's Air Cargo Logistics division, the centralized warehouse sprawling 54,000 sq. ft. (approx.), will significantly improve quick turnaround of the airline's flights operating out of Delhi.

Campbell Wilson, CEO and MD, Air India said, "The warehouse is a major milestone for Air India and a reinforcement of the quality, professionalism, and investment that we are now committed to make. This worldclass facility will not only boost Air India's fleet and operational efficiency but will also strengthen India's aviation ecosystem. The warehouse will offer us more proximate access to and better control over our aircraft spares enabling us to meet any engineering requirement promptly - leading to improved punctuality of flights."

The first-of-its-kind facility for any airline in India, the integrated warehouse will serve as the cornerstone of Air India's engineering function, offering a one-stop solution for storing aircraft spares, tools and ground support equipment ranging from hardware to sophisticated and complex avionics, hydraulics, structural, pneumatic, and mechanical components.

The warehouse will fulfill engineering resource requirement for maintenance and service of the Air India, Air India Express and AIX Connect fleet from a centralized location by integrating 16 subscale and scattered locations spread across Delhi and Mumbai into a consolidated state-of-the-art facility that will function as a hub and feeder network for operations throughout India. This will streamline the airline functions and ensure better control over inventory. Located close to Air India's aircraft hangars at Terminal 3 of IGI airport, the warehouse will facilitate swift material movement of spares to address technical issues.

MTU Maintenance Zhuhai and MAB Engineering sign MoU for on-site services



MTU Maintenance Zhuhai, Asia's leading engine maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) company, has signed a memorandum of understanding with MAB Engineering, a wholly-owned subsidiary under the Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), to support the setup of an engine on-site services facility in cooperation with the Malaysian service provider.

Under the agreement, MTU Maintenance Zhuhai will provide its technical expertise and guidance to support the management of the project. This includes consultation on the required qualifications, certifications and tooling, as well as facility layout design. In addition, MTU Maintenance staff from the Zhuhai location will initially train its counterpart's employees in a range of work scopes for CFM International's CFM56-5B and -7B engines, with the possibility of other engine models in the future.

Gert Wagner, President and CEO of



Although aviation is a big industry, it still tends to be a small community, so we enjoy partnering up and exchanging knowledge, especially with a long-time partner such as the Malaysia Aviation Group," Wagner says. "It is an absolute pleasure to be working with them on this project.



MTU Maintenance Zhuhai, says MTU's location in China has broad experience and a strong foundation in the field through its ON-SITEplus services. The past few

years, in particular, saw a significant rise in the demand for smaller on- and near-wing work scopes. He adds the project, in which MTU Maintenance is assisting MAB Engineering, is a win for the aviation industry in Asia.

Mohd Nadziruddin Mohd Basri, Chief Executive Officer of Aviation Services at Malaysia Aviation Group, says MTU Maintenance's expertise is world renowned and adopting the same standards within the framework MAB Engineering's own MRO operations is of great benefit to MAG as a whole.

"MTU has a successful history of collaborations and partnerships, and through our own experience utilizing their MRO services over the years, we know we are in good hands. We look forward to working closely together to further enhance MAB Engineering's capabilities in becoming a preferred one-stop aircraft MRO service provider in the region," says Mohd Nadziruddin.

SR Technics Malta renews Base Maintenance contract with easyJet



The aircraft services hub SR Technics Malta is proud to secure a new three-year contract with easyJet, which has been a valuable customer since 2010. The leading European airline easyJet has been supported by SR Technics for a range of MRO services over the years. The collaboration is continued at SR Technics' new six-bay hangar at the Malta Airport in Hal Farrug.

Daniel Galea, SR Technics Malta General Manager, said: "We are extremely pleased and honored to secure a new three-year contract with our high valued and important customer. This goes to show the incredible relationship we have cultivated as we marked the 13th year of collaboration. Great thanks goes to our dedicated workforce as we continue delivering our services to the highest safety and quality standards."

Brendan McConnellogue Director of Engineering and Maintenance for easyJet commented: "We are delighted to be continuing our longstanding relationship with SR Technics in Malta who have demonstrated to us they are the right partner to continue supporting our industry leading maintenance operations for our modern fleet of over 300 Airbus A320 aircraft."

Joramco Signs New Maintenance Agreement with Oman Air

Joramco, the Amman-based aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility and engineering arm of Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE), has recently signed a new maintenance agreement with Oman Air.

This agreement marks yet another milestone in the company's long-standing partnership. As part of this collaboration, Joramco started with heavy maintenance checks on five A330 aircraft from Oman Air's fleet.

Commenting on the agreement, Joramco's CEO, Fraser Currie, said, "We are delighted to share that our valued customer, Oman Air, has decided to choose Joramco again for their maintenance needs. This agreement is a testament to the trust they have in Joramco's impeccable services. We take great pride in continuing to deliver top-notch maintenance solutions that meet and exceed Oman Air's expectations."



SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS, BOEING REACH AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT PRODUCTION STABILITY

Spirit AeroSystems, Holdings Inc. announced that its subsidiary, Spirit AeroSystems Inc., entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with The Boeing Company. The agreement enables greater collaboration to achieve improved quality and higher deliveries in the future. "Boeing and Spirit will continue to work shoulder to shoulder to mitigate today's operational challenges," said Spirit



AeroSystems.
President and CEO Patrick M.

Shanahan said: "Our collective teams will focus on further generating supply chain performance and resiliency. This united effort to synchronize our production systems will enable greater market responsiveness and delivery assurance."

The agreement strengthens the strategic relationship between Spirit and Boeing for the long-term to fulfill operational commitments and airline expectations.

EMBRAER AND ROYAL JORDANIAN AIRLINES SIGN POOL PROGRAM AGREEMENT FOR E2 FLEET SUPPORT

Embraer has signed a multi-year contract with Royal Jordanian Airlines to support a total fleet of eight E190-E2 and E-195-E2 jets with the Pool Program. The agreement will provide support for a wide range of repairable components for the jets that will be added to Royal Jordanian's fleet. Currently, Embraer's Pool Program supports more than 60 airlines worldwide.

"Royal Jordanian has for many years enjoyed a fruitful relationship with Embraer with our currently operating Embraer fleet. For the new generation E2 jets, we have been working with Embraer on all the supporting functions that go into having a smooth entry into service targeted by the end of this year. Therefore, we see that the pool program agreement that we signed with Embraer as a natural fit that provides a cost effective and practical parts solution, accompanied with Embraer's expertise



and support," said Royal Jordanian Vice Chairman/ CEO Samer Majali.

"We are honored to celebrate this agreement with Royal Jordanian to support their E2 fleet. The Pool Program will support a smooth Entry into Service of RJ's fleet helping them reducing costs in repair and inventory supported by Embraer's global footprint. We have a long relationship with the company, and we are excited for this new chapter starting with the E2 family" said Carlos Naufel, President and CEO, Embraer Services & Support.

National Airlines and Lufthansa Technik expand their cooperation



National Airlines and Lufthansa Technik have signed an agreement to expand their cooperation in the field of Engine Maintenance Services (EMS). The contract includes the overhaul of a minimum of eleven CF6-80 engines over the next five years for the Boeing 747 fleet as well as additional services like Cyclean® engine wash, AOG Support and Consumables & Expendables Support for the Orlando based cargo operator.

Since April of this year, for example, Lufthansa Technik has already been carrying out the efficient on-wing Cyclean® engine wash procedure on National Airlines aircraft at several airports. In addition to the Aircraft on Ground (AOG) support in Europe, Asia and North America, Lufthansa Technik also supplies National Airlines with consumables and expendables. For this, so-called engine change kits with hundreds of selected parts are put together and delivered as an individual whole package. As of now, Lufthansa Technik furthermore starts the Engine Maintenance Services as part of the agreement.

Jim Casbarro, Vice President of Technical Operations at National Airlines, said: "National Airlines is extremely pleased to announce our expanding cooperation with Lufthansa Technik. Through this cooperation, National now has access to Lufthansa's wealth of industry leading experience and knowledge to further assist in our growth and operational reliability. We look forward to many years of continuing partnership with Lufthansa Technik."

Georgios Ouzounidis, Vice President Corporate Sales Americas at Lufthansa Technik, added: "The start of our cooperation with National Airlines was only a few months ago. We are even more delighted to see this young partnership continuously growing and highly value our cooperation with National Airlines."

AAR and MTU Maintenance extend Pratt & Whitney PW2000 aircraft engine parts supply agreement

AAR CORP a leading provider of aviation services to commercial and government operators, MROs, and OEMs, has signed a multi-year contract extension with MTU Maintenance, the global market leader in customized solutions for aero engines, to supply parts for Pratt & Whitney PW2000 engines.

This fourth extension marks the continuation of an AAR-MTU contract that originally began in 2009. Under the agreement, AAR supplies used serviceable material for the PW2000 engine program at MTU's facility in Hannover, Germany. This partnership significantly streamlines logistical processes and creates cost efficiencies for

MTU Maintenance's customers.

"The last 15 years have shown us that AAR is a reliable partner, which helps us to offer tailor-made and cost-efficient material solutions to our customers," said Torben Lohse, Director of Purchasing at MTU Maintenance Hannover. "I am looking forward to continuing this successful partnership for years to come."

"AAR is thrilled to continue supporting valued customer MTU on the PW2000 engines," said Christine Bogner, AAR's PW2000 Product Director. "The AAR-MTU relationship is a successful partnership providing mutual benefit, and we look forward to collaborating on the next chapter."

StandardAero Springfield, Illinois Business Aviation MRO Shop Announces +\$10 Million in Facility Investments and Upgrades

StandardAero has announced a commitment to invest \$10-12 million in leasehold improvements at the company's Springfield, Illinois business aviation MRO facility. The investments, in partnership with Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, will be completed in three phases over a two-and-a-half-year period.

The investments and upgrades will be applied to major building improvements and modernization including hangar door overhaul, interior door replacement, resurfacing of hangar floors, exterior paint, interior paint, HVAC replacements, flat roof replacements, paint facility equipment upgrades, parking area and road resurfacing to name a few.

"We have already started the repair and overhaul process for our hangar doors and we're proceeding with the other phased improvements," said Dave Pearman, Vice President & General Manager of StandardAero Springfield. "We are grateful to the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport for their support and once all of the upgrades are completed, we'll essentially have a 'like new'



operation."

Earlier this year, Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport implemented a project install of a 2.88 Mw solar project that consists of 6 solar arrays with over 6,500 panels on 7.5 acres of the airport property. Now in full operation, the arrays generate nearly 4,000,000 kWh annually and is one of the largest solar arrays in the state of Illinois on an airport. StandardAero currently receives 100% of its electrical power from the solar arrays, making it one of the "greenest" facilities in the industry.

"We are grateful for StandardAero's continued commitment to the Springfield community," stated Mark Hanna, Executive Director of the Springfield Airport Authority. He continued, "We

are very excited to share this opportunity with StandardAero to pursue these facilities improvements, which will of course enhance their operation upon completion, but will also provide prospects for future growth."

StandardAero Springfield supports primarily airframe maintenance for business aviation aircraft including scheduled maintenance, avionics installations, full interior refurbishments, and full aircraft paint. In addition to Springfield, StandardAero operates out of primary business aviation MRO facilities located in Van Nuys, California; Dallas and Houston, Texas; Augusta, Georgia; and in the U.K. The company also has regional service centers located in the U.S, Brazil, U.K., South Africa, and Singapore in addition to Mobile Service Teams around the world to support wherever operators fly.

"The modernization of our facility represents our commitment to our customers to deliver excellent customer service and the best quality aircraft service in the industry," Pearman concluded.

Safran signs a Maintenance Agreement with Turkish Technic

Safran and Turkish Technic signed a contract to maintain APU generators, engines harnesses and ventilation systems equipment. This contract covers more than 500 Airbus A320 and A330. This is an exclusive contract for a period of five years and will support more than 200 equipment a year.

Safran Electrical & Power will provide repair maintenance for APU generators and engine harnesses whereas Safran Ventilation Systems will maintain ventilation systems equipment. Turkish Technic will benefit from the repair services, as well as the exchange support for APU Generators.



The agreement will enhance Turkish Technic in-house repair operations and competitiveness.

"We are delighted to strengthen our partnership on MRO with Turkish Technic – a client with which we have had a strong relationship for many years. Such achievement and such renewal of cooperation is the result of a constant dedication to the highest level of quality and performance of an aviation

equipment manufacturer", said Vincenzo Guerriero, Vice President Customer Services and Support at Safran Electrical & Power and Safran Ventilation Systems.

"We are happy to build on our long-standing partnership with Safran. This multi-year agreement demonstrates our unwavering commitment to providing top-class component Power By the Hour services to our customers worldwide. As a one-stop MRO company with a reputation for high-quality services and competitive turnaround times, we are dedicated to expanding our service portfolio to meet the demands of the market." said Yasin Birinci, Chief Technical Officer of Turkish Technic.



Aviation Update Editor Kartikeya in conversation with

Mr. Vineet Sood
CEO - ALLIANCE AIR.



Q How are you positioning the airline given the competition in the region?

A So, first of all thank you to Aviation update magazine for providing the opportunity to Alliance Air to showcase what we are.

Our airline's product positioning strategy is centered around leveraging our extensive regional network, with more than 100 daily departures. With a firm commitment to convenience and accessibility, we connect travelers to a diverse array of destinations, serving a total of 58 cities. This network includes a combination of Commercial, RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme) flights with dynamic pricing and flexible fare structures.

We also work closely with more than 700 plus active agents across the network

At the heart of our strategy also lies effective branding and marketing. This includes Well-crafted messaging, visually appealing design, and a clear value proposition.

Recently Alliance Air has introduced new RCS routes like Kullu-Amritsar, Delhi-Bathinda & Bengaluru-Salem-Kochi. We are very much focusing on our Charters. Charter services have been provided to Hockey World Cup teams which were held

in Bhubaneswar & Rourkela. Also C20 delegates were provided the charter services. Currently Alliance Air is serving in Cricket World Cup 2023 teams for their travelling.

Q What new technologies excite you and how important is it for an airline to invest in a digital transformation?

A The increasing demand for personalized travel experiences, coupled with technological advancements, has created a need for airlines to embrace digital transformation meaningfully. By integrating digital technology across all facets of their operations, airlines can enhance IT efficiency, improve customer experience, and ensure passenger safety.

Alliance Air developed user-friendly website that allow passengers to book flights, select seats, and manage their itineraries. It offer a seamless booking experience.

Crew Management Systems: Digital tools are used to manage crew scheduling, training, and communication. These systems optimize work schedules, reducing crew fatigue and improving operational efficiency.

Data Analytics: Data analytics to gain insights into passenger behavior, and making informed decisions

SAP-ERP implementation: Alliance Air has achieved a remarkable digital transformation by implementing SAP RISE 2022 Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to SAP cloud. The implementation of SAP RISE system will revolutionize key business operations in Finance, Human Resources, Commercial Operations, and Engineering. This will unlock new possibilities for the airlines to enhance operational efficiency.

Cybersecurity: Protecting sensitive customer and operational data.

Q How will you improve the company culture?

A Employee Training and Development: Airlines invest in training and development programs to empower their employees with the knowledge and skills they need to excel in their roles.

Communication and Transparency: Open and transparent communication between management and employees is essential for a positive company culture. Airlines often conduct regular meetings, provide updates on company performance, and actively seek employee feedback to foster a culture of trust and collaboration.

Employee Recognition and Rewards: Recognizing and rewarding employees for their hard work and



achievements.

Work-Life Balance: Airlines are increasingly focused on promoting work-life balance for their employees. Flexible scheduling, time-off policies, and support for employees' well-being contribute to a better work environment.

Diversity and Inclusion: Airlines are striving to create a culture that values different perspectives and backgrounds.

Employee Wellness Programs: Airlines offer access to healthcare services to ensure the well-being of their employees.

Safety Culture: Safety is a top priority for airlines, and fostering a strong safety culture is vital. Airlines provide extensive safety training and encourage employees to report safety concerns or incidents without fear of retribution.

Employee Engagement: Engaged employees are more likely to be satisfied with their jobs and contribute positively to the company culture.

Career Development Opportunities: Airlines offer opportunities for career advancement, skill development, and professional growth.

Feedback Mechanisms: Constructive feedback helps in identifying areas that need improvement.

Q What do you think are the main challenges for Alliance Air?

A Fortunately, most challenges post Covid are now becoming an opportunity and are being showcased with the Indian aviation Industry operating at Pre- Covid levels. However, high fuel cost contributes to a major portion of the operating cost of any airline. Many State Govts. have gone ahead and reduced VAT on fuel prices and this has boosted the aviation sector in those states.

The financial impact can be especially acute for airlines when it relates to sizeable changes in the value of the US dollar. This is because a large proportion of airline costs (including fuel) are denominated in US dollars and as a domestic carrier needs to convert domestic currency into dollars each year to meet their obligations. A more stable pricing will allow us to fly better.

Apart from the above, at present industry is facing huge challenges with the Supply Chain issues. Timely availability of required spares & engines are the challenges which further delays the maintenance activities.

Q What more do you want to achieve at the airline?

A Currently Alliance Air operates

to 58 destinations across India mainly connecting Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Our airline bases are at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad & Dibrugarh. We have plans to further expand our connectivity in the North East of India, with key focus on Arunachal Pradesh connectivity through our Dornier228. The Made in India Dornier228 is the most advanced aircraft in its class. Its key features are high utilization rate, high pay load. The Dornier228 aircraft is equipped to do night flying.

Alliance Air is currently operating to Itanagar, Tezu and Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh and will soon be inducting the 2nd Dornier 228 aircraft. With the induction of the second aircraft Alliance Air has plans to operate flights to Mechuka, Tuting, Daparizo and Vijaynagar.

In other parts of India we have been adding new flights, whereby our enhanced focus in the near future would be to connect more in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in order to become a dominant regional Airline in new BHARAT. Alliance Air has also recommenced its first international route which is operating from Chennai to Jaffna in Sri Lanka. In future we plan to expand our network in neighboring nations such as Nepal, Bangladesh & Myanmar. Our key focus would be to connect regional India to these countries.

We have plans to induct more aircraft in our fleet to improve the interstate connectivity and to increase our market share. Enhanced connectivity will help bolster tourism and trade in the region and contribute to the economic development of the states. Alliance Air is humbled to contribute towards the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Airbus Signs EUR 1.2Bn in Contracts for Capability Enhancement and In-service Support of the French A330 MRTT Fleet

Airbus Defence and Space has signed two contracts valued at € 1.2 billion in total with France's Direction générale de l'armement (DGA) and Direction de la Maintenance Aéronautique (DMAé) for the Capability Enhancement and the In-Service Support of the French A330 MRTTs (Multi Role Tanker Transport) fleet.

"We thank the French Ministry of Armed Forces for its continued trust in the Airbus A330 MRTT and we are honoured to contribute to one of France's most strategic capabilities through this programme," said Jean-Brice Dumont, Head of Military Air Systems at Airbus Defence and Space. "With this new capability of the aircraft, we are preparing the future by transforming the MRTT into an in-flight communications node, as the first building block of the Multi Role Tanker Transport of tomorrow, embedded in the Future Combat Air System (FCAS)."

Standard 2 contract: Stepping stone of the Multi Role Tanker Transport of the future The Standard 2 contract provides for the capability extension of the French MRTTs, focused on connectivity as a key pillar and also self-protection capabilities. With the aim of being connected in all circumstances, including jammed environments and extreme weather conditions, the aircraft will be equipped with the MELISSA satcom station.

These new capabilities will convert the French A330 MRTT into a high bandwidth communication relay node, with command and control capabilities, and will build the stepping stone of the A330 MRTT's integration into the



future air combat cloud within the FCAS.

The first aircraft to have the Standard 2 will be A330 MRTT No. 15, whose conversion will be carried out at Airbus' military facilities in Getafe. It is expected to be qualified for the French Air Force in 2028. Thereafter, the upgrade to Standard 2 of the remaining 14 French A330 MRTTs will take place at the Istres Air Base in France.

10 years In-service support the second contract covers the In-Service Support of the 'Phénix' fleet for 10 years, plus two optional years, at the Istres Air Base, southern France, home to the 31st Strategic Air Refuelling and Transport Wing. Airbus, as the prime contractor, together with its preferred partners in France, will be responsible for fleet modernisation, maintenance, logistics

and technical support to ensure the aircraft's operational availability. The local Airbus team in France will be doubled to support these activities.

The support services introduced under these contracts guarantee a level of availability, reactivity and resilience compatible with the requirements of the French Air Force and the Strategic Air Forces. This includes support for aircraft deployed outside France. Under the nickname of 'Phénix', the French Air and Space Force currently operates 12 A330 MRTTs, with more than 18,000 flight hours completed. France is the largest A330 MRTT customer with 15 A330 MRTT ordered. With 79 orders from 15 countries, the A330 MRTT has a 90 percent market share outside the USA. and more than 270,000 flight hours.

Saab Receives Order for Gripen C/D Upgrade

Saab has received an additional order from the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV) to ensure the continued operation and capability enhancement of Gripen C/D. The order is valued at SEK 579 million.

The additional order includes designing new development and simulation environments for Gripen C/D as well as developing new support systems that will facilitate the



harmonisation of Gripen C/D and Gripen E for the Swedish customer. The order also includes supplementary orders for equipment and hardware.

"The upgrade of Gripen C/D is an important step in maintaining a high level of operational capability in the turbulent world we live in. It is also important in order for Gripen C/D to operate beyond 2030," says Lars Tossman, head of Saab's Aeronautics business area.



Aviation Update Editor Kartikeya in conversation with

Mr. Shubham Moondhara

Head of Corporate Strategy & Business Development

TRANS MALDIVIAN AIRWAYS



Q Can you brief us the journey of TMA?

A Trans Maldivian Airways started its journey in 1989. TMA' history consists of two very significant companies in the Maldives aviation history, one which started as Humming Bird Island Helicopters and the other being Maldivian Air Taxi. Humming Bird Island Helicopters started the first air transfers for tourists in the Maldives and Maldivian Air Taxi revolutionized the industry with the introduction of Twin-Otters in the Maldives. Since 2007, both companies focused on expanding Twin-Otter operations in the Maldives, when one of the largest private equity firms bought the two companies and merged them which then became the TMA that the world sees today. TMA started with 2 seaplanes and today has grown to a fleet of 65 aircraft. The journey has been remarkable for us.

Q How has TMA been an integral part of tourism development in the Maldives?

A Maldives being a country consisting of over a thousand islands, connectivity was a huge challenge for the tourism industry which commenced in 1972 with the opening of the first resort in the Maldives. Even though the first resort paved the way for couple of more islands to be developed, the business owners were skeptical of the success due to the challenges they saw with the lack of infrastructure. However, in 1993, when the twin-otters surfed the Maldivian skies,



each passing day became a testament for the potential for the future. The developments which were centered around Male' in the 70's and 80's slowly moved to the untouched atolls of the Maldives and slowly TMA became the backbone of the Maldives tourism industry. TMA could be credited for helping tourism develop beyond the Male' atoll in the Maldives.

Q You are carrying nearly as many passengers as arrive to the Maldives annually. What makes you the airline of choice for travelers?

A As the most experienced airline for tourist transfers in the Maldives, with a history of 30 years in operation, TMA has always been an airline driven by the customer centric approach. Working with the topmost brands in the hospitality industry, it has always been a place for transfer solutions and customization of the product offering for every client's need. With TMA, travelers can be assured that the start of their dream vacation in

Maldives will be an experience of a lifetime with the best bird's eye view of what is known as the heaven on earth.

Q What new technologies excite you and how important is it for an airline to invest in a digital transformation?

A We at TMA truly believe in innovation. Discussions related to new technologies are always of interest. We have tried new technologies in the past, the introduction of Garmin 950 being one of the recent ones. As the world moves towards a digital era, we are equally invested in areas which can enhance our operations.

Q Does TMA have expansion plans in India in the near future?

A We are always open to expansion provided we have the right business case. If the future presents such an opportunity, you may see us in India or any other part of the world.

Q How is the airline performing in 2023 and what is your strategy for the future?

A Maldives as a destination has been growing, hence we are also growing. We are doing better every year, increasing our portfolio, and expanding within the Maldives. This year alone, we have started operations to two new atolls. TMA's strategy will remain simple; to provide our clients with the most premium service with our years of experience and always giving our travelers an experience

of a lifetime with the best bird's eye view of the Maldives.

Q If there was one thing you could change about your airline or aviation in general, what would it be and why?

A Lot of companies across the world are now working on research related to sustainable and green aviation technologies. The future is going to be a lot dependent on this research and we look forward to groundbreaking developments in this field.



1st KC-390 Millennium in NATO Configuration Enters Into Service With the Portuguese AF

The first KC-390 Millennium of the Portuguese Air Force (FAP) has entered into service at the Beja Air Base. The aircraft meets the requirements set by the National Aeronautical Authority (AAN) of Portugal and includes standard NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) equipment already integrated into the aircraft. This integration results from an extensive flight tests campaign carried out in Portugal, in a joint effort between Embraer, OGMA, and FAP. In 2019, FAP ordered five KC-390 aircraft, a comprehensive services and support agreement and a flight simulator. The entry into service took place following a ceremony held Monday October 16, at the Embraer plant in Gavião Peixoto, Brazil.

“This is a wonderful time for us, as we witness the first KC-390 Millennium enter into service outside Brazil. The Portuguese Air Force is an Embraer’s strategic partner, having supported us since the beginning of the KC-390 Millennium’s internationalization. Embraer and the Portuguese Air Force will continue working together to advance our long-term projects for years to come,” says Walter Pinto Junior, COO of Embraer Defense & Security.

“The entry into service of this aircraft is significant for the Portuguese Air Force and Portugal, as it completes the development and production of a multi-value aircraft capable of the most demanding operational scenarios. The requirements set by the Portuguese Air Force have taken this aircraft to an even higher technological and capability level,” says



Brigadier-General João Nogueira, President of the KC-390 Program Supervision and Monitoring Mission.

The multi-mission military tactical transport aircraft offers unparalleled mobility, combining high productivity and operational flexibility with low operating costs, which is an unbeatable combination. The C-390 can carry more payload (26 tons) compared to other military transport aircraft in its class, and it flies faster and farther. The multi-mission platform is capable of performing a wide range of missions such as transport and launch of cargo and troops, aeromedical evacuation, search and rescue, firefighting and humanitarian missions, operating on temporary or unpaved runways (i.e., including compacted earth, soil and gravel).

The air-to-air refueling (AAR) configuration, designated the KC-390, has demonstrated its capabilities during operations with the Brazilian Air Force. It is cleared to refuel several different fighter aircraft and is also able to refuel other KC-390s using the underwing pods. This is a unique feature for this type of aircraft.

Portugal is the largest international partner of the C-390 program, and its participation in the development and production of the aircraft is recognized for having a positive economic impact on the generation of jobs, new investments, increased exports, and technological advances. In addition to Portugal, the multi-mission platform has orders from Brazil and Hungary and has been selected by the Netherlands, Austria and the Czech Republic.

HAL Hands Over LCA Tejas Twin Seater to IAF in Presence of RRM

HAL handed over the first LCA Tejas twin seater to the Indian Air Force in the presence of Rakha Rajya Mantri, Mr. Ajay Bhatt at a ceremony. It is a huge boost to self-reliance, said the minister in his address to the packed audience. “I am proud to be part of this historic occasion and salute the spirit of HAL which has been spearheading Swadeshi manufacturing in defence”, he said. He unveiled the twin seater LCA. “In all, the development

of LCA Tejas has also brought about a shift in our approach to defence procurement. It has demonstrated that India has the talent, knowledge and capability to design, develop and manufacture world-class fighters”, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said that IAF would be going forward to procure 97 more LCAs and with this it will have 220 LCAs in its inventory.

Mr. C B Ananthkrishnan, CMD (Addl. Charge), HAL said that the company is committed to deliver all the twin seater aircraft pertaining to IOC and FOC contract to IAF in the current financial year. With this, we are moving one step closer towards achieving self-sufficiency on the fixed wing segment. These trainers also ensure smooth transition for the pilots from trainer to fighter aircraft in this class”, he added

SUCCESSFUL A330 MRTT FLIGHT TEST CAMPAIGN FOR F-15 FIGHTERS AUTOMATIC REFUELLING



Airbus and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) worked together to successfully complete the automatic air-to-air refuelling (A3R) flight test campaign with the Airbus A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) and F-15 fighter, ahead of its certification in the first half of 2024.

Over the course of three weeks in August, a RSAF A330 MRTT made more than 500 automated wet and dry contacts with the air force's full fleet of receiver aircraft, including the F-15SG aircraft, a customised variant of the US-built F-15E Strike Eagle air-to-ground fighter jet.

"The A330 MRTT has made the future of air-to-air refuelling a reality as a result of the joint efforts of Airbus and the Republic of Singapore Air Force," said Jean-Brice Dumont, Head of Military Air Systems at Airbus Defence and Space. "This new milestone will enable the RSAF to become the first Air Force in the world to have a boom automatic refuelling capability with all of its receivers, a capability that can be extended to refuelling receivers from other nations".

The flight tests with F-15SG were conducted in Singapore, covering the

whole operational AAR envelope in different weather conditions under the supervision of the Spanish certifying authority, called INTA (National Institute for Aerospace Technology).

Automatic air-to-air at night with F-15s, F-16s and MRTT

During the test campaign, further flights were carried out in night conditions, not only with F-15s but also with the RSAF's A330 MRTT and F-16s as receivers for data collection, to complete the development and enable night capabilities with the automated system.

In July 2022, the A330 MRTT became the world's first tanker certified for automatic air-to-air refuelling operations in daylight conditions with F-16s and A330 MRTTs as receivers.

The automatic refuelling system reduces air-refuelling operator workload, improves safety and optimises the air-to-air refuelling transfer rate in operational conditions to maximise air superiority.

Combat proven since 2014, the Airbus A330 MRTT is certified for aerial refuelling with both boom and hose-and-drogue systems for F-15, F-16, F-35, A330 MRTT, AWACS, Eurofighter and many more aircraft.

L3Harris to Advance DoD's Space Domain Awareness Mission



L3Harris Technologies received two contracts worth up to \$134 million to update portions of the Department of Defense's (DoD) space domain awareness mission. The Ground Based Optical Sensor System (GBOSS) and Space Fence Sustainment (Option Year 4) contracts support the U.S. Space Force's Maintenance of Space Situational Awareness Integrated Capabilities (MOSSAIC) program.

"Advancing the MOSSAIC program will continue to modernize space domain awareness, which provides critical data to multi-domain warfighting operations," said Ed Zoiss, President, Space and Airborne Systems, L3Harris. "For National Security Space leadership to respond to threats, they must begin with a clear understanding of the space environment. L3Harris is a key partner through the entire chain of detection, tracking, targeting and engagement options."

Under the GBOSS contract, L3Harris will design and develop technology to upgrade the existing Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance telescopes at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, and Maui, Hawaii, sites. The upgrade will increase GBOSS resiliency and facilitate more persistent coverage supporting space domain awareness across the DoD.

Space Fence is a vital component of the space domain awareness architecture. The Space Fence sustainment program will enable tracking of the objects orbiting Earth, monitoring space weather and assessing foreign launches. L3Harris provides advanced space domain awareness capabilities to help

DRDO's oceanographic research vessel 'INS Sagardhwani' embarks on Sagar Maitri Mission-4 to establish long-term scientific partnerships with Indian Ocean Rim countries in 'Ocean Research & Development'



INS Sagardhwani, an oceanographic research vessel of Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO, embarked on a two-month long Sagar Maitri (SM) Mission-4 from South Jetty, Southern Naval Command (SNC), Kochi on October 11, 2023. Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat flagged-off the ship in the presence of Officiating Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (South) Rear Admiral Upal Kundu and other senior officials of DRDO & Indian Navy.

Sagar Maitri is a novel initiative of DRDO that supports the broad objective of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's policy declaration 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' to promote closer cooperation in socio-economic aspects as well as more significant scientific interaction, especially in ocean research among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries. Under the aegis of this policy,

DRDO initiated a scientific component named 'MAITRI (Marine and Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative)', which focuses on establishing long-term collaboration with IOR countries in the field of 'Ocean Research and Development'.

In the SAGAR MAITRI programme, INS Sagardhwani will retrace the tracks of INS Kistna, which participated in the International Indian Ocean Expedition during 1962-65. The missions aim to establish long-term scientific partnerships and collaborations with Oman, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Myanmar — the eight IOR countries.

In earlier SAGAR MAITRI missions, the delegation visited Yangon (Myanmar) in April 2019, followed by the second mission (SM-2) to Klang (Malaysia) in August 2019 & Singapore in September 2019, including the conduct of one-day scientific seminars in all three countries. In February 2020, the

NPOL conducted oceanographic studies in the Southern Indian Ocean, including an equatorial transect, as part of the third mission (SM-3).

The current mission (SM-4) plan includes scientific deployments onboard INS Sagardhwani in the Northern Arabian Sea and initiating collaborative research programmes with the Department of Marine Sciences & Fisheries at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. These missions give the scientists an opportunity to cooperate and build strong working relationships with their IOR counterparts studying the oceans.

INS Sagardhwani is a marine acoustic research ship designed and developed by NPOL, Kochi and constructed indigenously by GRSE Ltd. It was launched in July 1994. The NPOL is involved in studying the ocean environment and other related fields. The vessel has been engaging in extensive oceanic observing missions and research for the last 25 years.

THE PHILIPPINES ANNOUNCES THE ACQUISITION OF THREE C-130J-30 SUPER HERCULES TACTICAL AIRLIFTERS



The Republic of the Philippines Department of National Defense announced the acquisition of three new C-130J-30 Super Hercules tactical airlifters from Lockheed Martin through a Direct Commercial Sale. In choosing the C-130J, the Philippines joins 21 other nations that rely on the Super Hercules to support tactical airlift mission requirements.

The tactical mission profile requires a proven aircraft that delivers known operational results and capabilities when operating in challenging environmental and geographic conditions. The C-130J-30 provides these attributes and more to the Philippine Air Force (PAF), which will operate these new Super Hercules. All three aircraft are scheduled to deliver in 2026.

The Philippines is a long-standing C-130 operator, receiving its first Hercules in the early 1970s. The PAF currently operates a mixed fleet of legacy C-130s to support critical humanitarian, military and natural disaster relief missions throughout the Indo-Pacific region. PAF crews will operate the C-130J-30, the stretch version of the C-130J that offers an additional 15 feet (5 meters) of cargo space. The Super Hercules' increased power, range, integration, space and capability will support PAF crews in meeting complex and evolving tactical mission requirements.

"Philippine Air Force crews have long demonstrated what the C-130 is designed to do: go everywhere — in any condition — to

deliver hope and help where it's needed most," said Rod McLean, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin's Air Mobility & Maritime Missions line of business. "It is an honor to continue serving the Philippines with the most advanced and capable C-130 ever produced. The Super Hercules provides the Philippine Air Force with unmatched interoperability and capability, supporting challenging mission requirements across the Pacific region.»

With its new C-130J fleet, the Philippines is part of a global network of Super Hercules operators and offers the PAF unmatched commonality among allied partners, access to a robust international support community, an active supply chain, an innovative block upgrade program and training opportunities with other C-130J operators across the world.

The PAF's existing knowledge of the Hercules aircraft and existing infrastructure also offers a seamless transition between airframes as compared to introducing an entirely new aircraft variant into a fleet, which requires significant time and investment that can prolong fleet readiness.

The C-130J Super Hercules is the proven standard in tactical airlift, providing a unique mix of versatility and performance to complete any mission, anytime, anywhere. To date, 26 operators in 22 nations are part of the C-130J global fleet. Lockheed Martin has delivered more than 525 C-130J Super Hercules in 10 mission variants.

Sikorsky's RAIDER X Team Begins Installation Process of US Army's Improved Turbine Engine



Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company is beginning the installation process of the U.S. Army's new Improved Turbine Engine (ITEP) on its RAIDER X® aircraft designed for the Future Attack Reconnaissance (FARA) program. The U.S. Army and Sikorsky engineers reviewed the engine after its arrival at the company's West Palm Beach facility and then transferred it to the engine integration test lab next to the RAIDER X assembly area on Oct 20.

"Lockheed Martin's model-based systems engineering approach gives the Sikorsky team confidence in this final phase of the RAIDER X build which brings us one step closer to completing this weapon system that will match the rapid pace of the reconnaissance mission," said Future Vertical Lift Vice President Andy Adams. "The data RAIDER X gathers — and the speed and agility with which it operates — will support the Army's mission for deep sensing capability and unsurpassed networking, connecting Soldiers and the joint force to the information they need to complete their missions."

RAIDER X is currently 98% complete. After installing additional instrumentation, Sikorsky will begin engine installation immediately. Following that, final system tests and check-outs will be accomplished. Those will be followed by engine turn on and drive system check out with the ITEP in the aircraft. After successful system checks, we will conduct flight acceptance testing and proceed to first flight.

First flight of RAIDER X is expected in late 2024, when the engine and aircraft are approved for flight by the Army. In addition to RAIDER X, the Army intends to transition the ITEP engine to the UH-60 Black Hawk fleet.

"With increased fuel efficiency and 50% more power than the current engine, the ITEP engine is one of the cornerstones to Black Hawk modernization and will increase the aircraft's lift capability and range," Adams said. "As the U.S. Army fields Future Vertical Lift aircraft, the Black Hawk will remain the foundational tactical air assault and utility aircraft for the U.S. Army."

NASA Targets 2024 for 1st Flight of X-59 Experimental Aircraft

NASA's Quesst mission has adjusted the scheduled first flight of its X-59 quiet supersonic aircraft to 2024. A one-of-a-kind experimental aircraft, the X-59 has required complex engineering from NASA researchers working with prime contractor Lockheed Martin Skunk Works. In addition to the aircraft's design, the X-59 also combines new technology with systems and components from multiple, established aircraft, such as its landing gear from an F-16 and its life-support system adapted from an F-15.

As part of the demands of developing this unique aircraft, the Quesst team is working through several technical challenges identified over the course of 2023, when the X-59 had been scheduled to make its first flight. Extra time is needed to fully integrate systems into the aircraft and ensure they work together as expected. The team is also resolving intermittent issues with some of the safety-redundant computers that control the aircraft's systems.

Quesst made steady progress toward flight over the past year. The team installed the finishing touches to the X-59's tail structure, which allowed them to finalize its electrical wiring and proceed to critical ground tests, and moved it from its assembly facility to the flight line to perform structural testing.



The X-59 will demonstrate the ability to fly supersonic, or faster than the speed of sound, while reducing the normally loud sonic boom to a quiet sonic thump. NASA plans to fly the X-59 over several communities to gather data on how people perceive the sound it produces. The agency will provide that information to U.S. and international regulators to potentially adjust rules that currently prohibit commercial supersonic flight over land.

NASA's top priorities for any mission are safety and ensuring success. For Quesst, that means not only being sure that the X-59 is safe before it flies, but safe in the long term

and reliable during the community test phase. The aircraft is currently undergoing integrated testing, which must be completed before it flies. Once that stage is complete, the aircraft will continue its journey with a flight readiness review, at which point NASA plans to release a more specific timeline for first flight.

Quesst is a mission with the potential to revolutionize commercial aviation travel by dramatically reducing travel time. Safely and reliably flying the X-59 is critical for NASA to achieve those benefits. The agency is committed to a thorough review and testing process that results in the success of that mission.

BAE Advanced Projectile Extends Range of M109 Paladin

BAE Systems, in partnership with the U.S. Army's Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center (DEVCOM AC), fired the XM1155-SC guided projectile the furthest distance an M109 Paladin has ever fired a guided projectile. The projectile successfully guided to and impacted the target area using GPS, demonstrating the added capability the round can deliver to the U.S. Army's current howitzer fleet. The test at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona was conducted using a Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) Zone 5, proving XM1155-SC's compatibility with current artillery systems.

"Our XM1155-SC solution adds additional capability to current and future U.S. Army artillery systems," said Brent Butcher, vice president and general manager

of Weapon Systems at BAE Systems. "We're just getting started showing the advanced capabilities that this round brings to the warfighter. This projectile delivers a leap forward in performance and modernization. This successful firing and previous test results show that our concept is on-track to provide range and lethality overmatch to the U.S. Army brigade and division artillery units."

In December 2022, in partnership with the U.S. Army, BAE Systems held the first XM1155-SC test fire where the projectile was successfully fired from a 155 mm XM907E2 Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) test bed and impacted a fixed target beyond ranges previously demonstrated by other precision guided projectiles fired from the same type of cannon. The successful firing event occurred just 14 months after the company received an

initial \$14.8 million prototype development award in October 2021.

BAE Systems' concept for the U.S. Army's XM1155-SC program is an advanced, cannon-launched projectile under development for the defeat of fixed and moving targets in contested environments at more than double the range of existing cannon launched precision guided munitions. The concept was developed to penetrate and destroy adversary defenses through increased range, advanced guidance, lethality, and survivability. The projectile addresses the Army's modernization goals for a long-range precision fires munitions solution. BAE Systems is currently under contract to demonstrate navigation and control, networking, and payload technologies that enable precision fires at very long ranges for 155mm projectiles.

Honda Aircraft revealed HondaJet Echelon as the official name of its new light jet at 2023 National Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition (NBAA-BACE).



The name signifies the company's visionary path for the next-generation business jet, elevating efficiency to new heights while also delivering comfort and convenience.

"The HondaJet Echelon was born to create a new category that transcends the travel experience on conventional light jets," said Honda Aircraft Company president and CEO Hideto Yamasaki.

"Expanding mobility skyward has been Honda's long-lasting dream, and the HondaJet Echelon marks the exciting next chapter while showcasing a classic Honda story of a product that creates new value for people."

The HondaJet Echelon, previously introduced as the HondaJet 2600 Concept in 2021, sets a new paradigm by offering a mid-sized jet experience in the light jet category. The aircraft is designed to be the world's first single-pilot light jet capable of nonstop transcontinental flight across the United States.

This offering targets a reduction in operating costs and creates an owner experience previously unattainable. Furthermore, the design of the HondaJet Echelon incorporates electrification and automation of its systems, leading towards augmented pilot capabilities, reduced workload, and enhanced safety.

The design concept of the HondaJet Echelon revolves around elevating travel efficiency in every aspect to fulfill missions and offer an experience typically reserved for larger aircraft. The aircraft is set to deliver unmatched fuel efficiency through aerodynamic innovations to outperform conventional light jets on typical missions by up to 20% and mid-sized jets by over 40%.

As a premium addition to the HondaJet family, the HondaJet Echelon will also feature a holistic focus on the cabin experience encompassing space, comfort, and productivity.

TEXTRON AVIATION ADDS CUTTING-EDGE GARMIN AUTOHROTTLE SYSTEM TO THE CESSNA CITATION M2 GEN2

Textron Aviation, an industry leader in bringing new aircraft and product updates to market, announced that its renowned Cessna Citation M2 Gen2 will include Garmin Autothrottles beginning in mid-2025, reducing pilot workload and improving the flying experience.

Garmin Autothrottles further enhances the Citation M2 Gen2's capabilities by optimizing engine power, simplifying flight management and increasing overall operating efficiency. With this advanced technology, pilots can expect to experience smoother and more predictable flight profiles, providing them with even greater control and precision while flying.

"Adding Garmin Autothrottles into the Citation M2 Gen2 exemplifies Textron Aviation's ongoing commitment to product investment across our entire product lineup," said Lannie O'Bannon, senior vice president, Sales & Flight Operations. "With its intelligent automation and streamlined operation, the integration of autothrottles in the aircraft provides pilots added precision and efficiency."

Fully integrated with the Citation M2 Gen2's



Garmin G3000® avionics system, Garmin Autothrottles streamlines operations from takeoff to landing by managing aircraft speed, engine performance and power to allow the aircraft to climb, descend or maintain altitude. It automatically manages engine thrust, optimizing airspeed and fuel efficiency, and adjusts engine power based on factors like altitude, airspeed, and aircraft weight. By maintaining precise control over these parameters, it ensures a smoother and more comfortable flying experience for passengers. Additionally, Garmin Autothrottles includes features to prevent exceedance conditions and provides alerts to pilots if any deviations occur, enhancing overall peace of mind.

MONTE SIGNS ZERO EMISSIONS PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA-BASED AMPHIBIOUS OPERATOR MEHAIR

MONTE is delighted to announce that it has signed an agreement with MEHAIR, an Indian seaplane operator, to explore the conversion of MEHAIR's fleet to zero emission propulsion technologies. MONTE will work with MEHAIR to identify the most suitable zero emission propulsion technology for their operations and will then offer financing for the conversion of their fleet once this technology is approved and certified.

MEHAIR is launching inter-island air services between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on routes awarded by the Government of India under the UDAN program. MEHAIR have been operating a growing fleet of Cessna 208B Grand Caravan seaplanes which they will look to retrofit in the coming years. Additionally, MEHAIR have ordered up to 50 PHA-ZE 100 Jekta all electric amphibious aircraft, reinforcing their commitment to the long term decarbonisation of air travel in India. With another 25 land routes planned, MEHAIR is seeking to usher in a new chapter of sustainable aviation in India.

Rishi Majithia, Head of Growth at MONTE "We are delighted to partner with MEHAIR who are strongly aligned with our commitment to carbon neutrality in the regional aviation market. This is an exciting chapter in the growing Indian aviation sector, and we look forward to supporting MEHAIR lead the



way in decarbonisation. We are thrilled to be working with the team at MEHAIR as we continue on our journey towards zero emission regional aviation."

Siddharth Verma, CEO of MEHAIR "Sustainability is the way forward and carbon neutrality is the key. As a responsible partner to the Indian Government's unfolding Regional Connectivity Scheme which is aimed at connecting every nook and corner of the country, it becomes imperative to align yourself on the right side of history. As India's pioneering seaplane operator, we take this responsibility very seriously and wish to be the Indian flag bearers of this emerging technology to bring synergy between connectivity and sustainability."

TEXTRON AVIATION UNVEILS THE CESSNA CITATION CJ3 GEN2

Textron Aviation announced the newest Cessna Citation business jet in the company's legendary lineup – the Cessna Citation CJ3 Gen2. Unveiled on the eve of National Business Aviation Association - Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (NBAA-BACE) in Las Vegas, the Citation CJ3 Gen2 raises the bar in the light jet market as the company's most comprehensive Gen2 product announcement to date. Attendees will enjoy access to a new Citation CJ3 Gen2 mock up debuting during the show at the company's static display at Henderson Executive Airport. Currently under development, the aircraft is expected to enter into service in 2025.

"The Cessna Citation CJ3 Gen2 is our most comprehensive Gen2 product announcement yet, offering customer's proven performance, leading edge



technology and an unmatched cabin experience," said Ron Draper, President and CEO, Textron Aviation. "As a pilot of the CJ3 series, I appreciate the aircraft's excellent range, payload and efficiency, along with new productivity and comfort features. This announcement is a testament to our vision to be the

leader in aviation, inspiring the journey of flight."

Enhancements begin in the cockpit

The Citation CJ3 Gen2 was designed with input from a Textron Aviation Customer Advisory Board, made up of owners, pilots and mechanics who know what makes the ultimate aircraft experience. This feedback was key in every detailed enhancement in the aircraft, from cockpit to cabin.

"The Cessna Citation CJ3 Gen2 was designed to feel as good to the pilot as it does to the passenger," said Lannie O'Bannon, senior vice president, Global Sales and Flight Operations. "The aircraft is built upon two decades of success in the market and is the latest example of Textron Aviation's commitment to constantly innovate and bring the best products and experiences to our customers."

CESSNA CITATION LONGITUDE REACHES 100TH DELIVERY



Textron Aviation announced that it has delivered the 100th flagship Cessna Citation Longitude business jet to a longtime Citation customer. Textron Aviation employees celebrated this significant milestone with a special celebration at the company's headquarters in Wichita.

"The Citation Longitude's performance, efficiency and unrivaled cabin experience have already made it a legendary aircraft in its segment," said Lannie O'Bannon, senior vice president of Global Sales and Flight Operations. "We're proud of this significant delivery milestone and of our talented team who continues to design and deliver the best aviation experience for our customers."

The Citation Longitude is equally designed around the pilot experience, passenger comfort and overall performance, delivering an aircraft that lives up to its designation as the flagship of the Citation family of business jets. No other super-midsize business jet offers more range, greater payload or higher cruise speed at a lower direct operating cost.

GULFSTREAM G500 GAINS FAA STEEP-APPROACH CERTIFICATION



Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced the clean-sheet, next-generation Gulfstream G500 has been certified for steep-approach operations by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), giving the aircraft access to some of the world's most challenging airports.

The G500 proved its low-speed handling and short-field capabilities in 2021 with landings at airports including London City Airport in England, which has a short runway and strict noise abatement requirements, and Lugano Airport in Switzerland, which is situated in the mouth of a valley and requires an extremely steep approach.

"Our customers already benefit from the revolutionary performance and efficiency of the G500," said Mark Burns, president, Gulfstream. "We are now pleased to deliver steep-approach capability as well,

providing additional flexibility by unlocking access to even more destinations around the world."

With optimized speed, wide-cabin comfort and efficiency, the G500 offers best-in-class performance along with advanced safety features including the award-winning Gulfstream Symmetry Flight Deck. The G500 also features the Gulfstream Cabin Experience with 100% fresh, never recirculated air, the lowest cabin altitude in its class, whisper-quiet sound levels and abundant natural light from 14 Gulfstream Panoramic Oval Windows. The aircraft seats up to 19 and sleeps up to eight and can fly 5,300 nautical miles/9,816 kilometers at Mach 0.85 or 4,500 nm/8,334 km at Mach 0.90. It has a maximum operating speed of Mach 0.925.

The G500 holds nearly 60 city-pair speed records and more than 110 are in service around the world.



The New PC-24 Is Here

Beginning with new aircraft deliveries in 2024, Pilatus has extended the payload-range capability of its Super Versatile Jet to achieve a maximum range with six passengers of 2,000 nautical miles (3,704 kilometers). Pilatus also incorporated an array of new interior amenities, including a large side-facing divan which can be converted into a bed!

The new PC-24 features a 600 pound (272 kg) increase in full fuel payload and maximum payload capacity. This enables operators to increase the PC-24's maximum range by 200 nm (370 km) with six passengers on board. The PC-24 now offers a full fuel payload of a single pilot plus 1,315 pounds (596 kg), and features a class-leading maximum payload capacity of 3,100 pounds (1,406 kg).

Bruno Cervia, Vice President of Engineering for Pilatus, explained: "The payload increase was achieved by refining both wing and fuselage structural elements to reduce the airframe empty weight while simultaneously increasing the maximum gross take-off weight limit. It's simply Swiss engineering at its best".

Pilatus engineers conducted an extensive flight test campaign to expand the entire envelope for the higher design weights. At the PC-24's maximum take-off weight, balanced field length at sea level is only 3,090 feet (941 meters), allowing the use of very short and even unpaved runways.

Divan and Inflight Entertainment System

Already offering the largest cabin volume in its class, the interior of the new PC-24 has also been given a number of enhancements to improve the overall passenger flight experience. Ambient sound levels have been reduced through optimization of passenger service unit ducting, noise absorbing panels, and tuned engine accessory air intake ducts. Cabinetry, storage areas, and the Welcome Center have all been refined to optimize the vast amount of space in the PC-24's cabin.

Pilatus partnered with Lufthansa Technik to incorporate a new integrated Cabin Management System (iCMS) featuring a 10" touch screen controller with 3D moving map, four high fidelity cabin speakers with a sub-woofer option, mood lighting, USB ports, and a media storage server. Finally, in a first for this class of business aircraft, Pilatus is offering the option of a large side-facing divan that is 6 feet 6 inches (1.98 m) in length, and can be converted into a bed in flight.

Predictive Maintenance

All PC-24s from serial number 501 onwards will be equipped with a new feature to enable predictive services. The automated data transmission of key aircraft data directly to Pilatus upon landing will be analyzed and, if necessary, a predictive recommendation is made to the operator.

CEO Markus Bucher said: "More range, greater payload, enhanced comfort and increased operability were the primary focus of this major PC-24 improvement program. The PC-24 upgrade includes over 1,000 modifications throughout the aircraft. Yet again, we went all the way to the limits of what is possible, making maximum use of our engineering capabilities to deliver the best PC-24 ever. With this major upgrade, there is simply no other business jet on the market capable of consistently performing like our Super Versatile Jet".

Embraer reimagines excellence with the all-new Phenom 100EX



Embraer unveiled the Phenom 100EX business jet, the company's latest evolution from the Phenom 100 series, which has served its loyal customers since 2008 with over 400 aircraft in operation. Adopted and trusted by owner-pilots, private companies, and flight academies, such as RAF, Emirates, Etihad, and the Finnish Aviation Academy, the Phenom 100 series is the most trusted entry-level platform in the industry. Now, the new Phenom 100EX delivers superior cabin comfort, operational versatility and safety enhanced pilot-centric avionics to offer the ultimate flying experience.

The Phenom 100EX is the result of continuous improvements over the years based on customer feedback. The aircraft incorporates Embraer's Design DNA, which influenced the combining of cabin controls into sleek upper tech panels, as well as the seat design, increased use of more sustainable materials and flush-to-the-wall tables that maximizes workspace. The aircraft also includes interior enhancements, such as a baseline side-facing fifth seat and belted lavatory for additional passenger capacity. These detailed attributes throughout the cabin speak to the company's commitment to delivering enhanced comfort, unparalleled in-flight experiences and even more productivity capabilities, while increasing the ease of maintainability. These new interior features complement the product's best-in-class OvalLite™ cross-section, which provides further head- and legroom, as well as the most complete airstair and roomiest baggage compartment.

Leading the way in avionics and safety innovation, the Phenom 100EX is the first in its class to feature a Runway Overrun Awareness and Alerting System (ROAAS), which acts during one of the most critical moments of flight to build a clear picture of the anticipated landing conditions.

"We are proud to announce the Phenom 100EX—an aircraft designed to experience excellence with superior comfort and disruptive technology that enhances safety," said Michael Amalfitano, President and CEO of Embraer Executive Jets. "This product reimagines the entry-level flight experience, offering enhanced comfort, empowering pilots, and enriching journeys to deliver more value to our customers." The cockpit is equally considerate with further pilot legroom provided by extended seat tracking and an open-concept cockpit for easier communication within the cabin. In addition to the reimagined cabin, the aircraft boasts enhanced pilot-centric avionics as part of the Prodigy Touch, based on the renowned Garmin 3000. Other avionics improvements include FlightStream 510, automatic 3D volumetric scanning with lightning and hail prediction, stabilized approach, predictive windshear, and more.

Benefiting from the family's reputation for high utilization and low maintenance costs, the entry-level jet is also one of the greenest dual-engine jets on the market, culminating in a versatile aircraft built to offer the highest level of operational flexibility. The Phenom 100EX is triple-certified by ANAC, FAA and EASA and is currently sold out in 2024 with the next available date for delivery in 2025.

DAHER MARKS AN AVIATION MILESTONE WITH ITS DELIVERY OF THE 500TH TBM 900-SERIES

Daher has delivered its 500th TBM 900 series aircraft, underscoring the continued global market demand for this best-selling family in the efficient TBM turboprop-powered product line.

"The latest TBM programme achievement underscores the success of Daher's constant enhancement policy in maintaining the competitiveness of our aircraft portfolio, with an emphasis on listening to the customer and a commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and sustainability," says Nicolas Chabbert, senior vice president of the aircraft division.

With more than 100 TBM 960s on order, exceeding two years of production, Daher sees a sustained interest in the aircraft from professional operators and private owners, especially with the introduction of enhanced safety features, improved efficiency and upgraded cabin comfort.

The 500 deliveries to date for TBM 900 series aircraft surpass the totals of both previous generation TBM aircraft types: 324 aircraft were produced in the TBM 700 configuration, while 338 TBM 850s were manufactured. The TBM 850 was the initial version that rolled out under Daher management of the TBM product line.

Daher's introduction of the first TBM 900 series aircraft was in 2014 with a configuration featuring aerodynamic improvements such as new engine cowlings, the addition of winglets and the integration of Hartzell's five-blade scimitar propeller. In 2016, the TBM 900 series was augmented by the higher-end TBM 930 version, equipped with Garmin's touchscreen G3000 integrated flight deck. This variant incorporated the initial elements of the TBM's e-copilot functionality, which lowers pilot workload and provides better situational awareness.

Daher further evolved the series in 2018 with its TBM

910, featuring Garmin's G1000 NXi avionics. The TBM 910 continues to be available from Daher on customer request. In 2019, the TBM 930 was succeeded by the TBM 940 with autothrottle. In 2020, it became one of the first aircraft equipped with the HomeSafe emergency autoland system.

Daher's latest high-end version is the TBM 960, unveiled by the company in 2022 and integrating the new PT6E-66XT turboprop engine, which was purpose-built by Pratt & Whitney Canada for this aircraft, as well as Hartzell Propeller's five-blade composite propeller with the Raptor lightweight hub. Both the engine and propeller system are linked to the TBM 960's dual-channel digital Engine and Propeller Electronic Control System. This optimises powerplant performance, while reducing pilot workload by integrating all functions and protecting the engine's life. The Prestige cabin features an all-new environmental control system, LED ambience strip lighting integrated into both sides of the overhead ceiling panel, and electronically-dimmable windows, all controlled by a passenger comfort display.

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ETIHAD CARGO ENHANCES US COOL CHAIN CAPABILITIES WITH WFS PARTNERSHIP

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has enhanced its cool chain capabilities in the US through the expansion of the carrier's network with Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a member of the SATS Group. Etihad Cargo's customers will benefit from consistent end-to-end cargo services via the carrier's PharmaLife and FreshForward products in addition to the cargo handling facilities and services offered by WFS at Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD).

Etihad Cargo recently expanded its network with WFS to incorporate all the carrier's US stations. Before adding Chicago O'Hare International Airport, the carrier partnered with WFS in New York and Washington to ensure Etihad Cargo's robust quality standards are maintained throughout the cargo's entire journey. In both New York and Washington, WFS operates specialised facilities for the handling of perishables and pharmaceutical commodities.

At JFK, two cool rooms provide storage for perishables and pharmaceuticals requiring temperatures of between +2 to +8 and +15 to +25 degrees Celsius. The JFK facility also features a ramp area located immediately behind the building and organised ULD storage area with a new racking system, making the handling of cargo more seamless. The WFS Washington facilities include a 60,000-square-foot warehouse and perishables, pharmaceuticals and live animals capabilities. In recent months, Etihad Cargo has increased volumes of its premium product range transported into and out of Washington.

Thomas Schürmann, Head of Cargo Operations & Delivery at Etihad Cargo, said: "Etihad Cargo and WFS have been partners for a number of years in the US, Europe and Asia, and the cargo handling services WFS provides align fully with Etihad Cargo's commitment to providing world-leading, compliant cargo solutions at every stage of a cargo's journey. Adherence to Etihad Cargo's robust quality



standards and the capacity to handle increased cargo volumes while ensuring consistent service levels contributed to Etihad Cargo's decision to appoint WFS as the carrier's cargo handling partner at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. WFS currently handles approximately 110,000 tonnes of cargo on behalf of Etihad Cargo in the US annually, and this is anticipated to increase with the addition of Chicago to Etihad Cargo's network with WFS and higher volumes of the carrier's PharmaLife and FreshForward products being transported across Etihad Cargo's global network."

As the latest station to be added to Etihad Cargo's network with WFS, the cargo handler's facilities at Chicago O'Hare International Airport include a new state-of-the-art on-airport facility and off-airport location. The new facility features a fully temperature-controlled warehouse with a Controlled Room Temperature (CRT) environment that maintains a constant temperature of between +15 to +25 degrees

Celsius in addition to a dedicated 3000-square-metre +2 to +8 degrees Celsius cool room, which holds 120 skid and 10 ULD positions. The facility offers 37 active container charging stations and export, import, dangerous goods and cooler staging areas.

"WFS, in keeping with SATS' emphasis on providing added value for our airline and freight forwarder customers, is investing in the development of cool chain solutions to become a key industry partner for pharma and perishable shipments. We are proud to provide this premium solution for Etihad Cargo, and value the confidence they have placed in us by expanding our partnership in Chicago. Thanks to the unique global network we now have as part of the SATS Group, WFS can leverage the capabilities and expertise of our North American pharma facilities with those of our other pharma centres around the world," said Jose Canales, Senior Vice President, Commercial & Business Development, Americas, at WFS.

Saudia Cargo secures IATA's CEIV Pharma certificate

Saudia Cargo, the leading air cargo carrier in Saudi Arabia, celebrates a significant accomplishment, receiving the esteemed Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) Pharma certification from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). This success demonstrates Saudia Cargo's commitment to excellence and innovation in pharmaceutical transportation.

The IATA's CEIV is a universally recognized standard within the industry. CEIV Pharma is designed to ensure that facilities, equipment, operations, and personnel meet the standards, regulations, and guidelines that pharmaceutical manufacturers require. The aim is to enhance industry knowledge and establish a consistent global standard.

IATA's CEIV Pharma certification is a milestone highlighting Saudia Cargo's unwavering commitment, with a team of certified experts, having successfully transported life-saving medicines and vaccines, solidifying its crucial role in global healthcare logistics. Saudia Cargo is dedicated to serving the expanding Middle East pharmaceutical market with top-notch products while prioritizing the safety and security of any cargo being transported and offering an effective path for all substantial products.

Teddy Zebitz, CEO of Saudia Cargo, stated,



“We are proud to have obtained the CEIV Pharma accreditation. Since we've seen a significant increase in pharmaceutical shipments over the past four years, we've made the firm commitment to facilitate the leasing of the best temperature-controlled packaging options and unrivaled knowledge to guarantee secure and dependable pharmaceutical transportation in the rapidly expanding Middle East market. We're focused on upholding the greatest levels of excellence, security, and safety in pharmaceutical logistics, highlighting our unique position in defending humanity with our offerings.”

According to Aymen Osilan, Executive Director at Saudia Cargo, “Receiving the certification is a testament to our dedication to excellence and commitment to providing top-notch services to our valued customers. Which

demonstrates our ability to handle pharmaceutical shipments with utmost care, ensuring the integrity and quality of products”. Saudia Cargo was vital in aiding in the distribution of vaccinations and other necessities during and post-pandemic, working to uphold the highest standards of quality while doing so both domestically and internationally. Around a year ago, we started the certification process with IATA for CEIV Pharma, and now, after a year of laborious efforts, strengthening Saudia Cargo's position as a trusted provider for spearheading air cargo solutions in the industry. Receiving the IATA CEIV Pharma accreditation is a testament to our team's dedication to excellence and work ethics commitment to offering our clients and business partners the best possible services in pharmaceutical logistics.”

Kuehne+Nagel and SATS enter strategic collaboration to drive value chain improvements for air logistics customers

Kuehne+Nagel and SATS Ltd (“SATS”) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enter into a strategic collaboration to drive value chain improvements and sustainability efforts within the air logistics industry.

Together, the two companies have initially collaborated on several successful Proofs of Concept to optimise ground handling for e-commerce shipments, air charter hub and spoke operations, as well as to improve shipment visibility and cargo processing speeds for time-critical shipments. The aim of the collaboration between Kuehne+Nagel and SATS, which acquired Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) in April 2023, the world's largest air cargo logistics



provider, is to co-develop and implement solutions for customers throughout Asia, Europe and North America. The first Proofs of Concept have produced encouraging results, demonstrating time savings and reducing touchpoints for Kuehne+Nagel shipments at SATS' airside facilities.

Yngve Ruud, Member of the Management Board of Kuehne+Nagel responsible for Air

Logistics commented “Collaboration is at the heart of what we do at Kuehne+Nagel and we are very excited to partner with SATS. By leveraging our combined expertise and global footprints we improve our service offering and continue to create value for customers around the world.”

“We are always looking at ways to bring extra value to our customers to serve them better, and to benefit from the new opportunities our growing global network offers. Kuehne+Nagel shares this progressive approach and this is why our companies are moving from a conventional customer-vendor relationship to a strategic collaboration to drive improvements and efficiencies in the supply chain” said Kerry Mok, President and Chief Executive Officer of SATS.

QATAR AIRWAYS CARGO RELAUNCHES ITS MAIL SOLUTION IN TIME FOR WORLD POST DAY

In recognition of World Post Day Qatar Airways Cargo is announced the relaunch of its Mail product. As part of the relaunch, the product offers a comprehensive suite of customisable services designed for both traditional and hybrid postal modes – Express Mail, Priority Mail, Standard Mail and Empty Mail Receptacles. The Mail product meets the stringent regulatory standards set by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

One of the enhancements for the product includes 100% EDI (electronic data interchange) that is rolled out at over 110 stations, with all stations equipped with handheld android scanners. Traditionally serving one customer per origin based on their unique post office identification (IMPC) code, the carrier's Mail product can now cater to the requirements of targeted agents across the network. This allows Qatar Airways Cargo to accept mail shipments from multiple customers from the same origin, regardless of the IMPC code used.

The award-winning cargo carrier also



has specialised support teams in place with experience in mail allocations, pricing policies, sales and account management who ensure privacy, efficiency, safety, and security of all mail shipments. The carrier's customers are also able to perform real-time tracking of their consignments right from the start until the end.

Miguel Rodriguez Moreno, Head of Cargo Products at Qatar Airways said, "Our unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence in airfreight services is at the heart of this new Mail product. With our extensive global network spanning over 160 destinations including more than 70 freighter destinations, our aim is to

provide a comprehensive solution. We are also fully prepared to facilitate paper-free initiatives for Postal Authorities when electronic CN/CP documents are available. Combined with hassle-free billing and reconciliation through IATA PASS and PARIS, as well as swift ramp transfers in Doha, we are confident that our Mail product will deliver exceptional value to our customers."

With a dedicated airmail facility in Doha, spanning an impressive 4,900 square metres and a staggering daily handling capacity of up to 500 tonnes, equivalent to 15,000 mailbags per day, Qatar Airways Cargo offers its customers state-of-the-art technology, advanced tracking solutions, and EDI capabilities deployed at over 110 stations, each equipped with handheld Android scanners. These advancements allow the carrier to seamlessly share Response to Documents International Transport advice (RESDITS) for critical milestones during a mailbag's journey. The facility is also equipped with inhouse screening facility, advanced X-ray scanners, Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) and Explosive Trace Detection (ETD) capabilities.

Finnair Cargo moves towards self-sufficient energy production

Finnair Cargo installs an additional 1,790 solar panels to the roof of its COOL Nordic Cargo Hub at Helsinki Airport. Finnair Cargo moving towards fully self-sustainable energy production in November – just in time to celebrate Finnair's 100th birthday.

Finnair Cargo has installed an additional 1,790 solar panels to the roof of its COOL Nordic Cargo Hub at Helsinki Airport in Finland. These join the 1,200 panels installed when the terminal was originally constructed and provide enough energy on sunny days to sustain the cargo space in full and feed surplus energy to other Finnair facilities.

"With this addition, the COOL Nordic Cargo Hub will be the third largest solar panel energy production unit in Finland. At the maximum level, the solar power station can produce over 1.1 MW peaks, more than tripling our production",



says Gabriela Hiitola, SVP, Finnair Cargo.

After the COOL solar park upgrade, solar panels produce the equivalent of 37 percent of annual COOL electricity consumption, the release said. "On a sunny day, the COOL terminal is completely self-sufficient in terms of electricity production and the excess production will be fed to other Finnair facilities."

Finnair is also installing 645 solar panels on the roof of a hangar building used for aircraft maintenance. "It is clear that the aviation industry is still waiting for those big solutions to reduce flight emissions. However, in the meantime, we keep on working towards more sustainable operations in all areas", says Hiitola.

Thai Airways Boosts Efficiency and Quality with Renewed Traxon cargoHUB Contract



Thai Airways has renewed its contract with CHAMP's Traxon cargoHUB in a bid to continue streamlining its processes and support operational growth. The airline said Traxon cargoHUB aligns with its high standards of service and enables improved supply chain quality and completeness whilst remaining up to date with the latest industry requirements.

Thai Airways benefits from being part of the largest air cargo community, with digital access to more than 4,000 freight forwarders and stakeholders throughout the supply chain, via a single system regardless of data format or protocol.

"With CHAMP's solutions supporting us, we can offer an effective, efficient and reliable data exchange," said Mr. Chirachet Chanawiset, commercial head of cargo and mail at Thai Airways.

"As we continue our partnership, we look forward to seeing more of these benefits in our daily operations as the company continues to grow and evolve."



GKN AEROSPACE SIGNS SAF AGREEMENT WITH DHL EXPRESS



GKN Aerospace in Malaysia has signed an agreement with DHL Express to enable the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) through DHL's GoGreen Plus service. The partnership is set to cut the carbon emissions of international shipments by 30 percent for GKN Aerospace's engine repair facility in Johor. Launched this year, DHL Express's GoGreen Plus allows customers to effectively mitigate the environmental footprint of their supply chains through carbon insetting. The amount of SAF chosen is then blended with conventional jet fuel at the point of air transport to lower the release of CO₂e and other greenhouse gases. SAF is currently the only scalable measure, given its unparalleled capacity for long-range flights.

The announcement today supports the delivery of Scope 3 reductions in line with GKN Aerospace's commitment to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

"It is GKN Aerospace's mission to be the most trusted and sustainable partner in the sky," said Derrick Cullen, Chief Manufacturing Engineer at GKN Aerospace. "The adoption of SAF for our logistics needs in Malaysia represents a step in the right direction for sustainable aviation. Through DHL Express's GoGreen Plus, we can demonstrate the viability of alternative fuel solutions and further encourage the market to scale."

"We are delighted to collaborate with GKN Aerospace in Malaysia as we seek to decarbonize carbonintensive sectors like aviation," said Julian Neo,

Managing Director of DHL Express Malaysia and Brunei. "SAF aptly addresses this challenge and it produces climate benefits in the immediate near term. As the world's leading logistics provider, we are working at pace to promote SAF accessibility and affordability to help our customers realize their net-zero ambitions."

GKN Aerospace's Johor facility is a key resource for the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) of aircraft engine parts in Asia Pacific. According to Aviation Week's 2023 Commercial Fleet and MRO Forecast, the region is projected to have the highest demand globally at 33 percent. SAF is therefore crucial to alleviating the environmental impact of this robust sector growth. GoGreen Plus is made possible following two of the largest SAF deals with bp and Neste in 2022 to supply over 800 million liters to the DHL Express network. The strategic collaborations are expected to save approximately two million tons of carbon dioxide emissions over the aviation fuel lifecycle—equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions of 400,000 passenger cars.

SAF is produced from sustainably sourced renewable waste and residue raw materials. In neat form and over the lifecycle, it significantly cuts emissions by up to 80 percent compared to conventional jet fuel. An independent third-party agency, Société Générale de Surveillance, verifies the reductions, which can be counted towards Scope 3 and Science Based Targets (SBTi).

PIONEERING THE FUTURE OF AIRFREIGHT WITH LAUNCH OF CARGOCOPILOT



CargoAI, a global leader in airfreight technology solutions, is proud to announce a significant leap forward in the evolution of its services. We introduce CargoCoPilot, a groundbreaking feature seamlessly integrated into our flagship platform, CargoMART. This innovative solution harnesses the power of artificial intelligence to enhance the efficiency of CargoMART forwarder and airline/GSA users, reaffirming our commitment to accelerating every stage of the airfreight procurement process with greater efficiency and visibility.

CargoCoPilot represents a remarkable stride in our mission to “drive every stage of the airfreight procurement process with greater efficiency and visibility.” Leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs), a type of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm that uses deep learning techniques and vast data sets to understand, summarize, predict, and generate content, CargoCoPilot offers real-time intelligent assistance, enabling users to enhance their efficiency, productivity and skills.

With CargoCoPilot, forwarder users can expect an array of powerful features designed to

streamline their operations:

Outlook Integration: The new Outlook plugin permits users to effortlessly read and search airline rates straight from their emails. This feature captures the ease-of-use that CargoAI continuously aims to provide its clients.

Customised Analytics: Forwarders can now access deeper insights and data analytics within and around the CargoMART platform. This augmentation empowers businesses with information that can guide crucial decisions and optimize operations. Customized analytics insights are also sent to the freight forwarders users every 2 weeks to support them make better procurement decision.

Available also on CargoMART Airline our CargoCoPilot helps Airlines and GSA get customized insights to reply to Spot Quote requests.

CargoCoPilot has been available to Forwarders and Airline CargoMART Pro users since early October. Additionally, it can also be accessed via API on Cargo CONNECT, providing even more accessibility to our innovative solution.

Maturity Meets Innovation: Seamless

Single Sign-On (SSO) Integration and ISO 27001 Certification

In response to feedback from our esteemed clients, CargoAI has also introduced a seamless Single Sign-On (SSO) integration. This sought-after feature will further enhance user experience by allowing clients to access all CargoAI services with a single set of credentials, eliminating the need for multiple logins and providing a unified experience.

CargoAI is proud to announce that we have obtained ISO 27001 certification in August 2023. This achievement underscores our unwavering commitment to data security and compliance. ISO 27001 certification validates our dedication to safeguarding the sensitive information of our clients, ensuring that their data remains confidential and protected at all times. These recent developments demonstrate CargoAI's unique position in the industry. As a trusted leader with a mature and established presence, we continue to set new industry standards through innovation, ensuring that our clients benefit from the advantages of our experience and trailblazing innovations.

Atlas Air Worldwide Announces New Corporate Headquarters in White Plains, New York



Atlas Air Worldwide a leading global provider of outsourced aircraft and aviation operating services announced that its new corporate headquarters will be located in White Plains, New York, signifying the Company's ongoing commitment to operations within New York State.

Atlas commits to retaining 400 existing, full-time permanent jobs in New York at its newly-leased 60,000 square foot space in White Plains, New York, where the Company is investing \$4 million in tenant improvements, including new equipment, IT, and security. The Company expects to move from its current headquarters in Purchase, New York in January 2024. In exchange for retaining 400 full time jobs over a period of five years and \$4 million in investment, Empire State Development has awarded Atlas a \$2 million capital grant.

"Atlas is excited to continue our ties to New York, which is an important part of our global network as we support our customers around the world," said Michael Steen, Chief Executive Officer,

White Plains get ready for takeoff—because Atlas Air Worldwide's new corporate headquarters is landing right here," said Senator Schumer. "I am pleased that Atlas will continue operation of its headquarters here in New York, which will create good paying local jobs and boost the economy. Atlas' ongoing commitment to the Hudson Valley will help our region continue to soar as home to one of the largest cargo carriers in the world.

Atlas Air Worldwide. "Continuing our presence in New York guarantees our access to the top talent critical to our operations. New York has served Atlas and our employees well as we've grown into one of the largest cargo carriers in the world. We are thankful to Senator Schumer and Empire State Development for working with us through this process and for their commitment to our relationship."

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "Atlas Air has a long history of job creation and economic growth in this state and we are pleased to support their transition to White Plains and more importantly, their continued commitment to New York. We look forward to continued growth and investment into the Mid-Hudson Region well into the future."

Atlas has maintained headquarters in New York since 2000. Additionally, the Company employs 265 people based at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) in Queens, New York.

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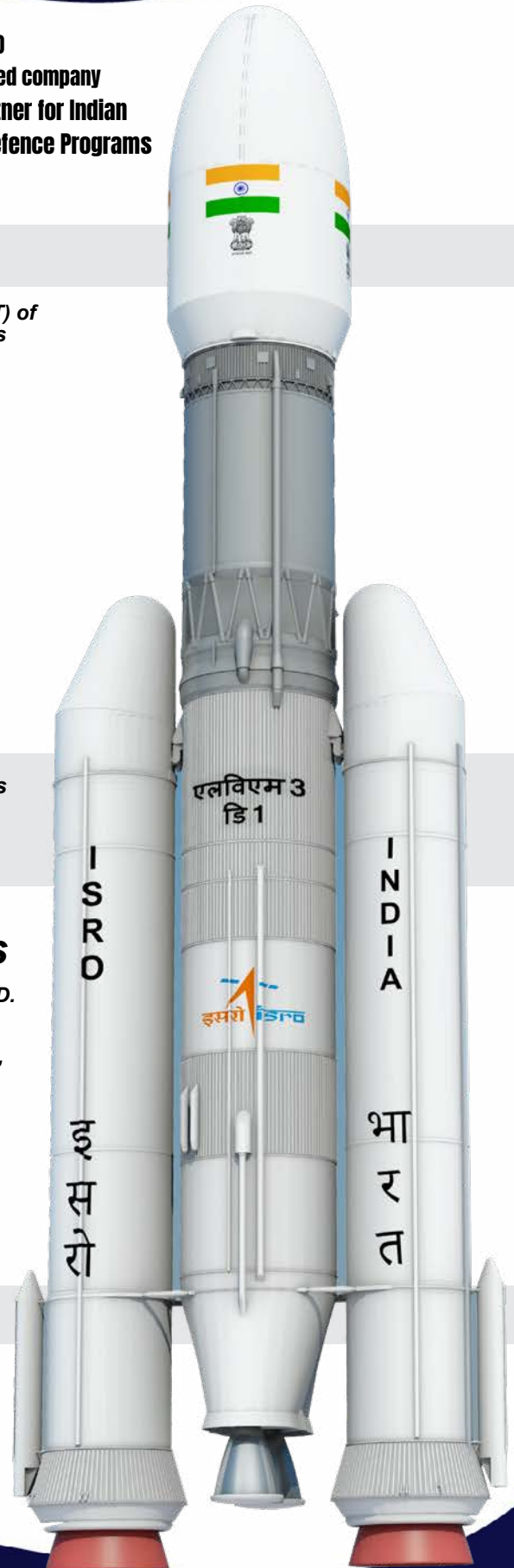
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