

Aviation

UPDATE

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Mr. George Triantafyllidis
Business Development-Director
Egnatia Aviation

PG 23

Mr. Saurabh Tripathi
Regional Director- Asia
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Asia Digital Engineering secures EASA Part 145 Maintenance Organization approval

Page 9



Sanad unveils SAMENA-region's first certified CFM LEAP engine MRO centre

Page 10



Textron Aviation announces agreement to purchase 48 Cessna Skyhawks to support BAA Training

Page 29



Atlas Air Takes Delivery of New Boeing 777 Freighter

Page 34



Jetex & Shell Aviation Sign Agreement for SAF Supply to Private Aviation

Page 27

Live-fire test success for RTX's Raytheon Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor

Page 20



GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo Inaugurates an Exclusive Courier Terminal for Import Shipments

Page 31

Aviation UPDATE


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B. KARTIKEYA

Welcome to yet another issue of Aviation Update!

Preparation for the New Year is underway. The clock is ticking, and we'll all be ringing in the New Year in 2024 with more exciting news. As a result of your kind words and undying affection. In order to provide you with more and more aviation news, interviews, and the most upto- date stuff, I am progressively moving forward.

What's more in this issue is our regular dosage of news in bits and pieces from what's happening all around the globe in the world of aviation. Read it all in Quick Update section and flip past the Defense & Military section.

Another piece of our exclusive interview with Mr.Sourabh Tripathi, Regional Director –Asia, Aventure Aviation speaks about different things since the beginning of their journey. Other interaction with Mr. George Triantafyllidis, Business Development Director, Egnatia Aviation Academy says Airline Integrated Program is the Academy's flagship & approved by the affiliated Airlines (Iraqi Airways, Aegean, Olympic, WizzAir) and its graduates have direct entry in some of the major global Airlines (such as Qatar Airways, Flydubai, Kuwait Airways, Ryanair, EasyJet, SwissAir, Jazeera Airways, Gulf Air).

Wings India 2024, 18th -21st January at Hyderabad is only a Civil Aviation event happens once in every two years in India & best place to show yourself and witness the air show. If you would like to do any advertorials /Branding / promotions don't hesitate to reach us.

To end, as I always say. I hold each and one of my readers close to my heart. Without you, this journey would never have been possible, and I can't thank you enough. Till you hear from me in the next issue of our beloved magazine, I take your leave by saying 'Kartikeya signing off'. Ciao...

Kartikeya

Noida International Airport Signs MoU with IndiGo to become airport's launch carrier



Noida International Airport (NIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with IndiGo, India's preferred carrier. With this development, IndiGo becomes the inaugural or launch carrier for the airport, accentuating its commitment to support the rapidly growing Indian aviation market.

Under this arrangement, NIA and IndiGo will work together towards developing and strengthening the air connectivity within Uttar Pradesh and beyond. The partnership will also explore new and innovative ideas, aimed at gaining operational efficiency and enhanced customer experience. Partnership with IndiGo, India's largest airline that is amongst the fastest growing airlines in the world, will offer a vast route network to the travelling public and enhance business opportunities in the region.

Mr. Christoph Schnellmann, Chief Executive Officer, Noida International Airport, said, "We are excited to sign this MoU with IndiGo, which has a strong base both in domestic and international markets. The partnership between NIA and IndiGo will not only help bolster air connectivity but also innovate, ensuring an exceptional customer experience for our customers alike. By leveraging IndiGo's extensive route network and expertise, we aim to provide our passengers with unparalleled connectivity and an exceptional travel experience."

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pieter Elbers, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo

said, "We are thrilled to announce our MoU with Noida International Airport, to become the launch carrier at the upcoming airport. As India's leading airline, IndiGo has always been at the forefront of enhancing connectivity and giving wings to the nation. Our operations at NIA will provide the people of Uttar Pradesh with seamless connectivity across our unparalleled network. We look forward to the inauguration of the new airport in 2024 and will continue to work with NIA management to explore innovative ways to deliver an affordable, on-time, and hassle-free travel experience across the 6E network."

Vistara to operate Mumbai-Doha as its 50th destination



Vistara has announced the addition of Doha (Qatar) as its 50th destination, to its growing network. The airline will be operating direct, 4x weekly flights between Mumbai and Doha, starting from 15 December 2023 using its A321neo aircraft.

Vinod Kannan, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara said, "We are thrilled to introduce direct flights between Mumbai and Doha – the capital of Qatar and a burgeoning financial hub in the Middle East. Given the city's growing economic significance, this move not only further solidifies our presence in the Gulf region but also enhances our network offering from our Mumbai hub. We hope that our customers will appreciate having the option of flying with India's best airline on this route."

SpiceJet Operates Ten Special Flights to Repatriate Thai Nationals from Israel



SpiceJet operated ten special flights, repatriating more than 3000 Thai nationals from Tel Aviv, Israel. The airline used its Airbus A340 aircraft for these special flights. These special flights, conducted between October 20 and 31, included routes from Tel Aviv to Bangkok and Tel Aviv to Fujairah in United Arab Emirates. In addition to facilitating the return of Thai citizens, SpiceJet also operated multiple flights carrying Indian nationals from Israel to India.

The airline has actively participated in various repatriation efforts led by the Indian government. SpiceJet played a crucial role in uniting families, ensuring the transportation of essential supplies during the pandemic, and has always actively engaged in government-led repatriation and evacuation operations such as 'Operation Kaveri' and 'Operation Ganga'.

SalamAir Launches Five Destinations in India

SalamAir is gearing up to launch operations in five key destinations in India with Hyderabad, Calicut, Jaipur, Trivandrum and Lucknow. This expansion into the Indian market has been made possible with the support of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Of Sultanate Oman and close collaboration with Oman Air. The CAA



played a pivotal role in facilitating this strategic expansion, which is poised to significantly enhance the connectivity between Oman and India, thereby providing travellers with more convenient travel options.

This significant development represents substantial progress in strengthening Oman's aviation industry and boosting the national economy.

Dr. Anwar Mohamed Al Rawas, Chairman of SalamAir, expressed his excitement about this achievement, emphasizing the ongoing support SalamAir receives from the Oman Civil Aviation Authority and its partnership with Oman Air. Together, they are taking a significant leap forward to improve travel connectivity and enhance passenger experiences. This initiative seamlessly aligns with the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

This network expansion perfectly reaffirming Oman's commitment to establishing a prominent presence in the global aviation landscape while advancing economic growth and diversification objectives. SalamAir anticipates this expansion will lead to improved travel experiences, a wider array of flight options, and enhanced services. The airline remains unwavering in its dedication to delivering exceptional travel experiences for its passengers.

Air India successfully deploys airline industry's first generative AI virtual agent, powered by Microsoft Azure OpenAI service



Air India, India's leading global airline, has become the world's first airline to have successfully deployed a Generative AI virtual agent, called 'Maharaja', powered by Azure OpenAI service. It has successfully answered over half a million customer queries since its pilot launch in March 2023, and it today manages over 6,000 queries a day in four languages.

Air India's Maharaja AI Agent manages an extensive spectrum of customer queries across 1,300 areas related to flight status, baggage allowances, packing restrictions, check-in, frequent flyer awards, airport lounge access, flight changes, refunds and more.

To meet the needs of guests around the world, Maharaja speaks four languages: Hindi, English, French, and German. Of the 6,000-plus questions received each day, over 80% are successfully answered in seconds. About 15% of customer queries today require additional assistance, and Maharaja recognises this automatically and orchestrates a seamless handoff to Air India's contact centre agents.

Dr. Satya Ramaswamy, Chief Digital and Technology Officer, Air India, said: "We are dedicated to providing the best possible service and experience

to our valued guests across channels. We also want to be very responsive to their changing preferences. After the emergence of Large Language Model driven Generative AI capabilities, we are increasingly seeing a definitive shift in guest preferences to use chat interactions to get the information and support they need quickly and directly as compared to browsing several web pages."

"We have used several patent-pending innovations in our AI agent Maharaja with a combination of traditional machine learning techniques and the latest in Generative AI to provide a pleasing and effective experience for our customers. Many more innovations are in the pipeline and will be made live in the months to come.

"We are pleased to see Air India's successful deployment of their AI-powered agent, Maharaja, and the use of Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service to provide a personalized and relevant customer experience. We believe that this is the beginning of a new era of customer service, and we look forward to seeing more organizations use the power of Generative AI and our AI-optimized Azure cloud to provide a seamless and efficient customer experience," said Marco Casalaina, Vice President, AI Platform, Microsoft

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Expands Domestic Routes by Introducing New Routes with Air India Express

Taking air connectivity to the next level, GMR Hyderabad International Airport announced the expansion of its domestic routes in association with Air India Express by introducing four new flights. Starting from November 17th 2023, travelers can look forward to convenient and exciting new flights



to Amritsar, Lucknow and Kochi. Passengers can now enjoy a daily flight between the bustling city of Hyderabad and the historic city of Amritsar. Air India Express flight to Amritsar IX 954 will depart daily at 07:30 hours from GMR Hyderabad Airport and arrive in Amritsar at 10:15 hours. Offering the convenience of six weekly departures between Hyderabad and the cultural capital of Lucknow, Air India Express flight to Lucknow IX 953 will depart at 14:30 hours and arrive in Lucknow at 16:35 hours. In addition, experience the daily flights between the City of Pearls and the enchanting coastal city of Kochi. Air India Express flight to Kochi IX 955 will depart daily at 19:45 hours from GMR Hyderabad Airport and arrive in Kochi at 21:30 hours. Starting 28th November, Air India Express flight to Gwalior IX 953 will depart thrice at 14:30 hours from Hyderabad and arrive in Gwalior at 16:20 hours.

Sharing his excitement about the expansion, Mr. Pradeep Panicker, CEO GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited expressed- "We are delighted to introduce these new routes, further enhancing our commitment to providing our passengers with an extensive network of travel options. These routes not only offer greater connectivity but also feature new aircrafts. We are indeed grateful to Air India Express for giving us the opportunity to be part of their livery project that was undertaken here at the GMR Aero Technic. With our new expanded terminal and additional facilities, we are confident these additions will make travel more accessible and enjoyable for our travelers."

IndiGo surpasses milestone of 2000 daily scheduled flights, marking a historic achievement in Indian aviation



IndiGo, India's preferred airline, has achieved a historic landmark by surpassing the milestone of over 2000 planned flights a day. This makes IndiGo, the first airline in the country and marks a significant leap in operational capacity. According to the latest OAG Data for October'23, IndiGo is among the top 10 airlines globally in both frequency and by seat capacity, further validating this achievement and showcasing the airline's continued growth trajectory on both domestic and international stages.

IndiGo now has 2000+ scheduled daily flights which include cargo operations, as well as CAPF & Army charters. The airline has achieved this figure in just 17 years since starting operations back in 2006, setting new benchmarks in operational efficiency, reliability, and customer orientation.

Pieter Elbers, Chief Executive Officer of IndiGo, said, "As we celebrate this remarkable milestone of surpassing 2000 scheduled daily flights, we reflect on IndiGo's journey of reshaping the Indian aviation landscape. This milestone is more than a numerical feat; it's a strategic leap positioning us for enhanced connectivity and a redefined passenger experience. Our commitment to giving wings to the nation is palpable in our mission to connect people and aspirations across India. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued customers and partners for their continuous support, as we

look forward to soaring to new heights together."

Air India Enters Interline Partnership with Alaska Airlines



Air India, India's leading global airline, has entered an interline partnership with Alaska Airlines. The partnership, while strengthening Air India's international network, will allow Air India guests to avail seamless connections from New York JFK, Newark-New Jersey, Washington DC, Chicago, San Francisco, and Vancouver gateways to and from 32 destinations in the USA, Mexico, and Canada on Alaska Airline's network.

The scope of agreement includes bilateral interlining which allows both the airlines to sell tickets on each other's network. In addition, the two airlines have also entered a Special Prorate Agreement, which allows Air India to file 'through fares' on routes covering Alaska Airlines' network. Passengers will also be able to enjoy Air India's free baggage allowance on Alaska Airlines routes.

Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial & Transformation Officer, Air India, said, "The tie-up with Alaska Air will expand our international footprint in the US and Canada and even extend our reach to Mexico boosting our network expansion plans. It will help us offer more choice to our guests and mark a significant step forward in our mission to enhance connectivity."

SpiceJet Expands Its Network; Adds 44 Flights



In a significant boost to its network for the winter schedule, SpiceJet has announced the addition of 44 flights that will serve new and existing routes. The airline has also inducted eight Boeing 737s, including four 737 Max.

Picturesque Shillong will be connected with Kolkata for the first time on SpiceJet's network with daily flights. SpiceJet is also enhancing connectivity between Chennai & Pune, Hyderabad & Kolkata and Jaipur & Delhi.

The airline has launched a daily flight connecting Mumbai with Bangkok. SG 81 will depart from Mumbai at 4:10 a.m. and reach Bangkok at 10:10 a.m. (local time). On its return journey, SG 82 will depart from Bangkok at 10:40 p.m. (local time) to reach Mumbai at 2:10 a.m. Shilpa Bhatia, Chief Commercial Officer, SpiceJet said, "We are excited to enhance our network and add 44 flights in our winter schedule. This expansion allows us to better serve the increasing passenger demand across the country. Flights have been carefully selected with a strong focus on passenger convenience, providing them with a wider range of travel options."

Vistara Starts Direct Flights between Mumbai and Frankfurt

Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of the Tata group and Singapore Airlines inaugurated non-stop, 6x weekly flights between Mumbai and Frankfurt. The inaugural



flight, operated on Vistara's Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, commenced from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai at 13:00 Hours (IST) on 15 November 2023 and will arrive at Frankfurt International Airport at 17:30 Hours (GMT). Vistara has already been flying 6x weekly between Frankfurt and Delhi.

Mr. Vinod Kannan, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara, said, "Sensing a need for an Indian airline offering world-class experience and connecting to long-haul destinations in Europe from Mumbai; we started 5x direct flights to London Heathrow. We are now delighted to start 6x weekly service to Frankfurt as our second European destination from India's financial capital. We are confident that our customers will appreciate and prefer flying with India's finest airline when planning to travel on this route."

IndiGo and Mokobara collaborate to launch one-of-a-kind luggage



India's preferred airline IndiGo, and lifestyle brand Mokobara announce the launch of an exclusive collection of premium luggage, catering to the modern Indian jetsetters. The new

range is designed to thoughtfully elevate the joy of travel while marrying great aesthetics with great functionality. The collaboration marks a significant milestone for both brands as they combine their expertise to cater to the evolving needs of modern travellers. The collection, titled Moko 6E, features two suitcases—a check-in bag, and carry-on or cabin bag—in the signature IndiGo blue and comes with an 'unbreakable' German Polycarbonate hardshell. The luggage is thoughtfully designed with clever features such as the 'whisper quiet' Japanese Hinomoto wheels, truly making it a product that showcases the best of both brands.

"Our brand ethos has always been to elevate the joy of travel for modern travellers. This luggage is a beautiful extension of this thought. It's fun. It's fresh. We're always looking for new ways to engage our community, and this is only the start of what's to come. We're also super pumped to be bringing this to life with a brand that shares our love for travel - IndiGo", quotes Rumman Rizvi, Head of Brand and Customer Experience at Mokobara.

"We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Mokobara, a brand synonymous with innovation and elegance in the world of travel and lifestyle. Mokobara is launching a new lightweight suitcase in our signature IndiGo blue shade, tailored to meet the evolving preferences of today's travellers. This partnership signifies our commitment to connecting people and creating unforgettable memories. IndiGo remains dedicated to delivering affordable, hassle-free, and ontime travel experiences across our extensive network." says Neetan Chopra, Chief Digital and Information Officer, IndiGo. "Travel is more than just about reaching a destination. It's about collecting memories, stories, and experiences along the way. This collaboration with IndiGo is just our way of helping our community collect more memories. More stories. More magic.", quotes Sangeet Agrawal, Founder at Mokobara.

Rolls-Royce announces successful run of UltraFan technology demonstrator to maximum power



Rolls-Royce has successfully run its UltraFan technology demonstrator to maximum power at its facility in Derby, UK. The initial stage of the test was conducted using 100% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). This is an important milestone for the UltraFan demonstrator, which was successfully tested for the first time earlier this year. Since then, the UltraFan team has been gradually increasing the power as part of the rigorous testing regime and the demonstrator has performed in line with the company's expectations. The results of the test will provide Rolls-Royce with valuable learning and data, which its teams will now take away and continue to analyse.

This achievement reinforces the company's confidence in the suite of technologies that has been developed as part of the UltraFan programme. Confirming this capability is a big step towards improving the efficiency of current and future aero-engines as UltraFan delivers a 10% efficiency improvement over the Trent XWB engine, which is already the world's most efficient large aero-engine in service. In total that is a 25% efficiency gain since the launch of the first Trent engine.

UltraFan's scalable technology from ~25,000-110,000lb thrust also offers the potential to power the new narrow-body and wide-body aircraft anticipated in the 2030s. As part of the UltraFan development programme, Rolls-Royce has identified a number of technologies that are potentially transferable to the current Trent engines, which will provide customers with even greater availability, reliability and efficiency.

Tufan Erginbilgic, CEO, Rolls-Royce plc, said: "Hitting full power with our UltraFan demonstrator sends a strong message that Rolls-Royce is at the cutting-edge of innovation and technology, leading the way in the transition to more efficient and sustainable aviation. This fantastic milestone puts us in a strong position to support the plans of our customers as they develop the next generation of super-efficient aircraft."

Asia Digital Engineering secures EASA Part 145 Maintenance Organization approval

Asia Digital Engineering (ADE), the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) division of Capital A, has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining approval from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) as a Part 145 Maintenance Organisation. This recognition represents a gold standard in aviation maintenance, signifying the highest levels of safety and quality in its operations. In addition to this milestone, ADE is actively working on the construction of a state-of-the-art hangar in KLIA Aeropolis, scheduled for completion in the first half of 2024. This facility will enhance ADE's MRO capabilities and further establish its presence in the region's aviation maintenance sector. The company is also in the process of setting up new component workshops to support its growing operations.

YB Anthony Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport, Malaysia said: "Congratulations to ADE on obtaining the highly acclaimed EASA Maintenance Organisation approval. This accomplishment not only underscores the nation's commitment to adhering the highest global standards but also positions Malaysia as a hub for excellence in the aviation and aerospace industry. ADE's dedication to high quality of service and safety serves as an inspiration to other homegrown MRO players, and we look forward to the positive impact this milestone will have on our country's aviation and aerospace landscape."

To accommodate its expansion, ADE has set an ambitious hiring target for 2024, planning to recruit 500 to 600 aviation professionals, including aircraft technicians and engineers. This move aligns with ADE's commitment to driving growth and innovation in Malaysia's aviation and aerospace sector, bolstered by its new EASA Part 145 Maintenance Organisation approval.

Mahesh Kumar, CEO, ADE said, "We are very proud to add EASA Part 145 approval to our long list of maintenance certifications and authorisations. This is a significant achievement, and is a result of all the hard work and commitment from the team at ADE. Thanks to their dedication and service excellence, ADE is now able to provide industry leading aircraft maintenance support in Asia Pacific and beyond. ADE will continue to bring the highest work ethics and business standards to Asia Pacific's aviation market and become a significant force in MRO services in the region."



Sanad unveils SAMENA-region's first certified CFM LEAP engine MRO centre

The first certified engine MRO centre in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa regions has been launched in Abu Dhabi. Sanad – the global aerospace engineering and leasing solutions leader wholly owned by Abu Dhabi's sovereign investor Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala) – has announced the inauguration of its Leap Engine Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Centre. This world-class centre, spanning over 5,000sqm, will offer advanced technical capabilities within Sanad's new state-of-the-art facility in Abu Dhabi, becoming part of the global Leap MRO network.

This announcement follows a landmark 11-year shop visit offload agreement, signed during the Paris Air Show in June 2023, in partnership with GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines – both leading providers of jet engines, components, and aircraft systems.

"The inauguration of Sanad's Leap MRO centre marks a pivotal milestone for Abu Dhabi's aviation sector as we strengthen our partnership with GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines," said Mansoor Janahi, managing director and group CEO of Sanad.

Through the agreement, Sanad significantly expanded its MRO services to include new-generation CFM International Leap-1A and -1B engines that power Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX family aircraft. These engines have gained global recognition for their exceptional reliability and fuel efficiency.

"Sanad is proud to be the first in the region to support the Leap engine, recognised for its exceptional performance and fuel efficiency. With an outstanding worldwide backlog of more than 10,000 engines, it has established itself as an industry-leading engine platform."

"The development of such capabilities in the UAE provides operators in the region with high levels of sustainment, reducing the carbon footprint associated



with the transportation of engines outside our region. We are excited about the job opportunities this venture will create for our talented team in Sanad and more broadly Abu Dhabi," Janahi said.

With an investment exceeding Dh100 million, Sanad has made significant enhancements to its Abu Dhabi facility. These improvements focus on advanced machinery, infrastructure, and technology, all designed to strengthen the company's engine MRO capabilities.

John Slattery, chief commercial officer, GE Aerospace, said: "Sanad's commitment to excellence and speed in establishing this state-of-the-art Leap Engine MRO Centre makes it an important part of the global Leap open MRO network."

Nicolas Potier, vice-president of support and services at Safran Aircraft Engines, said: "Sanad's new state-of-the-

art capabilities will expand our global CFM network to address the Leap MRO ramp-up and keep offering our airline customers with the best standards in terms of support and innovation."

Mick Hills, chief operating officer at flydubai, added: "flydubai is pleased to be among the first airlines to benefit from Sanad's Leap Engine MRO Centre. We are confident that this partnership with CFM and Sanad will ensure the reliability and efficiency of our Leap engines, contributing to further cost and operational efficiency of our growing fleet. Having an MRO centre in the UAE is a significant step towards making our operations more sustainable. It provides us with in-country solutions, reducing the need to send engines overseas for maintenance, which aligns with our commitment to operational efficiency."

GKN Aerospace and GE strengthen existing partnership with wide-ranging new agreement



GKN Aerospace and GE have deepened their long-term partnership on a series of industry-leading engines including the GENx programme, the fastest-selling high-thrust engine. The new agreement focuses on three key areas: new technology insertion, fan case production and assembly, and repair of high volume, complex engines structures.

The ground-breaking technology insertion programmes on the GENx will focus on alternative material solutions, providing a more sustainable manufacturing footprint for several products currently flying. GKN Aerospace will provide component design expertise as well as its latest technologies, to help drive the GENx programme towards its targets on carbon emissions reduction targets and cost reduction. Upgraded components are expected to go through

development, validation and insertion from 2024 to 2030.

GKN Aerospace has also secured life-of-programme contracts under the new agreement. It will now deliver 100% of GENx, CF6 and GE90 fan cases, as well as 50% of GE9X fan case assembly for the duration of the programme.

The final element of the enhanced partnership sees GKN Aerospace join GE Aerospace's repair network, supporting the GENx with specialised repair content. GKN Aerospace will deploy its expertise in structural design-and-make of advanced fabrications to repair high volume, complex structures across its global repair network.

Joakim Andersson, President of GKN Aerospace's Engines business, said: "GE Aerospace and GKN Aerospace have had a strong relationship for more than

40 years and we are extremely proud of our partnership. Over the years we have grown our responsibility across all major GE engines and today we are in long-term partnerships with design authority for multiple programmes. This major new agreement is the next step. It ensures that we will continue to jointly develop the right technologies and solutions for world-leading engines such as the GENx and CF6 for today and the future."

Kathy MacKenzie, Vice President, GE Aerospace commercial programs stated: "We are excited to expand our strategic relationship with GKN. Their design expertise and production capability will enable us to continue to meet strong demand for the GENx engine, and their component repair development will offer a cost-saving choice for our services customers."

Rolls-Royce signs TotalCare agreement with Amazon Global Air



Rolls-Royce has signed a TotalCare service agreement with Amazon Global Air to supply maintenance services to its fleet of ten Trent 700-powered Airbus A330-300P2F (passenger-to-freighter) aircraft, which will be operated by its carrier partner. TotalCare is designed to provide predictability and operational certainty for customers by transferring time on wing and maintenance cost risk back to Rolls-Royce. This industry-leading premium service offering is supported by data delivered through the Rolls-Royce advanced engine health monitoring system, which helps provide customers with increased operational availability, reliability and efficiency.

The popular A330 conversion programme began in 2017 and is accelerating as both capacity and suitable feedstock become available. There have been 28 A330 converted aircraft since 2017, 85% of which were Trent 700-powered aircraft. This supports a key pillar of Rolls-Royce's commercial strategy, which is to focus on keeping these reliable and proven engines in service for many years to come.

Ewen McDonald, Chief Customer Officer, Civil Aerospace, Rolls-Royce, commented on the new agreement: "We are delighted to sign this long-term service agreement with Amazon Global Air for their Trent 700 powered Airbus A330-300P2F aircraft. The Trent 700 is the market leader on the Airbus A330 and we are pleased to see these aircraft being re-purposed as freight carriers. We look forward to providing a TotalCare service that maximises the performance of the Amazon Global Air fleet."

"We're pleased to welcome Rolls-Royce to the Amazon Global Air family," said Philippe Karam, Director, Amazon Air, Global Fleet and Aviation Sourcing. "Rolls-Royce's expertise and tenure in the industry make them an excellent partner, which enables us to focus on operational excellence to deliver for our customers."

Emirates signs agreements with Safran worth US\$1.2 billion combined



Emirates has announced a series of contracts awarded to Safran, worth over US\$1.2 billion combined. This includes a US \$1 billion deal* for the latest generation Safran Seats for Emirates' new fleet of Airbus A350, Boeing 777X-9 and existing Boeing 777-300 aircraft.

The agreement includes Business, Premium Economy and Economy class seats for the Emirates Airbus A350, and Business, Premium Economy and Economy Class seats for the Boeing 777X-9. The new seats will offer a host of enhancements that set a new standard for comfort, privacy and convenience, including generous space and a bolder roster of luxurious features, stylish interior finishes and next level-technology in every cabin class.

The deal also represents a significant export order for a French company, and is part of Emirates' ongoing investment into France and Europe.

Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline said: "Safran is a key partner for Emirates and we're working closely to reimagine and elevate our future cabins with smart design and the latest technologies. These have been decisive factors in our selection of seat types which will be customized for Emirates. Today's announcement is significant not only because it cements the partnership between Emirates and Safran, but also because it supports aviation manufacturing and the wider value chain in France and across Europe."

"Safran is very proud of our longstanding strategic alliance with Emirates," said Safran CEO Olivier Andriès. "The continuation of our 30-year partnership underscores Safran's commitment to innovative solutions for aircraft interiors, critical aircraft equipment and services to ensure the best possible passenger experience. Today's agreements set the stage for Safran's continued growth along with our customer, a leader in the global market. More than ever, we are looking ahead to the future."

StandardAero, Thales unlock new level of safety with StableLight

Based on Thales' Compact Autopilot System, derived from their previously certified transport category autopilot, StableLight is a robust, feature-packed autopilot in a compact, lightweight package that is perfectly suited for light rotorcraft. The system transforms the flight control experience of the helicopter with transparent stability augmentation that works precisely and without feedback to the control sticks. The addition of the stabilized climb flight attitude recovery, auto hover, and a wide range of other sophisticated features results in a system that drastically decreases pilot workload, enhances mission capability, and can help to reduce risks in critical flight phases and adverse conditions such as IIMC - (Inadvertent entry into Instrument Meteorological Conditions).

"Tailoring the most advanced technologies to offer safety and trust to our clients is at the very heart of Thales' DNA. Combining Thales' advanced capabilities with StandardAero's extensive knowledge allows us to draw upon a wealth of industry experience and deliver the autopilot solution that pilots have long aspired to." Tristan Grivel, Vice President Business Development



and Sales for Thales's flight avionics business

"We are excited to bring this state-of-the-art autopilot to market in partnership with Thales. The features offered by StableLight will be a major game changer for pilots and operators alike - it provides unparalleled performance, taking the already capable AS350 and H125 aircraft to the next level. Today's announcement of the certification of StableLight paves the way for a safety revolution for light helicopters." Marc Drobny, President of StandardAero's Military, Helicopter and Energy Sector

Pilots representing numerous

operators and industry experts were able to test fly the pre-certified system over the last year and were extremely encouraged by the system's performance and contribution to safety. Many commented on the system's impressive capabilities and noted its potential to assist in a wide variety of missions.

Based on the high level of customer interest to date, Thales and StandardAero are spooling up to meet the demand for kit deliveries, with the first kits reserved for the VIP launch customer MacNeil Aviation LLC. Both EASA and Transport Canada validations of the STC are being applied for subsequently.

Soisa Aircraft Interiors expands Dubai facility

Soisa Aircraft Interiors, a provider of cabin upholstery and assembly services, has expanded its facility in the Dubai South area in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The revamped facility has quadrupled in size, featuring specialised production lines with dedicated units for dress cover lamination, curtains and cutting areas. A large warehouse area has also been incorporated, designed to accommodate both raw materials and finished goods for efficient management. The announcement follows what the company calls a successful first year for its operations in Dubai, after moving to the facility in March 2023.

Soisa currently provides upholstery and assembly services for more than 120 airlines,



and partners with all major seat OEMs from its base in Chihuahua, Mexico. Soisa says the Dubai facility extension will enable it to "dramatically increase" its production capacity and better serve clients in the region, such as Etihad, Emirates, FlyDubai, Royal Brunei, Singapore Airlines, and Safran Cabin in Thailand, among others.

"We are committed to enhancing the nearshoring experience for our clients around the world," said Jacobo Mesta, CEO of Soisa. "By moving to the heart of Dubai South,

an emerging hub of aviation, Soisa aims to capitalise on its state-of-the-art facility by offering cutting-edge services in dress covers and lamination and speeding our clients' products to market."

The improved near-shoring capabilities are intended to give Soisa's customers in the region with improved logistics and cost efficiencies, minimal lead times for delivering final products, and reduced turn-around times. The products include cabin upholstery such as dress covers, cushions, curtains, carpets, insulation panels, acoustic panels, and VIP seats. Its services also include hydrographic printing and repairs of interior parts for airlines and OEMs in the Middle East, North Africa, India, Europe and Asia.

Unilode appoints Janis Balkens as the new COO

Janis Balkens as the new COO of Unilode Aviation Services will play an instrumental role in advancing the company's progress with this vast experience in the aviation field. Unilode Aviation Services, a market leader in outsourced unit load device (ULD) management for repair and digital services, expressed their delight to announce the Janis Balkens as the new Chief Operating Officer. The new appointed COO, Janis Balkin has over 20 years of experience in senior leadership, operational and commercial roles in the aviation industry. His hardwork in managing the airports, airlines, ground handlers and logistics companies has been highly appreciated amongst the aviation professionals.

Ross Marino, Chief Executive Officer, Unilode said, "I am delighted that Janis has joined Unilode's Executive Leadership Team. He is extremely well placed to continue to deliver operational excellence at Unilode, and his operational and commercial expertise with a strong focus on quality and safety will strengthen Unilode's market leader position in the ULD and galley cart sector. Janis will play a pivotal role in leading Unilode's operations to new heights



and contributing to the continued growth and success of our company. Janis is a highly valued addition to our team, and I am excited to work with him to continue to deliver optimal results for Unilode."

Unilode Aviation Services hopes to advance their progress with the help of Janis Balkens experience in the aviation field. Janis Balkens served as Regional Chief Executive Officer at New & Emerging Markets at dnata most recently.

Janis Balkens, Chief Operating Officer, Unilode said, "I am thrilled to join Unilode and lead the company's global operations. Unilode's dedication to driving operational efficiencies aligns with my passion for delivering the highest level of performance to all our customers. I strongly believe that successful leadership of both local and global teams requires trust, empowerment, and respect, and I look forward to working with the talented Unilode team to build on the company's successes and continue to elevate our services and partnerships globally. Together, we will provide our customers and partners with mutually beneficial solutions and drive our businesses forward."

BOC Aviation appoints Steven Townend Managing Director and CEO



BOC Aviation Limited announces that Mr Steven Townend will be appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer with effect from 1 January 2024 replacing Mr Robert Martin who will step down from the role on 31 December 2023. Mr Martin will remain as a non-executive Director of the Board.

Mr Wu Jianguang will be appointed Chief Financial Officer with effect from 1 January 2024, replacing Mr Townend in the role of Chief Financial Officer which he will relinquish on 31 December 2023.

Following a thorough review, the Board of Directors have appointed Mr Steven Townend, a 22-year veteran of the firm and currently Deputy Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, to the position of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer to succeed Mr Martin. Mr Townend has more than thirty years of leasing and banking experience in aviation. Prior to his appointment as Chief Financial Officer in October 2020, Mr Townend had previously held Chief Commercial Officer Roles with BOC Aviation in both London and Singapore for over 16 years.

"On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Mr Martin for his leadership through the key moments in the company's history

and for leading the company to unbroken profitability through both good times and more challenging times for the industry," said Chairman Liu Jin. "I congratulate Steven on his new role, he brings a deep knowledge of both the company and the industry. I am very pleased that our careful succession planning means that we have an excellent successor, who will drive the continued success of the company through its next phase of growth."

"Robert has steered BOC Aviation for the last 25 of its 30-year history," said Steven Townend. "His influence on both BOC Aviation and the aircraft leasing industry has been profound and our best wishes are with him for the future. We have worked closely together for many years to develop this leading global aircraft leasing business and an excellent management team that will continue to build on the strong foundations that we have established."

Mr Wu Jianguang has been in the role of Deputy Chief Financial Officer since November 2022. At that time, he transitioned from Bank of China after a 30-year career, where he was most recently General Manager of the Financial Management Department. Mr Wu will oversee Accounting and Reporting, Financial Planning, Financial Control, Tax, Treasury and Settlement Departments.

GULFSTREAM APPOINTS NEW SVP MANUFACTURING AND COMPLETIONS



Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. has appointed John Kenan to the position of senior vice president of manufacturing and completions, effective March 2024. He will succeed Greg Collett, who will retire in March after more than 25 years with the company. Most recently, Kenan served as vice president of completions across all Gulfstream sites and was a member of the manufacturing and completions leadership team. In his new role, Kenan will oversee the strategic and tactical direction for production and completions of all new Gulfstream aircraft.

“John has had a tremendous amount of success overseeing many of our aircraft production programs and flight test operations since joining us more than a decade ago,” said Mark Burns, president, Gulfstream. “He is a well-respected leader with deep expertise and will be a great addition to our senior leadership team.”

Kenan joined Gulfstream in 2012 as an integrated production team manager. His previous leadership roles include director of G700/G800 production, director of G550/G650 production, director of flight test operations and senior manager of G450/G550 major assembly. Kenan earned his bachelor’s degree in business management and master’s degree in applied engineering from Georgia Southern University. Since joining Gulfstream in 1998, Collett has held various leadership roles in operations, including oversight of initial phase manufacturing, final phase manufacturing, new product development and manufacturing operations. He joined Gulfstream’s senior leadership team when he was appointed senior vice president of manufacturing and completions in 2019.

“Greg’s strong leadership and wealth of manufacturing experience have helped us optimize our manufacturing and completions functions through advancements in process and the introduction of state-of-the-art manufacturing technology,” added Burns. “Greg has been instrumental in helping Gulfstream become the leading manufacturer in business aviation and we are deeply grateful for his many contributions. We wish him all the best for his retirement.”

Marie-Louise Philippe joins Embraer Commercial Aviation



Embraer Commercial Aviation has appointed Marie-Louise Philippe as vice president for sales and marketing, and head of Europe and Central Asia, based in Amsterdam.

Marie-Louise has over 20 years of experience in the aviation industry, with previous posts in France, Singapore and Hong Kong. Philippe has held commercial leadership roles at Airbus in procurement and customer affairs, with a strong sales record with customers in Europe and Asia.

Most recently she successfully led services and aircraft sales teams in Southeast Asia, where she was also spearheading M&A, industrial cooperation projects, and serving on the steering board of a training centre. Philippe is founder and president of the Women in Aviation Chapter Singapore, which promotes diversity and inclusion in the aerospace sector.

Martyn Holmes, the chief commercial officer of Embraer Commercial Aviation, said Europe and Central Asia is a ‘critical region’ for the Brazilian jet manufacturer, where it has partnerships with some of the world’s most successful airlines.

Chad Archer promoted to SVP and Chief Financial Officer for Textron Aviation

Following a long-standing career spanning almost twenty years with the company, Textron Aviation welcomes Chad Archer to senior vice president and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) effective January 1, 2024.

Chad most recently served as vice president, Financial Planning & Analysis and Strategy. During his tenure with Textron Aviation, Chad has held various leadership positions within business management, financial planning and analysis. He has demonstrated consistent leadership in mergers and acquisitions, including the recent successful integration of AeroMotion last year, and has achieved significant revenue growth goals within the Asia-Pacific region.

In his new role, he will oversee all financial matters for Textron Aviation Inc., including financial planning and analysis, strategy and integration and economics. He succeeds Dave Rosenberg who has been promoted to vice president, Investor Relations at Textron.

“I grew up in Hutchinson, Kansas, where I met my wife,” said Archer. “We’ve been married for almost 20 years and love to travel with our two daughters.”



Gulfstream promotes Swift to group VP sales for EMEA and APAC



Gulfstream Aerospace announced that Michael Swift has been named group vice president of Sales overseeing Europe, the Middle East, Africa (EMEA), and the Asia-Pacific region (APAC).

In this newly created role, Swift will manage Gulfstream’s EMEA and APAC Sales teams, working closely with Gulfstream’s Customer Support and Marketing organizations to develop strategies that further increase market share in these important business aviation regions.

“As we continue to see strong demand in the EMEA and APAC regions, we wanted to create a role that would help elevate our presence and momentum to match that demand,” said Scott Neal, senior vice president, Worldwide

Sales, Gulfstream. “Michael’s sales acumen, alongside his aircraft finance background, have allowed him to excel as a well-rounded customer-centric sales leader. We look forward to his continued success as he expands his leadership presence in these areas, which are increasingly important for business aviation.”

Prior to joining Gulfstream in 2018 as regional vice president of Sales, Swift spent more than a decade in corporate aircraft finance at Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Textron Financial. He received a bachelor’s degree in marketing and management from Siena College and a master’s degree from Columbia Business School. Swift will continue to be based in Gulfstream’s Sales and Design Center in London.

GA-ASI Demos Short Takeoff/Landing of UAS on UK Carrier

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) conducted a first-of-its-kind demonstration of its short takeoff and landing (STOL) capability on the HMS Prince of Wales, a Royal Navy aircraft carrier, using the Mojave Unmanned Aircraft System. The demonstration took place on November 15, 2023, when the Prince of Wales was underway off the East Coast of the U.S., and the Mojave was controlled by an aircrew within a control station onboard the ship. The demonstration included takeoff, circuits, and approaches and ended with a landing back onto the carrier.

“We applaud the Royal Navy’s foresight in embracing this unprecedented capability for its carriers,” said GA-ASI CEO Linden Blue. “We knew our STOL capability would enable a UAS to safely take off and land on the Prince of Wales. Seeing our Mojave operate successfully in this environment opens myriad new ways our aircraft can be used to support multi-domain naval operations.”

Mojave is a short takeoff and landing UAS demonstrator originally developed to prove STOL operations at unprepared landing sites. While Mojave shares common systems and components with GA-ASI’s Gray Eagle model, a STOL wing set option is likewise being planned for the larger, more capable MQ-9B aircraft, which includes SkyGuardian®, SeaGuardian®,



and the new Protector RG Mk 1 currently being delivered to the UK Royal Air Force. The MQ-9B version, called MQ-9B STOL, is being considered by the Royal Navy and other navies that operate aircraft from large flat-deck warships without catapults and arresting gear.

Royal Navy Director Develop, Rear Admiral James Parkin, whose team planned the trial, said: “The Mojave trial is a European first – the first time that a Remotely Piloted Air System of this size has operated to and from an aircraft carrier outside of the United States. The success of this trial heralds a new dawn in how we conduct maritime aviation and is another

exciting step in the evolution of the Royal Navy’s Carrier Strike Group into a mixed crewed and uncrewed fighting force.”

Equipping UAS with STOL capability provides greater versatility and allows the aircraft to operate in areas previously deemed unsuitable for UAS operations, including landing onto and taking off from an aircraft carrier. MQ-9B STOL will be capable of carrying the same payloads and conducting the same missions as the SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian, including maritime surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Airborne Early Warning (AEW), and surface strike.

Boeing Shifts toward Production of MH-139A Grey Wolf

Boeing continues to transition towards low rate initial production of the MH-139A Grey Wolf after completing the program’s Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) phase, delivering the sixth and final test aircraft to the U.S. Air Force last month.

“Delivering all of the RDT&E aircraft to the Air Force enables them to continue critical operational testing and allows Boeing to focus on building the first production aircraft,” said Azeem Khan, MH-139 program director. “The Grey Wolf will provide crucial national security

capability improvements to the Air Force. This is an important step in getting the aircraft into service.”

Boeing expects to provide the first low rate production aircraft to the customer in 2024. To date, the Air Force has awarded Boeing a contract to build the first 13, with the first aircraft already in final assembly. Ultimately, Boeing will provide up to 80 MH-139A Grey Wolf helicopters to the Air Force.

“With the final test aircraft delivered, we’re headed into an exciting production phase. With the MH-139, the United States Air Force is

getting a faster and more capable aircraft to bring them into a new era of service for this mission,” said Robert Beyer, MH-139 Senior Program Manager, Leonardo Helicopters US. “Leonardo is incredibly proud of this aircraft, and we look forward to the continued partnership with Boeing and the USAF as we deliver additional Grey Wolf helicopters.”

MH-139A aircraft will replace the UH-1N Huey and are tasked with protecting intercontinental ballistic missiles across the U.S. and transporting VIP and security personnel.



Aviation Update Editor Kartikeya in conversation with

Mr. Saurabh Tripathi
Regional Director- Asia
Aventure Aviation



Q How did your professional career begin and how did you get associated with Aviation industry?

A Working into Aviation & Aerospace industry was always my passion since School days when I met one of my Cousin who was doing Aerospace Engg.

I completed my Aeronautical Engineering after schooling and started my Career with a Aircraft Cabin Maintenance facility and further moved to After Market Supplies Business, over the period of time which has become my Core Expertise into Commercial & Military Aviation

Q What are the products & services currently Adventure Aviation is offering for India & Asia Markets?

A Adventure Aviation's Core Competency is USM Rotables / Components (SV/OH/Exc) focusing on Narrow Body like A320/ B737/ Embraer etc. Though we also deal

with B777/B757 and other Platform too.

Adventure Aviation also has a military division which is Strong on Boeing Platforms like C130/ F16 & other Military Aircrafts & Rotors.

Q What do you see as the most significant challenges and possibilities for the industry in the years ahead?

A The pace at which Fleet is growing at present, meeting demands of Spares specially Rotables /Components would be really hard in coming years and current Geo-Political situation is making it even more difficult.

Q What are the factors you wish if changed can contribute to the growth of the MROs in India? Are you seeing a resurgence in demand for older engines following the pandemic?

A I would like to see MRO growing from Manpower & Consumables providers to full fledge

independent MRO with facilities of Component Repair/ Landing Gears/ APUs and other critical components solutions providers.

Not only Engines, all used Components like Landing gears/ APUs & other items are in huge demands as market is not able to meet current demands. Old Aircrafts are being redelivered due to Issue arises in B737 MAX & A320NEOs.

Q Could you share with us your visions and priorities for the company? What is the roadmap ahead and what are the major objectives?

A Since Adventure Aviation didn't had deep Foot Prints in this Region before I joined, my first priority was to reach out to Customers and make them aware of our Products & Services of Adventure Aviation which we carry from last more than 20 Years in other regions, and I feel it's pretty much done and today I can confidently say that Adventure is Dealing with almost all Major Customers in Region and developed very good business relationships in this region.

My next priority would be to Grow Business and Reach out to other Regions which are not yet explored much by our Company so far.

Q Welcoming the New Year 2024, your cheering message for our fellow aviators would be..?

A Industry is growing at high Pace, tighten your seat belt to grow yourself and your business, Upgrade and Prepare yourself to match the Pace of Industry.

All the best to all the Aviators for coming year 2024. Cheers!!

LIVE-FIRE TEST SUCCESS FOR RTX'S RAYTHEON LOWER TIER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE SENSOR



Raytheon, an RTX business, in support of the U.S. Army, completed a live-fire engagement using the advanced, 360-degree Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor, known as LTAMDS. This milestone is the latest event in a series of ongoing development tests for the radar which will culminate with an operational capability level by the end of the year.

LTAMDS is the next generation air and missile defense radar for the U.S. Army. A 360-degree, Active Electronically Scanned Array radar, powered by Raytheon-manufactured Gallium Nitride, LTAMDS provides dramatically more performance against the range of threats, from manned and unmanned aircraft to cruise missiles, ballistic missiles and hypersonics.

The test consisted of a cruise missile surrogate flying a representative threat trajectory. The target was acquired and tracked by LTAMDS, its track data was passed to the Integrated Battle Command System, or IBCS, for launch command, and LTAMDS guided a PAC-3 missile to intercept.

"When the LTAMDS contract was

awarded four years ago, this was what we told the Army we would deliver: the world's most advanced and highly capable air and missile defense radar," said Tom Laliberty, president of Land and Air Defense Systems at Raytheon. "Seeing LTAMDS come to life is not only gratifying to the scores of experts who designed and developed it, but it reaffirms the commitment we made to deliver this exceptional radar to air defenders around the globe. We're now closer than ever to doing just that."

All six radars under the October 2019 contract have completed production and are undergoing simultaneous testing at various government and Raytheon test sites, conducting integration and test activities in parallel. Following the recently completed Contractor Verification Test, events will continue throughout 2023. Rigorous testing will progress in 2024, including robust environmental and mobility qualification, and expanded system of system testing, leading up to full operational capability in the calendar year.

First Boeing T-7A Red Hawk Arrives at Edwards Air Force Base to Begin U.S. Air Force Flight Testing



The first Boeing T-7A Red Hawk advanced trainer for the U.S. Air Force has completed its 1,400-mile cross-country flight to Edwards Air Force Base in California to begin its next phase of flight testing. The aircraft, known as APT-2, is the first production representative jet off the assembly line and was piloted by a joint U.S. Air Force and Boeing aircrew.

The T-7A Red Hawk made stops at Air Force bases in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona to refuel and offer base employees a firsthand look at the new advanced trainer before the final leg to Edwards. Boeing delivered the first Red Hawk to the Air Force on Sept. 15.

"This is a pivotal moment for the T-7 program," said Evelyn Moore, vice president and program manager, T-7 programs. "Bringing the T-7A Red Hawk to the heart of the U.S. Air Force's test community at Edwards for dynamic flight testing will prove the jet's performance as an agile and safe trainer for future pilots."

Once Air Force test pilots are familiar with the aircraft, they will expand the flight envelope starting with flutter testing. Two other Red Hawks will follow to test various flight attributes and systems as part of a rigorous series of tests.

"Like most test programs, we'll have discovery and we'll overcome it quickly," said Col. Kirt Cassell, division chief, U.S. Air Force, T-7A Red Hawk program. "This is the right team to go after any challenges we find."

In 2018, the Air Force awarded Boeing a \$9.2 billion contract for 351 T-7A advanced trainers, 46 simulators and support. The T-7A will replace the Air Force's aging T-38 aircraft.

IAI Signs Agreements Valued at \$145M to Deliver Long Range Loitering Munitions

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) signed two separate agreements with two countries to deliver long range loitering munitions. The contracts' combined value is \$145M. These two significant orders follow a previous contract signed earlier this year that has also declared the purchase of IAI's long range loitering munitions. This series of orders represent the growing global demand for IAI's long range loitering munition family and demonstrates IAI's unique capability in this market segment.

IAI's President and CEO Boaz Levy: «Loitering munitions have proven critical to achieving operational success on the battlefield worldwide. The flexibility in strikes that can be achieved with a loitering munition is a major advantage in combat and the type of precision reached is of strategic and national importance. The latest orders emphasize the trust in IAI's loitering munitions family in bringing the required advantages to each country respectively».

IAI's family of long range loitering munitions includes the Harpy NG, Harop, and Mini Harpy. In the 1980s, IAI invented the loitering munitions weapons class when it introduced the HARPY. Equipped with an Anti-Radiation (AR) seeker, the Harpy was designed for the Autonomous Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) missions. Today, IAI offers the Next Generation, the HARPY NG – a more advanced loitering munition used against a diverse range



of radiating targets.

The HAROP, a derivative of the Harpy, is a combat proven loitering munition with a naval and land versions. The Harop is used against a variety of combat scenarios including against terror threats. Using a day and night Electro Optical seeker, the HAROP scans, detects, identifies, and attacks stationary and moving targets with exceptional precision and at any angle. The MINI HARPY is the only loitering munition in the world to carry a triple seeker – Electrooptical day, night, and AR. The combined seeker allows detection and attack

in severe weather conditions and makes it very difficult for the target to avoid detection and destruction.. The Mini Harpy has electrical propulsion and is equipped with an anti-tank warhead. Like the other long range LMs, Mini Harpy is canister-launched IAI is proud to pave the way in air defence, precision strikes, missiles, space, radars, UAVs, civil aviation, and cyber defence.

IAI's land, air, naval, and space systems are currently proving critical to security forces during Israel's Iron Swords War, and other defense organizations around the world.

Intelsat is Awarded US Army's 1st SATCOM as a Managed Service Pilot Contract

Intelsat, operator of one of the world's largest integrated satellite and terrestrial networks, will soon provide the US Army with new, flexible, and fully managed multi-orbit satellite communications (SATCOM) support, following the award of the Army's first-ever Satellite Communication (SATCOM) as a Managed Service (SaaS) contract.

"As the largest, most trusted provider of SATCOM services to the U.S. Government, Intelsat understands the Army's requirement for a new managed subscription service," said

Rick Henry, VP, Business Operations of Intelsat's Government Solutions division. "This pilot program will demonstrate that a commercially-managed SATCOM model can deliver the latest equipment and highest level of customer service for rapid deployment and surge requirements for different missions."

The scope of the Army's SaaS pilot includes end-to-end managed subscription services to support connections with commercial teleports and internet services. The Intelsat solution includes Intelsat Flex services

for geostationary (GEO) connections and a well-known commercial low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite service provider for a LEO option. The pilot will provide world-wide coverage via leased satellite terminals and services with 24x7 support.

"The Intelsat system enables the Army to re-deploy terminals with no change in configuration or service plans, allowing flexibility to quickly respond to different types of missions and operations around the globe," Henry added.

LOCKHEED MARTIN OPENS 25,000-SQUARE FOOT, \$16.5M MISSILE DEFENSE LAB



Lockheed Martin opened a \$16.5M engineering facility at its Huntsville campus, introducing more capabilities for missile defense innovation in North Alabama.

This facility is a Lockheed Martin capital project and provides evidence of Lockheed Martin's investment in the Huntsville community, increasing opportunities for growth and advanced capability in North Alabama at the company's Huntsville campus. The new Missile System Integration Lab (MSIL) is where Lockheed Martin plans to conduct development, testing, and system integration for the nation's next long range ballistic missile defense interceptor – the Next Generation Interceptor (NGI) for the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA). The MSIL will also house a digital engineering center and key infrastructure to create and maintain a digital thread throughout the integration process.

“Lockheed Martin is committed to North Alabama and this facility is further evidence of that,” said Robert Lightfoot, executive vice president of Lockheed Martin Space. “We are pleased to celebrate adding an advanced facility to our Huntsville campus today -- the same year we mark 60 years in the Rocket City supporting our customers.”

The new lab's concept is strengthened by Lockheed Martin's decades of experience and expertise supporting the U.S. missile defense mission, across the product lifecycle and all phases of flight.

“This facility serves as a testbed to prove out our hardware and software integration, adding new levels of digital capability, agility and connectivity with our customers,” said Sarah Reeves, vice president of NGI at Lockheed Martin. “It is another example of Lockheed Martin's investment in the technology and advanced facilities critical to reducing risk for our NGI program. The MSIL brings us even closer to flight testing and production of our interceptor, which will revolutionize U.S. homeland missile defense.”

NGI program headquarters is located in Huntsville, where Lockheed Martin is bringing jobs, infrastructure and investment to help strengthen the region as a thriving excellence hub for missile defense.

LM's Precision Strike Missile Completes Shortest-Range Flight Test



Lockheed Martin successfully completed a production qualification flight test with the U.S. Army in a demonstration at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. One Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) was fired from a HIMARS launcher to hit a target set. The test is the shortest distance flown to date demonstrating the system's continued accuracy from launch to impact. While not PrSM's primary mission range, the short-range flight represents the most stressful, dynamic environment for the missile as it maneuvers at hypersonic speeds to align to the target. This test verifies structural integrity of the missile and trajectory control.

“This demonstration is the first of several production qualification tests moving PrSM closer to fielding and delivery of Early Operational Capability (EOC) missiles this year,” said Jay Price, vice president of Precision Fires at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. “PrSM is a critical capability and the top long-range precision fires modernization priority for the U.S. Army.”

The test follows a third production contract to produce additional EOC missiles awarded in September 2023. PrSM is the U.S. Army's next generation long-range precision strike missile capable of neutralizing targets out to more than 400 kilometers. The new surface-to-surface weapon features an open systems architecture design for maximum affordability and flexibility, is modular for future growth and is HIMARS and M270 compatible.

Bombardier Defense Delivers Seventh Global Aircraft for Saab's GlobalEye Airborne Surveillance Solution

Bombardier Defense is proud to announce the seventh Global aircraft delivery to defense and security company Saab, ready to be transformed into Saab's Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) solution known as GlobalEye.

Bombardier's latest Global aircraft delivery is destined to join the Swedish Air Force and will be Saab's second GlobalEye aircraft to join Sweden's military fleet. The 7 aircraft delivered by Bombardier to the GlobalEye program highlight a successful collaboration and echo Bombardier's thriving, long-standing reputation manufacturing specialized aircraft for the defense industry.

“More and more countries are preparing for the future by choosing modern, more efficient business jets as strategic assets for their military fleet,” said Jean-Christophe Gallagher, Executive Vice-President, Aircraft Sales and Bombardier Defense. “With the rapid progression of technologies, there is a growing realization that business jets, such as our Global aircraft, can seamlessly integrate the equipment and capabilities that were traditionally carried by commercial aircraft.” In addition to offering lower operating costs than commercial aircraft, Global business jets have takeoff and landing capabilities that allow them to fly in and out of more strategic locations.

The agility granted by the steep approach certification and the advanced wing design of the Global aircraft is an advantageous feature to airborne surveillance platforms, designed for long-range air, maritime and ground surveillance.

As such, Saab's GlobalEye incorporates some essential attributes of the Global business jet including over 11 hours of operational endurance, state-of-the-art avionics, and class-leading maintenance intervals. Paired with ample cabin space for workstations and mission equipment for ideal crew conditions, the Global aircraft is perfectly suited for situational awareness missions of large areas.



Aviation Update Editor Kartikeya in conversation with

Mr. George Triantafyllidis

Business Development & Facilities Management Director
Egnatia Aviation

Q Can you brief us about the courses offered at Egnatia Aviation?

A Egnatia Aviation offers a wide range of pilot training courses from PPL programs up to the advanced frozen ATPL commercial license. The Airline Integrated Program is the Academy's flagship as this is approved by the affiliated Airlines (Iraqi Airways, Aegean, Olympic, Wizz Air) and its graduates have direct entry in some of the major global Airlines (such as Qatar Airways, Flydubai, Kuwait Airways, Ryanair, Easyjet, SwissAir, Jazeera Airways, Gulf Air)

Q Why anyone should opt for Egnatia Aviation instead of flying schools?

- A** A) Consistency
B) We are at the right part of Europe
C) We are operating from our own General Aviation

airport, securing training and flight hours capacity

D) New state of the art fleet - Diamond Aircraft

E) Airline partnerships and affiliations – 3 active airline cadet schemes (Aegean, Iraqi Airways, Wizz Air) – Previous contractual agreements with Qatar Airways and Air Air Arabia

F) The highest employment rate of the market

G) Training and selection as per Airline requirements

H) We deliver what we promise

Q What are the Current certifications & Industry Partnerships available?

- A** A) 3 active airline contracts
B) Approval by EASA and specifically (Greek CAA and Hungarian CAA)



- C) Approval by UAE GCAA for full training, exams and skill tests in Greece
- D) Approval by Qatar CAA
- E) Approval by Iraqi CAA
- F) "Bachelor Degree in Aviation Management with Pilot Studies" in cooperation with American College of Thessaloniki
- G) Cooperation with Research centres and Aviation Universities

Q What is your advice to young students who wish to choose aviation as a career?

- A** Stay focused on their goal
- Commit to English, Maths



- and Physics lessons
- Get ready for an intense course leading to a very rewarding career
 - Make sure that they have chosen the proper Academy for their flight training
 - Pay a visit first 100% must to go through a pre-entry selection process (not everyone is eligible for becoming a pilot – acceptance rate

in Egnatia is in the region of 30-35%)

Q How can we enroll for the courses at Egnatia Aviation?

- A** A) Contact Admissions department at: courses@egnatia-aviation.com
- B) Receive all the course details
 - C) Create a checklist
 - D) Book an online and/or face to face meeting with an Egnatia Aviation admissions expert
 - E) Book the selection process
 - F) Pass the Class I medical
 - G) Finalise your registration and submit your student Visa application (if not an EU passport holder)
- For Further Details Please do Visit: www.egnatia-aviation.aero



Jetex unveils its New Flagship FBO Terminal at Abu Dhabi's Al Bateen Executive Airport



Following a successful redevelopment and upgrade, the new flagship private terminal (FBO) builds upon the distinctive legacy of Al Bateen Executive Airport, the region's only dedicated private jet airport. Al Bateen Executive Airport, conveniently located with center-of-town road connectivity, provides rapid access to Abu Dhabi's key financial, tourist and entertainment destinations.

Behind the terminal's futuristic façade lies a personal oasis complete with lavish furnishing and finishes, synonymous with the Jetex brand. Guests traveling via Jetex Abu Dhabi will experience a sense of exclusivity and intimate privacy coupled with award-winning hospitality. With on-site immigration and customs support, the passenger experience is fast and smooth during both arrival and departure.

Commenting on the occasion, Adel Mardini, Founder & CEO of Jetex, said: "The opening of Jetex Abu Dhabi marks a milestone for our brand and confirms our commitment to the region. We are especially excited to bring the Jetex experience to the UAE capital. We promise a regal welcome to this beautiful city for our international guests as well as to ensure that every need is anticipated, every wish is granted and every minute is memorable when you are with us at Jetex Abu Dhabi."

Al Bateen Executive Airport is one of five airports managed and operated by Abu Dhabi Airports. Elena Sorlini, Managing Director and Interim CEO, Abu Dhabi Airports said: "The renovation of the VIP Terminal at Al Bateen further strengthens the luxury service offering to our passengers. We are committed to developing our aviation assets and delivering the highest quality service standards to our clients."

EVE AIR MOBILITY AND HUNCH MOBILITY COLLABORATING TO BRING EVTOL FLIGHTS TO BANGALORE



Eve Air Mobility ("Eve") and Hunch Mobility a joint venture between Hunch Ventures and Blade Air Mobility, Inc. have announced that the two companies are working together to bring first electric commuter flights to Bangalore, India. With the announcement, Bangalore becomes the launch city in the region for urban air mobility flights utilizing electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The announcement is the first step as both companies will be working with local, state and federal officials, infrastructure, energy and technology providers. The goal is to ensure the appropriate infrastructure is in place to introduce eVTOL aircraft flights.

"This launch city announcement is the next step in a great relationship that Hunch Mobility and Eve have built to co-create the urban air mobility ecosystem in India," said Johann Bordais, CEO of Eve Air Mobility. "India is an incredibly important market for urban air mobility and our goal is to work with Hunch Mobility to provide residents with an additional efficient and affordable mode of transportation to ease commuting times in one of the most heavily populated cities in the world."

"This collaboration with Eve Air Mobility underscores the commitment to contribute to India's growth story by addressing the bottleneck of road congestion in the country. We look forward to introducing eVTOL flights that will democratize short

haul air mobility by offering affordable ticket fares and zero carbon emission," said Amit Dutta, director, Hunch Mobility.

Eve's eVTOL will offer Hunch Mobility's customers a quick and economical way to avoid traffic congestion in one of the world's most dense urban environments. Eve's eVTOL is 100% electric and has a range of 100 kilometers (60 miles) allowing it to complete a variety of urban air mobility missions in Bangalore. The aircraft features a lift + cruise configuration with dedicated rotors for vertical flight and fixed wings to fly on cruise, with no components required to change position during flight. It will be piloted at launch but evolving towards uncrewed operations in the future.

Eve was the first eVTOL manufacturer to announce an LOI in India with Hunch Mobility announcing an agreement to purchase 200 eVTOLs, Services and the company's Urban ATM (Air Traffic Management) solution. As part of the LOI announcement, Eve and Hunch embarked on a three-month-long pilot project, conducting intra-city helicopter flights in Bangalore. The objective was to collect data on operations and customer experiences throughout the pilot project. This data, in turn, is informing the further development of Eve's eVTOL aircraft, its air traffic management solution, and solutions for service and support.

Eve's eVTOL is scheduled to enter into service in 2026.

INTERGLOBE ENTERPRISES & ARCHER AVIATION ANNOUNCE PLANS TO LAUNCH ALL-ELECTRIC AIR TAXI SERVICE ACROSS INDIA IN 2026

InterGlobe Enterprises, India's foremost travel and hospitality conglomerate and Archer Aviation Inc. a leader in electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, announced that they have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the goal of partnering to launch and operate an all-electric air taxi service in India, subject to appropriate regulatory approvals and clearances.

The parties intend to work with select in-country business partners to operate Archer's aircraft, finance and build vertiport infrastructure, and train pilots and other personnel needed for these operations. The partnership also plans to finance the purchase of up to 200 of Archer's Midnight aircraft for the India operations.

Archer's Midnight aircraft is a piloted, four-passenger electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft designed to perform rapid back-to-back flights with minimal charge time between flights. The goal is for a passenger on an InterGlobe-Archer flight to be able to fly the 27-km Delhi trip from Connaught Place to Gurugram, typically taking 60 to 90 minutes by car, in



approximately 7 minutes.

In addition to urban air taxi services, the parties plan to pursue a variety of other use cases for the electric aircraft in India, including cargo, logistics, medical and emergency services, as well as private company and charter services.

Rahul Bhatia, Group Managing Director of InterGlobe, said: "Over the last two decades, InterGlobe has been involved in providing safe, efficient, and affordable transportation to hundreds of millions of Indians across the country. We are excited at this new

opportunity of bringing an effective, futuristic and sustainable transport solution by introducing Archer's electric aircraft to India."

"I founded Archer with the vision to help decongest the world's largest cities. India is one of, if not the largest opportunity for eVTOL aircraft utilization in the world, as it is home to the world's largest population of over 1.4 billion people and its largest cities face some of the greatest congestion challenges in the world," commented Archer's CEO and Founder, Adam Goldstein, "Archer's all-electric Midnight aircraft is designed to provide a revolutionary transportation solution that can help address these congestion issues."

Nikhil Goel, Chief Commercial Officer of Archer Aviation, added: "At Archer, our goal is to make cities greener, smarter, more efficient places to live. We couldn't be more excited to be partnering with Rahul and the InterGlobe team to bring our Midnight aircraft to Indian cities and fundamentally transform mobility across the country, with the goal of starting with Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru."

JETEX & SHELL AVIATION SIGN AGREEMENT FOR SAF SUPPLY TO PRIVATE AVIATION

Jetex, a global leader in executive aviation, is the first to offer SAF to customers in the United Arab Emirates. Building on the success of supplying SAF at selected locations in Europe, Jetex will now offer aircraft operators and private owners the possibility of significantly reducing emissions whenever they operate flights from its flagship private terminal in Dubai.

"Bringing SAF to the United Arab Emirates is a milestone achievement, and today I am pleased that we finally can offer this type of aircraft fuel to our customers in Dubai in partnership with Shell Aviation. It is even more important in light of 2023 being announced as the Year of Sustainability in the UAE as it cements our ambition to reduce carbon emissions", said Adel Mardini, Founder & CEO of Jetex.

As a safe and fully certified drop-in fuel compatible with existing aircraft fleet and airport infrastructure, SAF can be blended with conventional jet fuel at a ratio of up to 50%, creating an aviation fuel



that is significantly lower in lifecycle carbon emissions. In its neat form, SAF can reduce lifecycle emissions by up to 80% compared to conventional jet fuel.

Doris Tan, General Manager Asia and Middle East, Shell Aviation, said: "To reduce emissions from flying, all parts of the aviation value chain need to play their part. This is particularly crucial for private business customers as they can create a concentrated, high-impact demand for SAF. Additionally, expanding the availability of SAF to new locations is equally important, which is why it's been highly rewarding to work with Jetex to enhance our SAF capabilities in the Middle East

by delivering SAF at DWC for the first time."

Jetex's environment strategy focuses on reducing carbon emissions, recycling and adapting the latest green technologies across its global network. The company's efforts are aligned with IATA's commitment to fly net zero by 2050 and achieving this requires a combination of maximum elimination of emissions at the source, offsetting and carbon capture technologies. It is vital for the future of aviation to continue to address climate change and Jetex remains focused on playing its part to reduce the impact on the planet.



DC Aviation Group celebrates important milestone as it turns 25 this year

DC Aviation Group celebrated significant milestones this year, marking its 25th anniversary, the 15th anniversary of its Malta operations and the 10th anniversary of Dubai-based DC Aviation Al-Futtaim (DCAF). To celebrate the occasion, a specially curated IMAGINE show was held on the opening day of the Dubai Airshow, at Dubai Festival City in partnership with Al-Futtaim. Over the past decade, the Dubai operations have achieved significant milestones, including the completion of its purpose-built integrated hangar facility with lounge and office areas in September 2013. This made it the first fully integrated business aviation operation at the then-newly opened Al Maktoum International Airport, located at Dubai South.

DCAF's facility includes two dedicated hangars, together measuring over 13,500 sqm, with a total land-side plot area of 24,000 sqm and apron area of 13,500 sqm - capable of accommodating business jets of various sizes. The facility also offers 1,300 sqm of exclusive lounge area that provides the highest levels of comfort and privacy, including shower areas, a spacious conference room, covered parking and a contemporary finish. As part of its ongoing commitment to its customers, DCAF recently completed a refurbishment of its exterior and VIP lounges.

DCAF's customers can expect high levels of convenience with 24-hour on-site screening facilities, customs and immigration services and immediate access from limousine drop-off to the aircraft parked directly in front of the lounge.

Michael Kuhn, CEO of DC Aviation Group, said, "This is a significant milestone for all of us at DC Aviation and further reaffirms our decision to partner with Al-Futtaim, with whom we have a long-standing relationship. This joint venture has enabled us to create one of the leading business aviation operations in the Middle East and we look forward to continuing to expand our operations and offering our customers the highest levels of service and safety. We look forward to meeting all our industry partners, suppliers and customers at the celebratory party in Dubai."

"As we mark our 10th anniversary, we hold great pride in the journey we have taken as a business," said Holger Ostheimer, Managing Director of DC Aviation Al-Futtaim. "From day one, we were confident in Al Maktoum International Airport's tremendous potential to develop as a key hub for business and private aviation and thereby enhance the success of Dubai's aviation industry. We feel privileged to be a partner in the continuous progress of the UAE's expanding aviation industry and look forward to continuing to serve our clients with the best-in-class services."

ArcosJet and Lilium Announce Purchase of 10 eVTOL Jets



ArcosJet DMCC and Lilium N.V., developer of the first all-electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) jet, have announced ArcosJet's purchase of 10 Lilium Jets, expected to be delivered through 2026 & 2027. Following the appointment of ArcosJet as an exclusive authorized dealer for private sales of the Lilium Jet in their region, ArcosJet's purchase means eVTOL travel will soon be available for customers in the Middle East.

The Lilium Pioneer Edition Jet will offer the largest cabin in its category, low-noise, high-speed regional transport with zero operating emissions, where passengers will enjoy large panoramic views in its spacious 4-seat cabin. Deliveries of the premium eVTOL jet are expected to begin in early 2026. The Lilium Jets will be delivered to customers with a comprehensive maintenance program, pilot training, and two charging stations.

"Today we are pleased to announce the details of our purchase of Lilium Pioneer Edition Jets and are confident that the aircraft will quickly find buyers and lay the foundations for the development of sustainable air transport in the Middle East. Together with Lilium, ArcosJet offers its customers best-in-class innovations and developments for the future of transport. We see this as the most profitable investment in the high-tech and sustainable future of aviation, as well as in the development of regional air mobility," said Mikhail Alenkin, ArcosJet founder and CEO.

"Together with ArcosJet, we are excited to be entering new markets by introducing our revolutionary Lilium Jet and thrilled with their firm commitment for 10 jets. With ArcosJet's experience and expertise in private aircraft sales, I am confident our partnership will help customers appreciate the unique capabilities of eVTOL flight," said Sebastien Borel, Chief Commercial Officer at Lilium.

The Lilium Pioneer Edition Jet is the first planned model of the Lilium Jet and will comfortably seat four passengers on estimated non-stop flights of up to 175 km at 250 km/h. The first manned flight of the type-conforming aircraft is scheduled for late 2024, with type certification expected in late 2025.

TEXTRON AVIATION ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE 48 CESSNA SKYHAWKS TO SUPPORT BAA TRAINING

Textron Aviation announced an agreement with BAA Training for the purchase of 48 Cessna Skyhawk aircraft, expected to be delivered in 2026. The deal, inked at the Dubai Airshow, substantially expands BAA Training's existing fleet, offering increased capacity for students, streamlining the flight training process and ensuring an overall enhanced student experience.

"For over six decades, the Cessna Skyhawk has inspired the next generation of pilots and served as the world's leading flight trainer," said Chris Crow, vice president of Piston Sales. "We are delighted to continue the relationship with BAA Training to provide their students access to the most produced single-engine aircraft globally."

The stable flight characteristics, advanced avionics and demonstrated dispatch reliability of the Skyhawk have made it a dependable training platform. The new airplanes

will be used by students to put them in the pilot's seat of the most popular training aircraft in the world.

"BAA Training has set an ambitious milestone to achieve a capacity of up to 1000 students per year, necessitating a significant expansion of our fleet. We are glad to finalize this order, as the addition of 48 Cessna Skyhawks will bolster our resources, enabling us to accommodate the growing demand for training and further solidify our position in the industry," said Marijus Ravoitis, CEO, BAA Training.

BAA Training offers comprehensive aviation training solutions for aspiring commercial pilots, ranging from Ab Initio training to Type Rating, available across multiple locations, including Spain, Lithuania, France and Vietnam. Additionally, pilot training services are provided through its consultancy office in India and a sales representative office in the UAE.



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LILIUM RECEIVES EASA DESIGN ORGANIZATION APPROVAL



Lilium N.V., developer of the first all-electric vertical take-off and landing (“eVTOL”) jet, announced that it has received Design Organization Approval from its primary regulatory authority, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (“EASA”). The award marks a major milestone for Lilium, positioning it at the forefront of the industry as a company authorized to hold a type-certificate for an eVTOL aircraft in Europe.

Design Organization Approval reflects a seal of quality assurance for companies in aviation design, formally acknowledging a company’s ability to design and develop safe and compliant aircraft. This major achievement in the development of the revolutionary Lilium Jet reflects the culmination of an extensive qualification process dating back to 2017. Receiving Design Organization Approval is a core requirement for any commercial aircraft manufacturer.

Klaus Roewe, Lilium CEO, commented: “In many respects, today’s announcement marks a cornerstone for Lilium and evidences our market leadership in advancing the aviation industry. Achieving Design Organization Approval reflects EASA’s confidence in Lilium and differentiates us against others currently

pursuing eVTOL development and regulatory approval. While we join a small, select group of companies qualified to develop commercial aircraft, today’s announcement is especially significant for the global aviation industry as we are doing so by advancing sustainable regional air mobility. I appreciate the many Lilians and countless stakeholders who have played a pivotal role in us achieving today’s milestone, and we look forward to further advancements toward the commercialization of the Lilium Jet. I would like to thank our counterparts at EASA for their professional cooperation, which I believe will continue to be very beneficial for the industry moving forward.”

Alastair McIntosh, Lilium Chief Technology Officer and Head of Design Organisation, added: “In simple terms, the Design Organization Approval is our Licence to Operate and confirms that Lilium has the organization, procedures, competencies, resources, and demonstrated rigor required to design and certify aircraft according to the very highest safety standards. This pays great tribute to our team at Lilium. Receiving Design Organization Approval from EASA further motivates us on our path to commercialize the

revolutionary Lilium Jet.”

Bhavesh Mandalia, Lilium Chief Airworthiness Officer and Deputy CTO, commented: “Today’s announcement has been more than six years in the making. I’d like to thank my fellow Lilians as well as our partners at EASA for their continued support on this journey. In addition to European oversight, EASA’s Design Organization Approval brings significant benefits to our FAA certification process in the U.S. by utilizing the Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreements to validate the technology and aircraft.”

Luc Tytgat, Acting Executive Director, EASA said: “EASA is ensuring that everything is in place for the societal acceptance of Urban Air Mobility. We are setting the right rules for operations and taking care of the environmental elements including noise, while of course ensuring that high safety standards are met. At the same time, we are wary of creating barriers to entering this new market and we have worked in partnership with Lilium, against a demanding timeline. I would like to congratulate Lilium on achieving this Design Organization Approval, which advances Europe’s electric aviation activity.”

GMR HYDERABAD AIR CARGO INAUGURATES AN EXCLUSIVE COURIER TERMINAL FOR IMPORT SHIPMENTS



GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo (GHAC), announced the launch of an import courier terminal to facilitate faster processing and import clearance of courier import cargo. Spread across 300 sqm, the 24x7 import handling facility is located at GHAC terminal premises. The facility is well equipped with world-class security screening and state-of-the-art cargo handling systems. It has dedicated officials and custom officers to ensure a seamless process, custom clearance, and quicker turnaround of courier import consignments.

Speaking on this achievement Mr Pradeep Panicker, CEO, GHAC said, "We drive our business with an unwavering commitment to growth and excellence. This new facility is a testament to our belief in providing world-class logistic solutions to our customers. It will not only accelerate and improve our services but will drive our cargo business forward with a competitive edge in the industry and enhance air cargo services globally."

GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo (GHAC) currently handles over 120 MT per month of export courier. With the addition of the new facility, it is expected to handle a larger volume of cargo, reaching 150 MT per month of import courier. This will help the shipment of key commodities such as documents,

readymade garments, samples, household goods, and engineering goods that can be imported in large volumes across the region.

Key Features of International Express Cargo Terminal:

- Capabilities to handle large-scale International Courier shipments
- Dedicated truck docks, storage and advanced security screening
- Customs Express Cargo Clearance System (ECCS) enabled
- Excellent air connectivity to over 8 global hubs and 64 destinations.
- Continuous Customs clearance available around the clock
- Expert Service and handling provided by specialist teams

GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo offers a flying time of less than four hours to all Middle East and South East Asian Cities. It boasts exclusive Code - F Freighter Bays adjacent to the Terminal

for expedient transfer of goods between Terminal and Aircraft. Additionally, the presence of International Express & Courier Terminal (IECT) ensures a seamless processing of courier shipments. These features make GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo the preferred choice for many industries including automobile, pharma, FMCG, agri-based exporters.

The terminal also has a unique integrated 'Cargo Village', on-site regulators, warehousing and cargo trade offices backed by a very strong Road Feeder Service across South-Central India. It is also one of the preferred gateways for pharmaceutical logistics across India and abroad. A major highlight of the Hyderabad Airport Cargo facility is the unique 'Pharma Zone', a large multi-ULD Cool Dolly, which makes it one of India's largest centres for the handling of temperature-sensitive cargo up to -20 degree C. The terminal also offers one of India's largest fleets of modern temp-controlled Cool Containers viz. Cool Dolly, Envirotainer, VaQtac to name a few. GMR Hyderabad Air cargo is World Health Organization Good Distribution Practices (GDP) certified and is accredited under the IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations Program (ISAGO).

DHL Express opens newly expanded global hub in Hong Kong

DHL Express, the world's leading international express service provider, has launched its state-of-the-art, expanded Central Asia Hub (CAH) in Hong Kong, amid fast-growing global trade in recent years. To date, the total investment for CAH has reached EUR 562 million since its establishment in 2004. This emphasizes DHL's firm belief in the growth opportunities in Asia Pacific, and commitment to developing Hong Kong as an international aviation hub.

Commitment to facilitate trade growth between Asia and the rest of the world

"We believe that global trade matters, and it's here to stay. We have invested more than EUR1.8 billion into our three global hubs, demonstrating our commitment to support our customers' growth as they expand globally," said John Pearson, CEO, DHL Express. "CAH is important to our customers in Asia and globally, as it handles close to 20% of DHL Express global shipment volume. While global trade is normalizing following a pandemic boom, our investments today will improve our global and regional network, putting us in an excellent place when global trade recovers."

"Asia is home to some of the fastest growing



markets in the world. Since it was established in 2004, we have seen a continued increase in air cargo demand driven by trade between Asia and other regions, and cross-border e-commerce. Even as global trade normalizes after the pandemic, we have seen over 30 percent growth in throughput between Asia and other continents in the first three quarters of 2023 when compared with the same period in 2019, far exceeding the pre-Covid level," said Ken Lee, CEO for Asia Pacific, DHL Express. "Additionally, the strategic location of the Hub in Hong Kong opens doors to many opportunities for our customers in this region. We are confident that

the expanded CAH will foster interconnectivity and underpin Asia's status as a powerhouse of global growth."

Located strategically in the heart of Asia, the CAH serves as a unique gateway to one of the fastest-growing regions in the world. DHL Express initiated the expansion of this facility to complement the launch of the Hong Kong International Airport's three-runway system, set to be completed by 2024. The expanded CAH will further underscore Hong Kong's role as an aviation center as it facilitates global trade flow and commerce.

AirAsia X extends ULD management partnership with Unilode until 2027

Unilode Aviation Solutions, the market leader in outsourced unit load device (ULD) management, repair and digital services, and AirAsia X, one of the world's leading medium- to long-haul airlines, extend their full-service ULD management partnership until 2027.

AirAsia X has been a Unilode ULD management customer since 2009 and the partnership has been renewed twice in the past 14 years. Unilode supplies a digitised ULD fleet to AirAsia X for its current fleet of 14 Airbus A330 aircraft. AirAsia X will acquire three more widebody aircraft by the end of this year and plans to grow further over the next few years. AirAsia X currently flies to 19 destinations and the ULD repairs are carried out in Unilode's global MRO network, mainly located in the Asia-Pacific region, to reduce turnaround times and increase asset availability.

Captain Suresh Bangah, Chief Operating Officer, AirAsia X, said: "We are pleased to



continue working with Unilode, which offers full-service ULD management solutions and customer-centric approach to AirAsia X since 2009. Unilode's commitment to continuously invest in our partnership and support our operations, particularly during the most difficult period of the pandemic, has proven that Unilode continues to be the right strategic partner going

forward for this specialist function. Unilode has flexibly adapted to our changes in ULD types and met our ongoing ad-hoc demands to enable AAX to increase cargo revenues amongst other key deliverables. We are very pleased to continue our successful partnership with Unilode for the years ahead."

Ross Marino, Unilode Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are thrilled with the third renewal of our ULD management partnership with AirAsia X, one of Unilode's most loyal customers. This renewal underscores the long-term value that Unilode's ULD solutions deliver to its airline partners. Unilode has a strong presence and customer base in the Asia-Pacific region, and we will continue to strengthen our position in this region with new customers and MRO expansion in the coming months. We are committed to continuing to support AirAsia X on its growth journey and are confident that our partnership will continue to deliver great value to both parties."

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.

Vaayu to buy stake in Pradhaan Air Express



Ras Al Khaimah-based Vaayu Group has signed an agreement to be a strategic investor in New Delhi-based Pradhaan Air Express. The agreement was announced on the sidelines of the Dubai Airshow 2023. It not only opens up business opportunities in the Middle East for Pradhaan Air Express, the agreement has revealed Vaayu's commitment in reinforcing the business, says an official release from Vaayu. "The world's first A320P2F aircraft, which is operated by Pradhaan Air Express, is on show at the Dubai Airshow. Pradhaan leased this aircraft from Vaayu last year, and has been in commercial service since October 2022."

Emad Al Monayea, Chairman and President, Vaayu Group says: "Vaayu's vision is to become a significant player in the air cargo space in the years to come. This move with Pradhaan is quite strategic considering the opportunities it presents between the two regions. We are quite hopeful that we are flying in the right direction." Vaayu plans to expand its footprint in the air cargo space with the addition of two more A320P2Fs by 2024, which will enhance capacity and improve its network, the release added.

Nipun Anand, Founder and CEO, Pradhaan Air Express says: "We are pleased with the fact that Vaayu has joined us since they bring with them a great record in the aviation sector. Their invaluable expertise and their single-minded plans to increase cargo capacity bodes well for us. The Airbus range of freighter aircraft is impressive and will add immense value to Pradhaan's plans." Pradhaan Air Express plans to add two aircraft every year starting from 2024, the release added.

ATLAS AIR TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW BOEING 777 FREIGHTER



Atlas Air, Inc, a subsidiary of Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc announced it has taken delivery of a Boeing 777 Freighter, which it will operate on behalf of its customer MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company SA, as part of a previously announced long-term ACMI (aircraft, crew, maintenance, insurance) agreement.

This is the third of four Boeing 777 Freighters that Atlas Air will operate for MSC, which will complement the existing weekly service and add an additional route from Hong Kong (HKG) to Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW). The fourth aircraft is expected to be delivered later this year.

"The delivery of this new 777 Freighter is a proud moment for Atlas and testament to our long-term strategic partnership with MSC," said Richard Broekman, Chief Commercial Officer and Head of Sustainability,

Atlas Air Worldwide. "We are proud to support the ongoing expansion of MSC's air cargo solution by providing additional speed, flexibility and reliability to their existing network. We look forward to this third 777 Freighter entering into service for MSC, and will welcome the arrival of the fourth later this year."

"This latest 777 Freighter delivery accounts for a strategic addition to our MSC Air Cargo fleet, enabling us to address the market's constantly changing demands and reinforcing our commitment to enhancing trade connections for our clients. We are driven by innovation and bound to keeping up with digital transformation while offering air freight of top-quality services worldwide," said Jannie Davel, Senior Vice President, Air Cargo, MSC.

Emirates SkyCargo Celebrates over 30 Years of Connecting to Southeast Asia at Air Cargo Southeast Asia

As the air cargo industry gathers in Singapore at Air Cargo Southeast Asia, Emirates SkyCargo reflects on over 30 years of connecting to the region, developing trade flows and connecting manufacturers, traders and exporters with businesses all over the world.

"Markets in Southeast Asia were amongst the early additions to the Emirates network, back when we were a young airline, as we saw the opportunities to create reciprocal business opportunities for customers in the region with global economies. Since then, we've gone from strength to strength," said Ravishankar Mirle, Vice President Cargo Commercial, Emirates SkyCargo - Far East and Australasia.

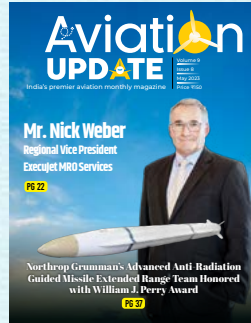
He added: "The region is currently undergoing a renaissance, as global supply chains are poised for change with manufacturers, distributors and suppliers aiming to diversify their production hubs. Asia is well positioned with Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia offering manufacturing capability and

attractive investment incentives. Conferences such as Air Cargo Southeast Asia are essential for the logistics ecosystem to connect, share insight and strengthen relationships to ensure a streamlined global supply chain."

Emirates SkyCargo first began operations to Southeast Asia on June 17, 1990 with direct flights between Dubai and three destinations: Singapore, Bangkok and Manila. Over the next three decades, the airline steadily scaled operations, increasing capacity, gateways, and frequencies to better serve local and global customers and strengthening trade lanes between East and West. Now, in 2023, Emirates SkyCargo operates 5 freighters and 176 passenger planes into 11 destinations across the region every week. With over 140 destinations on its vast global network, Emirates SkyCargo facilitates the quick and efficient transportation of goods, supporting Asian businesses export their goods to all corners of the world.

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