

Aviation UPDATE

Volume 10

Issue 4

January 2024

Price ₹200



Mr. Atul Rane

BrahMos

PG 34



Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri

Ananth Technologies

PG 26



Mr. JS Gavankar

Safran India

PG 20



Mr. Yogesh Garg

De Havilland Aircraft

PG 22

TOP INFLUENCERS IN AEROSPACE & DEFENSE



Mr. Shrenik Ghodawat

Star Air

PG 24



Dr. Abhay Anant Pashilkar

CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories

PG 28



Mr. Utpal Baruah

Adani Airports

PG 30



Mr. Sharad Agarwal

AIESL

PG 32

SI AINDIA
An association for space industry

DEFSAT

CONFERENCE & EXPO

7 - 9 February 2024 | Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi



BUILDING DEFENCE SPACE CAPABILITIES FOR THE FUTURE

www.defsatindia.com

Bombardier Announces Firm Order for 12 Challenger 3500 Jets



Page 13



Satcom Direct Confirms SD Plane Simple® Ka-band Terminal is DO-160 Certified

Page 15



South Korea selects the Embraer C-390 Millennium

Page 38



Hon'ble PM inaugurates New Integrated Terminal Building of Surat International Airport

Page 9



Vietnam Airlines & Turkish Airlines expand cooperation on air cargo transportation

Page 41

PIF Invests in Saudia Technic to establish a national MRO champion in the aviation sector



Page 48



SIA Engineering Company unit signs Lease Agreement for Hangar Facilities in Subang, Malaysia

Page 50

Aviation UPDATE

VOL : 10 | ISSUE : 4 | JAN 2024

Editor-in-Chief ♦ B. Kartikeya

EDITORIAL

Contributing Editor ♦ Dr. (Hon) M R K Menon

Special Editor ♦ Naheda Imtiyaz

Correspondent ♦ B. Martin

CREATIVE HEAD ♦ Swati Sharma (Design Garage)

PHOTOGRAPHER ♦ Krishanth

MARKETING

marketing@futureaviation.in

Manager, Marketing ♦ Rohith Reddy

SUBSCRIPTION

Asst.Manager, Subscription ♦ Sony

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Sr.Manager ♦ Karunandhi

Asst.Manager ♦ Md. Wajid Ali

Editorial & Advertising Offices

AVIATION UPDATE

Villa No :105, Nakshatra Society, Siddanthi, Shamshabad, Hyderabad, Telangana 501218

Subscription/ Circulation

Annual Subscription: 2400 INR – 12 Issues

Letter to editor Kartikeya@futureaviation.in

For Advertising details contact

Marketing@futureaviation.in

All information in Aviation Update information is derived from sources, which we consider reliable and a sincere effort is made to report accurate information. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. The publisher regrets that he cannot accept liability for errors and omissions contained in this publication, however caused. Similarly, opinions/ views expressed by third parties in abstract and/or in interviews are not necessarily shared by Aviation Update. However, we wish to advise our readers that one or more recognized authorities may hold different views than those reported. Material used in this publication is intended for information purpose only. Readers are advised to seek specific advice before acting on information contained in this publication which is provided for general use and may not be appropriate for the readers' particular circumstances. Contents of this publication are copyright.

No part of Aviation Update or any part of the contents thereof may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the permission of the publication in writing. The same rule applies when there is a copyright or the article is taken from another publication. An exemption is hereby granted for the extracts used for the purpose of fair review, provided two copies of the same publication are sent to us for our records. Publications reproducing material either in part or in whole, without permission could face legal action. The publisher assumes no responsibility for returning any material solicited or unsolicited nor is he responsible for material lost or damaged. This publication is not meant to be an endorsement of any specific product or services offered. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw, amend or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the Indian and International Advertisements Code. The publisher will not be liable for any damage or loss caused by delayed publication.

Printed at: Chennai offset printers : 19/1 & 21/2 Kitabath Khan Bhadur Street, Elliess Road, Mount Road, Chennai – 600 002

Aviation Update is published by - B.Kartikeya No:27/11,V.O.C.Street,T.Nagar, Chennai -600 017



B. KARTIKEYA

With all my happiness and joy I wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year 2023.

Being the New Year I take great pleasure in introducing Dr. (Hon).M.R.K Menon an acknowledged Expert in the field of Aerospace Education. He has significant training and experience in the field of Magazine Publishing from New York and will prove to be a great asset our growing organization.

Moving onto the contents, quick updates kicks off with a positive vibe with the news concerning Indian Civil aviation. I once again see a lot of leadership changes happening in the world of Aviation. You can catch more update on the same in the Business Aviation & Defense and Military Section. This month, you have many a reasons to keep your fingers busy flipping past the pages. Don't forget to check air cargo.

We brought you this time the theme of Top Influencers in Aerospace & Defense on our 10th Anniversary Year. This will be a special edition of Aviation Update. Hope you all will enjoy reading the top influencers stories. I sincerely take this opportunity to thank each and every individual who supported for this issue.

Watch out for us at Wings India 2024 as we would always love to interact with you amazing people. Don't hesitate to approach us for promotional activities after Wings India. We appreciate the support & admiration you gave to Aviation Update in 2023 and we anticipate the same level of trust and enthusiasm towards our magazine in 2024. We hope we are able to raise the bar and reach new heights in 2024.

With that, I take your leave this month with my favourite quote – Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish .More when we meet again in our next issue.

Till then, stay safe, God bless.

Kartikeya

IndiGo strengthens connectivity to Thailand with over 25% increase in weekly flights



IndiGo, India's preferred carrier, is thrilled to announce the addition of flights between Mumbai and Phuket and the resumption of operations between Bengaluru and Phuket. The addition of these flights will further enhance connectivity between India and Thailand. Given the immense popularity of Thailand as a preferred destination among Indians, IndiGo is introducing additional flights between Mumbai-Phuket, w.e.f. January 05, 2024, and between Bengaluru-Phuket, w.e.f. February 28, 2024.

These new direct flights will provide an extensive range of travel options for both leisure and business travellers alike. These flights from Mumbai and Bengaluru will operate 6 days a week to Phuket. This expansion is strategically timed to meet the travel demands of customers who wish to travel abroad during the year-end holidays.

Benefiting from visa-free entry to Thailand, IndiGo is increasing its connectivity to better serve customers, in line with its mission of 'giving wings to the nation'—connecting people and aspirations. IndiGo will now operate 56 weekly flights from 5 airports in India to Thailand including the new additions. Travellers will also have the option of connecting further across IndiGo's 117 strong destination network across India and the globe.

Mr. Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales, IndiGo said, "We are thrilled to announce the addition of new flights

connecting India to Thailand, reinforcing our commitment to increasing global connectivity from India. Thailand has always been amongst the sought-after destinations known for its tropical beaches, shopping, entertainment, and ornate temples. With the addition of these flights, IndiGo will connect India to Thailand 56 times a week; taking our weekly flights between Mumbai and Phuket to 13 and Bengaluru and Phuket to 6. IndiGo remains committed to providing affordable, on-time, courteous, and hassle-free travel experiences across an extensive network for our valued customers."

IndiGo creates history Becomes first Indian airline to welcome 100 million passengers a year



IndiGo, India's preferred carrier has created history by becoming the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a single calendar year. With this achievement, it has joined a select club of global carriers to operate on such scale. This development further cements IndiGo's standing among the 10 largest airlines in the world by passenger traffic.

IndiGo, which celebrated its 17th anniversary this year has also become one of the fastest airlines to reach the 100 million passenger figure. In CY 2022, the airline welcomed 78 million passengers on board (slightly above pre-Covid19 levels). The new milestone represents a 22% increase in passenger

traffic for 2023. IndiGo recently achieved another first for India, by becoming the first airline to operate more than 2,000 flights a day. Today, IndiGo operates to 118 destinations, including 32 international destinations.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pieter Elbers, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo said, "We are incredibly delighted to achieve this historic milestone, welcoming aboard 100 million passengers in a year. This landmark figure is the result of the love and trust shown by our customers and the hard work and passion of all IndiGo colleagues. This milestone is also a validation of our strategy which has been executed so diligently. At IndiGo, we are proud to give wings to the nation, by connecting people and aspirations for the past 17 years, making air travel accessible for hundreds of millions of Indians."

In 2022, IndiGo embarked on growth strategy under 3 strategic pillars – 'Reassure, Develop, and Create' to support its growth plans, as it aims to double in size and scale by the end of this decade. To fuel these ambitions, the airline placed a historic order of 500 new aircraft with Airbus. This order is in addition to the 450+ aircraft orders that IndiGo had placed earlier.

VISTARA INAUGURATES NON-STOP FLIGHTS BETWEEN MUMBAI AND DOHA; BOLSTERS PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture between the Tata group and Singapore Airlines, inaugurated direct 4x weekly flights between Mumbai and Doha. The inaugural flight, operated on Vistara's A321neo aircraft, commenced from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, at 18:45



Hours (IST) on 15 December 2023 and arrived at Hamad International Airport, Doha, at 20:30 Hours (local time zone). With a consistent surge in demand for travel between India and the Middle East, Vistara has been focussing on expanding its presence in the region. The airline already offers direct connectivity to five destinations in the region, namely Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Dubai, Jeddah and Muscat.

Mr. Vinod Kannan, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara, said, “Based on the remarkable response to Vistara’s Middle Eastern routes, we are confident that the launch of operations to Doha will further strengthen our footprint in the region. Doha – an essential commercial hub and home to a large Indian diaspora – is Vistara’s 50th destination and the sixth in the middle east. We are excited to bring the Best Airline in India and Southern Asia to Doha with direct connectivity from Mumbai. We firmly believe that Vistara’s widely appreciated product and globally awarded service make for just the right combination to cater to the market requirements and customers’ demand.”

Ms Sujata Suri, Senior Vice President, Finance and Procurement at Hamad International Airport said: “We are pleased to announce our new partnership with Vistara, linking Doha to Mumbai—a strategic collaboration that reinforces Hamad International Airport’s commitment to expanding connectivity and offering passengers unparalleled travel experiences. As Doha becomes Vistara’s 50th destination, this collaboration signifies a shared commitment to excellence and marks a milestone of its own for Hamad

International Airport, underlining our dedication to facilitating seamless and enriching journeys for travellers around the world.»

AIR INDIA ADOPTS AUTOMATED AIR-CRAFT CLEANING TO ENHANCE EFFICIENCY, BOOST GREEN DRIVE



Air India, India’s leading global airline, has introduced an environment-friendly, automated aircraft exterior washing and cleaning system that will further boost the airline’s operational efficiency through the adoption of innovative technology.

The device ‘Aerowash’ is equipped with multiple modern features, like robotic micro-fibre brush drum for cleaning and uses a nearly waterless process which enhances efficiencies in functioning considerably while making it more sustainable. While for a narrow-body aircraft, the volume of clean water saved in a year would be up to 30,000 litres per aircraft, as much as 75,000 litres of similar water would be saved for cleaning of one wide-body aircraft per year. With fleet augmentation going on in full swing in Air India, the total quantity of clean water likely to be saved in future is humongous.

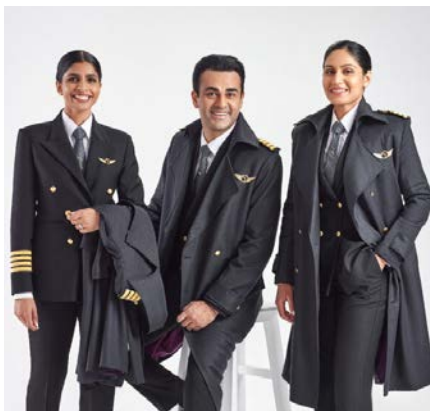
“The modern system of cleaning reinforces our dedication to efficiency, sustainability, and pioneering advancements at par with industry-best practices. The device has ensured not only better maintenance of our aircraft

but will also contribute to a greener environment in sync with the Tata group’s commitment towards more sustainable ways of doing business.”, said, S.K. Dash, Chief Technical Officer, Air India.

Aircraft cleaning is a critical aspect of maintenance and relies on time-consuming, resourceintensive and manual engagement. However, automated cleaning is not only time-efficient and sustainable, but it also reduces aerodynamic drag caused due to the accumulation of dirt, dust or grime, ultimately reducing the aircraft weight. This results in enhanced fuel efficiency in the long run while bringing down carbon footprint. This also safeguards against structural damage and prevents corrosion resulting in extending the lifespan of the aircraft too. The superior quality of cleaning will not only enhance the appearance of the aircraft but also ensure a better cleaning by covering even critical areas of the aircraft like the crown, elevator or rudder.

AIR INDIA UNVEILS FASHION-FORWARD CREW UNIFORMS TO MARK THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW ERA IN IN-FLIGHT COUTURE

Air India, India’s leading global airline unveiled its much anticipated, brand-new collection of uniforms for cabin and cockpit crew, marking the arrival of a new age of inflight couture. Crafted by Indian celebrity couturier, Manish Malhotra, in his Mumbai atelier, the new uniforms feature an array of colours and timeless designs. The collection mirrors a rare, harmonious blend of rich Indian heritage and aesthetics with 21st-century style, elegance, and comfort. The new uniforms will be introduced in a phased manner over the next few months, starting with the entry of



service of Air India's first Airbus A350. Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India, said: "Air India's crew uniforms are amongst the world's most storied in aviation history, and we firmly believe that Manish Malhotra's innovative ensemble will script an exciting new chapter for Air India's future narrative. It perfectly captures the essence of our new identity, service principles, and our pursuit of setting new benchmarks in global aviation."

Manish Malhotra said: "I am honored to have been given the opportunity to design the uniforms for Air India. It is a privilege to be able to contribute to the national flag-bearer and showcase the elegance and charm of Indian fashion. My aim was to create uniforms that capture the essence of India's diverse culture and traditions while also embodying a modern and sophisticated look. By incorporating quintessential hues that are symbolic to India, I hope that these uniforms not only make the crew feel proud but also leave a lasting impression on the guests, representing the warmth and hospitality that India is known for."

"Air India has been in the world's spotlight for some time. We are confident that our new crew uniforms will rise to the heightened expectations, distinctly making a statement that defines the very best of Indian heritage and hospitality. Travellers across continents will be able to instantly recognise these uniforms as the new Air India," Campbell Wilson said.

Air India Receives India's First Airbus A350 Airbus Sporting New Brand Livery



Air India welcomed the first of 20 Airbus A350-900 aircraft, registered VT-JRA, in the airline's bold new livery, marking a turning point in its ongoing transformation story. The aircraft arrived at New Delhi at 13:46 Hrs (local time) today from the Airbus facility in Toulouse, France. The delivery flight, operated using a special call sign A1350, was welcomed by Air India representatives. Air India's Senior Commander Capt. Monika Batra Vaidya, who is among the first few Indian pilots to be trained on A350, was on board as an observer. Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India, said: "This moment marks a red-letter day for all of us at Air India. The A350 is not just metal and engines; it's the flying embodiment of the relentless efforts of all Air India employees towards our airline's continuing transformation and of our commitment to setting new benchmarks. It is also, in many ways, a declaration of Indian aviation's resurgence on the world stage."

"As a symbol of the new age of flying, the A350 promises a world-class, long-haul travel experience on our non-stop routes, providing an unparalleled level of comfort. Its excellent flight economics and state-of-the-art technology underscore our dedication to commercially successful operations and to achieving our sustainability goals," Wilson added. Air India's A350 will enter commercial service in January 2024, initially operating domestically for crew

familiarisation, followed by longer-haul flying to destinations across continents. The schedule of commercial operations with the A350 will be announced in the coming weeks.

Akasa Air commences operations from Port Blair

Akasa Air, India's fastest-growing airline commences operations from Port Blair, the capital of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, operating daily through flights between Bengaluru and Port Blair via Chennai, with no change of aircraft required. The inaugural flight on 15 December 2023 departed Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair at 10:35 am arriving at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru at 14:50hrs, with a stop at Chennai International Airport in Chennai at 13:00hrs. These strategically planned routes will enhance connectivity between the tourist hub and two major routes

Travel demand to Andaman and Nicobar Islands has seen major uptick in the past decade. With commencement of flights, Akasa Air will offer enhanced accessibility and affordable connectivity to the islands, in line with the government's efforts to bolster trade and tourism in the region.

Commenting on the announcement, Praveen Iyer, Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer, Akasa Air, said, "Port Blair serves as a gateway to pristine islands that attract a growing number of vacationers every year, and we are pleased to fortify connectivity to the region with daily flights from Chennai and Bengaluru. This addition to our network is a testimony of our commitment to strengthening the country's transportation system and providing increased accessibility for all Indians. As we continue expanding our network, we continue to strive to deliver affordable and seamless flying experiences to our passengers"

AAI & GOVT. OF GUJARAT SIGNS MOU FOR DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS AIRPORTS



Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Government of Gujarat have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for development of airports in the state of Gujarat at Gandhinagar in the presence of Sh. Bhupendrabhai Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat on 6th Dec 2023. The MoU is a part of Collaborative efforts to facilitate the expansion of tourism and business opportunities in the state as Airport infrastructure plays vital role for enhanced connectivity and economic development of the State of Gujarat as a part of 'The Vibrant Gujarat 2024'.

The MoU has been signed by NV Subbarayudu, Executive Director (SIU) on behalf of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Parulben Mansata, CEO, Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited (GUJSAIL). The MoU was exchanged between Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat and Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, AAI. The event was attended by senior Govt. officials from Govt of Gujarat. Govt. of Gujarat will provide required land for development and expansion of the airports and AAI will undertake development of the identified airports based on the techno-economic feasibility, in phase wise manner.

Foundation Stone for New Terminal Building at Rajahmundry Airport to be laid on 10th December

Rajahmundry, in the state of Andhra Pradesh, will soon get enhanced air travel facilities and modern amenities. The foundation stone for a new Terminal Building will be laid on 10th December, 2023 by Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, in the presence of Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for Civil Aviation; Road Transport and Highways, among other dignitaries.

Rajahmundry is one of the dynamic cities of India and is the 'Cultural Capital of Andhra Pradesh'. The city in Andhra Pradesh holds significant potential for air travel due to its rich cultural heritage, trade & tourist attractions. The development of air travel infrastructure can greatly enhance its connectivity & accessibility.

Considering the rapid growth of passenger traffic and saturation of the existing Terminal building at the Airport, expansion of Terminal building is planned for an additional area of 17,029 sqm. The Rajahmundry Airport expansion will be undertaken at a cost of Rs.350 Crore. After the expansion the total area of the Terminal Building will be 21,094 sqm., capable of serving 2100 passengers during peak hours and 30 lakh passengers annually. Rajahmundry is currently connected to three cities i.e. Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru and handles 126 flight movements per week.

The proposed expansion of the airport will have passenger facilities like 28 check-in-counters, four conveyor belts in arrival (conversion of Existing terminal into arrival), eight X-Bis machines, three aerobridges and adequate number of F&B and Retail outlets. Facilities for Divyangjans have also been incorporated in the New Terminal Building as per Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan norms. The city side area of the airport will also be upgraded for parking of 600 (approx) cars.

This proposed building is designed to be energy efficient as enough provisions have been made for flow of natural light. Rajahmundry's rich heritage and cultural offerings coupled with a new Terminal building will make it a popular destination for tourists seeking an authentic Indian experience. The newly upgraded terminal building of the airport will play an important role in the all-round development of the state. This will improve air connectivity and the travellers coming here will get the benefit of improved passenger facilities. This will also provide a new impetus to the industry and economy of the region.



HON'BLE PM INAUGURATES NEW INTEGRATED TERMINAL BUILDING OF SURAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building of Surat International Airport in the august presence of Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujrat, Smt Darshna Jardosh, Union Minister of State for Textiles & Railways and Shri C R Patil, MP, Navsari. The new terminal will provide seamless infrastructure push for one of the most dynamic cities of India known for its booming Textile industry. Surat is also globally well renowned for its Cutting and polishing of diamonds.

Surat Airport expansion was completed at a cost of Rs. 353 Crore. The New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) with an area of 25,520 sqm is equipped to serve 1200 Domestic passengers and 600 International passengers during peak hours and 35 lakhs annually. Passenger facilities like - 20 check-in-counters, five conveyor belts and 500 car parking slots for passenger comfort have been provided in the NITB of Surat.

Speaking on this occasion, Hon'ble Prime Minister said, "the new integrated terminal building in Surat marks a significant leap in the city's infrastructure development. This state-of-the-art facility will not only enhance the travel experience but also boost economic growth, tourism and connectivity".

Bengaluru's Terminal 2 earns UNESCO's recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports'

Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (BLR Airport) has been honoured with prestigious accolades at the Prix Versailles 2023. The airport's Terminal 2 (T2) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the coveted 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023.'

The World Judges Panel for the Prix Versailles 2023, chaired by Elie Saab (renowned fashion designer), revealed the latest architectural projects to win a World Title. BLR Airport is the only Indian airport to receive this esteemed recognition, highlighting the airport's commitment to exceptional design and architecture on a global scale. This remarkable achievement positions BLR Airport amongst the top airports globally.

The Prix Versailles, established in 2015, focuses on "intelligent sustainability" as a cultural driver, acknowledging innovation, creativity, reflection of local heritage, ecological efficiency, and values of social interaction.

T2, also known as the "Terminal in a Garden," was inaugurated on November 11, 2022. Encompassing 255,661 square meters, the terminal is built upon four foundational pillars: technological leadership, a terminal in a garden, environmental and ecological stewardship, and a celebration of Karnataka's rich heritage and culture. Embraced in engineered bamboo, the terminal's interiors offer a contemporary yet classic ambiance. The terminal also features a spacious indoor garden with rammed-earth walls and waterfalls, as well as hanging planted bells, adding to the terminal's unique aesthetic.

Hari Marar, MD & CEO of Bangalore International Airport Ltd, said, "The nomination of Terminal 2 for the 2023 Prix Versailles Award is a moment of immense pride, and we are pleased to see the terminal receiving the recognition it deserves. T2, with its unique blend of art and technology, serves as a distinctive gateway, leaving a lasting impression on global travellers and offering a glimpse of the rich offerings of our state and country."

In Phase 1, T2 is designed to accommodate 25 million passengers per annum (MPPA), aligning with its vision of blending functionality with aesthetic appeal. T2 aims to be a visual delight to all passengers with its insightfully curated art and décor elements that are part of its recently launched Art Programme that promises to be awe-inspiring making passengers' journey through the terminal an unforgettable experience. The sustainable design of T2, the world's largest terminal pre-certified with a Platinum LEED rating by the US Green Building Council before operational commencement, reflects the airport's commitment to environmental responsibility. Additionally, it has garnered the prestigious Platinum certification under the IGBC Green New Building rating system.



**Aviation Update
Contributing Editor
Dr. (Hon) M R K Menon
in conversation with**

**Mr. Satyan Nayar
Secretary General
Association of Private Airport Operators (APAO)**

Q What is your role as Secretary General of the Association of Private Airport Operators in India?

A As Secretary General of the Association of Private Airport Operators (APAO), my primary role/ responsibility is to ensure that the Association represents the interests of its member airport operators with the prime objective of promoting the growth and development of the privatised major airports to truly world class standards, to promote and share knowledge of efficient airport operations and maintenance, to ensure the overall growth and developmen of major private airports, to enhance their contribution to the Indian Aviation Sector and the Indian economy. The role also involves to actively interact with the various Ministries /Government Bodies including the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), and with Industry Associations in India and globally to participate and contribute in all discussions and decisions pertaining to the development of the Indian Civil Aviation Sector in general and with primary focus on the Private Airports of India. It is also important for APAO to promote to the global aviation markets the success and achievements of its member airports in having developed world class airport infrastructure and service quality levels.

Q Which are the Private Airports on India and how are they different from the Airports under the AAI?

A At present there are 14 airports operating under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in the country. These are Sardar Vallabhbai Patel International Airport (Ahmedabad), Kempegowda International Airport (Bangalore), Cochin International Airport (Cochin), Indira Gandhi

International Airport (Delhi), Manohar International Airport (Goa), Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (Hyderabad), Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (Lucknow), Mangaluru International Airport (Mangaluru), Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Mumbai), Jaipur International Airport (Jaipur), Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (Guwahati), Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (Thiruvananthapuram), Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport (Durgapur), Kannur International Airport (Kannur).

Currently there are two PPP greenfield airports that are being developed, which are the Navi Mumbai International Airport (Mumbai) and the Noida International Airport (at Jewar, UP). These two Airports are being developed by Adani Airports and Zurich International Airport respectively and these airports would serve as the second airport at Mumbai and Delhi respectively.

PPP airports are different from the AAI airports for their professional management, utilising private sector expertise for achieving better operational efficiencies, and for bringing in private equity funding/ investments. Airport projects are highly capital intensive with long gestation periods. Substantial investments are therefore needed to build world class airport infrastructure and facilities to cater to the increasing air passenger traffic and air cargo growth.

The PPP model has immensely helped create world class airports in India and also to deliver efficient and superior service quality levels to passengers and to all the other stakeholders operating in a PPP airport.

Q What are some of the important benefits from the privatization of Airports in India?

A 1. Since 2006, significant private investments have been made by Indian PPP Airports in building world class airport infrastructure, while delivering the highest international service quality standards. PPP airports have deployed over INR 55,000 crore directly as capital expenditure till 2022-23. In the

next 5-7 years an additional INR 30-35,000 crore is envisaged to be invested in developing new airports, and for the upgradation and modernization of existing airports in the country.

2. Privatization of Airports have significantly helped AAI in enhancing its revenues/ profits and thereby being able to focus on developing airports and Air Navigation infrastructure in Tier-2, Tier-3 cities, and in under served places of the country. Revenues received by AAI from the PPP airports has also enabled AAI to upgrade and modernize many of their existing airports to international standards.

Total Revenue share received by AAI just from DIAL (Delhi Airport) & MIAL (Mumbai Airport) is approx. INR 34,000 crore for the period FY 2006-07 to FY 2022-23.

3. PPP Airports have enabled Airlines to achieve greater efficiencies and better streamlined operations with quicker turnaround leading to substantial reduction in fuel consumption and costs. Besides, it has helped the airlines in higher aircraft utilization and substantial improvements in their On Time Performance (OTP), thereby ensuring better passenger satisfaction.

4. As per the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) the economic impact studies undertaken by them earlier on couple of PPP airports, it has revealed that the airports provide huge direct, indirect, and induced employment opportunities and substantial economic contributions to both the national and state GDP's.

5. Airport privatization in India has helped to adopt the global best practices in airport operations, service quality standards, and obtain best human talent to foster sustainable competitive advantage and improvised management of resources.

6. Privatization brought the approach of increased emphasis on revenue enhancement, commercial and economic development, adoption of advanced technologies, focus on passenger facilities and seamless travel, operational efficiencies for all stakeholders at the airport, enhancing service quality standards, understanding the importance of economic viability of airports etc.

Q Do you see more Private Airports coming up in the near future?

A As per the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), 25 existing AAI airports namely, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Trichy, Indore, Raipur, Calicut, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Patna, Madurai, Surat, Ranchi, Jodhpur, Chennai, Vijayawada, Vadodara, Bhopal, Tirupati, Hubli, Imphal, Agartala, Udaipur, Dehradun and Rajahmundry have been earmarked for leasing over the years 2022 to 2025. Further the annual passenger traffic

is expected to increase three-fold to approx. 425 million by 2030 from the current 145 million. To cater to this increasing passenger traffic, development of new greenfield airports, expansion and modernization of existing brownfield airports/ terminals, building new terminals and runways, strengthening of existing runways etc. will be needed in the country. This will require huge capital investments and would need to be borne largely by the private airport developers as AAI alone would be unable to bring in such large investments.

Q What employment opportunities can the youth expect from the Private Sector Airports?

A There are a lot of employment opportunities for youths at airports in various departments such as Airport Operations, Commercial Business, Public Relations, IT, HR, Legal, Corporate Communications, Cargo business operations, Ground Handling, F&B and Retail business, Duty-free business, Environmental issues, City side real estate development & landscaping, Airport Security, Customer Relations, etc.

Q Is there any significant trend for Airports all over the World?

A The trend that has been adopted by airports in India and globally is the adoption of advanced technologies to address operational challenges and to provide a seamless passenger experience.

Q Is an MBA in Airport, Airline or Aviation Management a good qualification for the youth to have?

A Yes, an MBA in Airport, Airline or Aviation Management is a very useful qualification, as it provides specialized knowledge on the aviation sector. It covers the various domain such as ground handling, customer care, cargo operations, aviation safety, fleet management, fueling management, aviation security and other issues related to the aviation industry. It provides knowledge regarding the modern methods and tools which are used in the aviation industry.

Leadership Profile : Mr. Satyan Nayar is the Secretary General of Association of Private Airport Operators (APAO), an association representing the interest of all the major PPP Airports in India. Appointed in 2009, Mr. Nayar is responsible for driving and executing the strategic plan of the association and overseeing a team at the Secretariat based in New Delhi. He is also responsible for promoting APAO's views to ensure the successful implementation of the organisation's mandate and objectives for the growth and development of the privatised major airports in India to world class standards. His role is also to support the Governing Body to ensure that it formulates and regularly reviews the Association's vision, mission and strategic objectives. He has over 40 years of business development, analytical, strategic leadership, influencing and diplomacy experience.

Gogo Business Aviation's 5G Program Achieves Key Milestones



Gogo Business Aviation's 5G program continues to gain momentum passing another critical milestone with the new AVANCE LX5 receiving Supplemental Type Certification (STC) and Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"Receiving formal approval from the FAA to produce and manufacture the AVANCE LX5 Line Replaceable Unit (LRU) reaffirms our commitment to Gogo 5G as we march toward our launch date," said Sergio Aguirre, president of Gogo. "We built LX5 on the AVANCE platform as a smaller, single-box option to make the installation of Gogo 5G even easier for customers."

The first-article STC for the onboard 5G system was completed by Duncan Aviation's Engineering & Certifications Services team on a Citation Excel aircraft. Gogo's dealer network and OEM partners are actively pursuing multiple STCs that will certify the Gogo AVANCE LX5 system for installation across a variety of business aircraft models. Once the 5G chip is available, a minor STC modification will be required before customer installations of the LX5 can begin.

Gogo 5G is expected to provide ~25 Mbps on average, with peak speeds in the 75-80 Mbps range, outperforming any competitive geosynchronous (GEO) satellite or air-to-ground (ATG) solution. Intentionally engineered to deliver high throughput with very low latency for multiple users, Gogo 5G will meet the increased demand for data-heavy services and applications being used today and those coming in the future. The LX5 was designed with the same form factor and same connections as the L5 to help streamline installation. Customers can pre-provision for Gogo 5G today by installing the multi-band (MB13) 5G antennas and an AVANCE L5 LRU. The L5 system will operate on the Gogo Biz 4G network until Gogo 5G launches, which is expected in the third quarter of 2024. At that time, they will be eligible to receive a free LX5 to swap with their existing L5 LRU.

VOLATO EXPANDS HONDAJET FLEET BY 50% TO 24 AIRCRAFT



Volato Inc a leading private aviation company and the largest HondaJet operator in the United States announced that it has expanded its fleet by 50% to a total of 24 HondaJet aircraft as of December 2023. The expansion includes the addition of three new aircraft delivered in December - two from direct Honda deliveries, and one managed plane. This marks a total of eight aircraft added to Volato's HondaJet fleet in 2023.

The aircraft additions and rapid integration into the company's operations represent execution of Volato's strategic plan for systematic growth. Volato's growth strategy includes acquiring aircraft directly from Honda and contracting with owners to manage their planes. This approach has enabled Volato to expand while maintaining high standards in private air travel.

"Volato's measured and thoughtful approach to fleet expansion is critical to achieving our long-term plan for sustainable growth," said Matt Liotta, Co-Founder and CEO of Volato. "We have been creative and judicious in acquiring HondaJets through the open market while continuing to receive new aircraft from our HondaJet factory order. The recent deliveries allow us to expand our capacity at a pivotal time in

Volato's growth and increase our capacity to support our growing customer base."

The expanded fleet ensures greater availability and flexibility for customers, a cornerstone of the Volato experience. It allows the company to meet increasing demand while maintaining its commitment to personalization and convenience. With a larger fleet, Volato's clients enjoy unparalleled access to aircraft, ensuring that their flying needs are met promptly and efficiently, regardless of their share size. This is particularly significant in the private aviation sector, where availability can often be a constraint.

Moreover, each new aircraft delivery from Honda contributes to keeping Volato's fleet among the youngest in the industry. This commitment to fleet modernity ensures Volato's clients not only enjoy access to the latest in aviation technology and comfort but also benefit from the heightened reliability and efficiency that come with newer aircraft. Volato expects to receive 10 additional HondaJet aircraft over the course of 2024. The company has also signed a letter of intent with HondaJet for its new Echelon aircraft which will be the first light jet capable of transcontinental flights.

TEXTRON AVIATION ANNOUNCES NEW SUSTAINABLE ADVANTAGE CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM FOR CESSNA, BEECHCRAFT AND HAWKER OWNERS

Textron Aviation announced a new ProAdvantage program, Sustainable Advantage[®], to provide owners with an additional option for reducing their carbon dioxide emissions from operating aircraft. In collaboration with 4AIR, the program is set to launch in January 2024 and is available to eligible customers who own and operate Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker turbine aircraft worldwide.

“Owners have increasingly become interested in solutions that mitigate the carbon footprint of operating their aircraft,” said Brad White, senior vice president, Global Parts and Programs, Textron Aviation. “SustainableAdvantage provides them the opportunity to have a seamless option to offset their carbon emissions through a Textron Aviation approved program and supplier.”

Textron Aviation will administer SustainableAdvantage as part of its easy-to-use array of ProAdvantage programs and connect owners to 4AIR. 4AIR is the first company to offer comprehensive sustainability solutions for business aviation. SustainableAdvantage will offer owners the option to offset their aircraft emissions footprint with 4AIR’s Bronze Level. Carbon offsets reduce emissions elsewhere which can be claimed against the carbon



footprint from operating aircraft.

“Our relationship with Textron Aviation acknowledges the many strides we have made in the industry to make sustainability more accessible,” said Nancy Bsales, chief operating officer, 4AIR. “We are excited to provide Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker owners with sustainable solutions that address and meet their environmental commitments and goals.”

4AIR will provide owners who choose to join SustainableAdvantage a personalized, annual report that will document offset purchases. Additionally, 4AIR offers monitoring and compliance reporting

requirements for the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and the European Union, French and United Kingdom Emissions Trading System (ETS) as well as other ESG reporting requirements. The SustainableAdvantage portfolio currently managed by 4AIR supports four projects around the globe:

- Rainier Gateway Forestry Project
- Cookstove Project
- Bundled Solar
- Solar Energy – Renewable Power by Adani

BOMBARDIER ANNOUNCES FIRM ORDER FOR 12 CHALLENGER 3500 JETS

Bombardier announced that the company has received a firm order for 12 Challenger 3500 aircraft. The transaction for the firm order is valued at US\$326.4 million based on list prices. The customer has chosen the super-midsize market leader for its outstanding performance, refined cabin and sustainably minded features.

“Bombardier is proud that the Challenger 3500 jet sparks such confidence as the aircraft of choice for a vast majority of operators around the world, and continues to meet and exceed the expectations of its discerning clientele,” said Éric Martel, President and CEO, Bombardier. “The Challenger 3500 jet is truly a force to be reckoned with, and this order is a clear demonstration that this platform offers the exceptional experience that



clients are seeking.”

The Challenger 3500 jet offers an unmatched in-flight experience to meet and exceed the expectations of the most discerning travelers. The aircraft’s flawless design provides an unparalleled cabin experience and elevates passengers’ comfort with Bombardier’s revolutionary Nuage seats and cutting-edge cabin technology. With an industry-

leading dispatch reliability of over 99.8%, as well as outstanding range and runway performance, the Challenger 3500 aircraft offers the ultimate package, with access to the most remote locations while delivering Bombardier’s signature smooth ride from takeoff to landing.

Deliveries are set to begin in the second half of 2025.

fly elegantly



COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

BUSINESS JET TERMINAL

INDIA'S FIRST CHARTER GATEWAY

- The biggest Business Jet Terminal in the country with a built-up area of 40,000 sq. ft.
- Five opulent lounges, a Business centre, Duty-Free Shop, Foreign Exchange Counter, High-end Video Conferencing Room
- Car door to aircraft door in 2 minutes; the shortest distance in India
- A unique Gateway terminal for promoting 'Brand Kerala'



Bombardier Celebrates Delivery of First Challenger 3500 Business Jet in Turkey to Long-Time Customer Arkasair



Bombardier announced that long-time client Arkasair has added a Challenger 3500 business jet to its VIP Air Taxi and charter fleet, becoming the first customer of a Challenger 3500 aircraft in Turkey. The company has a longstanding affinity with Bombardier aircraft, having operated a Learjet 60, Challenger 300 and Challenger 604 aircraft. The new Challenger 3500 will replace the company's Challenger 300 business jet.

Founded in 1998, Arkasair provides first-class VIP Air Taxi and charter service to clients worldwide. The addition of the Challenger 3500 business jet will bolster its charter capabilities with its innovative technology, outstanding performance, luxurious cabin and sustainably minded features.

"Bombardier is proud that our long-time customer Arkasair has added a Challenger 3500 business jet to its fleet, marking the first delivery of a Challenger 3500 jet in Turkey," said Emmanuel Bornand, Vice President, Sales, Europe, Russia, CIS, Middle East and Africa, Bombardier. "Arkasair and Bombardier share a likeminded vision: we strive for excellence and work tirelessly to offer an exceptional experience to our clients. We also continue to look for new opportunities in this important country, offering the very best business aircraft in the skies today."

"At Arkasair, we are delighted to be adding a new Challenger 3500 aircraft to our fleet, as it perfectly complements the impeccable standards that our VIP Air Taxi clients have come to demand and expect," said Martine De Andria, Deputy General Manager of Arkasair. "The Challenger 3500 is truly an impressive aircraft with its luxurious, comfortable cabin and outstanding performance attributes. We are thrilled to be taking delivery of the first one in Turkey."

SATCOM DIRECT CONFIRMS SD PLANE SIMPLE® KA-BAND TERMINAL IS DO-160 CERTIFIED



Satcom Direct, the business aviation solutions provider, has received DO-160 approval for its SD Plane Simple® Ka-band tail mount antenna, the second variant in its Plane Simple hardware series. The advanced technology terminal exclusively connects with Viasat's Jet ConneX inflight broadband solution, powered by the GX satellite constellation from its recently acquired Inmarsat business.

The achievement of the industry standard follows more than 400 validation hours and confirms that the rigorous environmental testing of the avionics has been successfully completed. Tests included extensive weather, thermal, and vibration qualifications to ratify the official approval.

Customers equipping airframes with the Plane Simple terminal will have immediate access to global coverage with the GX satellite constellation. They can later upgrade to Viasat's full Ka-band network, including the ViaSat-3 satellites and next-generation GX satellites as they come online. This will enhance the long-term return on investment for operators adopting the next-generation terminal and ensure aircraft are future-proofed to stay aligned with evolving connectivity technologies.

The certification represents the next phase toward the commercial service introduction of the Plane Simple Ka-band variant. SD has confirmed its first customer and is talking with other operators keen to participate in Supplemental Type Certification (STC) generation, with the first STC expected to be confirmed by the end of Q1 2024. "This second iteration of our Plane Simple antenna

technology is a game-changer for the industry as it unlocks the full performance capabilities of the Global Xpress network and minimizes beam and satellite switching time. We're delivering the most powerful, reliable, and genuinely global connectivity to operators that depend on us to keep them connected during flight," says SD President Chris Moore.

The flight tests, which took place on the SD Gulfstream G550 aircraft under an aircraft-specific supplemental type certificate, exceeded expectations, as seamless access to the most data-hungry applications, including high-definition video conferencing and video streaming, as well as multiple digital applications for high volumes of users travelling on mid to large-size jets were consistently achieved.

"SD has a reputation as a technology-forward company. Its innovative approach, guided by a commitment to deliver powerful new connectivity solutions to support the very specific needs of business aviation users, is exemplified by creating the first terminal that will connect with our existing and next-generation Ka-band satellites. This pioneering vision is one that we adhere to as it adds real value to the offering. We're pleased to be working with SD to offer customers exceptional connectivity experiences through customized Viasat service plans, including the first-ever power-by-the-hour payment option for Jet ConneX, enabling business jet operators to pay an hourly rate for inflight connectivity," adds Kai Tang, Head of Business Aviation, Viasat.

ATP FLIGHT SCHOOL ACCELERATES GROWTH WITH PURCHASE OF 40 ADDITIONAL CESSNA SKYHAWK AIRCRAFT

Textron Aviation announced an agreement with ATP Flight School for the purchase of an additional 40 Cessna Skyhawk aircraft to be delivered beginning in 2026. This addition to ATP's existing fleet of nearly 225 Skyhawks, deployed across more than 85 training centers nationwide, will provide students with access to a modern and advanced fleet in support of their pilot career aspirations.

This agreement marks the fourth fleet purchase, amounting to a total of 135 of Cessna Skyhawks, for ATP's Airline Career Pilot Program in just over a year, as the flight school scales to train 20,000 airline pilots by 2030.

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

The Cessna Skyhawk is renowned as the go-to training aircraft in the industry. Its steady flight dynamics, cutting-edge avionics and reliable dispatch



history have made it ATP's trusted training platform for the past three decades.

"With already one of the youngest, most modern fleets at scale, the firm orders for 135 Skyhawks are for direct fleet growth, not replacement. Over the next three years, ATP will be expanding its Cessna fleet by 60% and delivering over 40 new state-of-art planes to ATP students each year through 2026," said Michael Arnold, vice president of marketing, ATP Flight School. "ATP's fleet expansion has been responsibly

paired with an investment in its Florida-based flight operations center. Dedicated safety, tech ops, and quality assurance departments promote a high level of safety across the ATP network with real-time monitoring, risk mitigation, and safety trend analysis as they orchestrate 800 daily flights. This structured airline-based approach to flight operations provides students with a safety-focused environment from the onset of their professional careers as they become airline pilots on the most efficient path possible."

PIAGGIO AEROSPACE: DEADLINE RESCHEDULED TO SUBMIT FINAL AND BINDING OFFERS

With a notice published on some financial newspapers, Piaggio Aero Industries and Piaggio Aviation's Extraordinary Commissioners - Mr Carmelo Cosentino, Mr Vincenzo Nicastro and Mr Gianpaolo Davide Rossetti - announced the rescheduling of the deadline to submit final and binding offers for the purchase of all the business complexes conducted by the Companies, both in extraordinary receivership proceedings.

According to the notice, having received the authorisation by the Supervisory Committee and the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, the Commissioners decided to "reschedule the deadline for all the entities (incorporated as limited companies) [...] interested in submitting, or integrating, their final and binding offers". Such offers, the notice states, "must be submitted [...] not later than 6.00 pm CET of 30 January 2024".



The full text of the notice is available at Piaggio Aerospace in AS.

Piaggio Aerospace designs, develops, manufactures, and maintains aircraft, aircraft engines and structural components. Its history of innovation and progress started in 1884 in Genoa, Italy. A continuous commitment to research and

development, combined with innovative design and style, leads the development of Piaggio Aerospace, one of the main players for executive turboprops, Unmanned Aerial Systems and Special Mission aircraft in the global market. The company operates from its aerospace center of excellence in Villanova d'Albenga, Italy, while its Customer Service Department is based in Genoa. In December 2018, the company entered the extraordinary receivership proceedings with the appointment of Vincenzo Nicastro as Extraordinary Commissioner. The same applied later to its subsidiary Piaggio Aviation. According to two different decrees of the Italian Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy signed on 1 March 2023, the Group is now led by three Extraordinary Commissioners: the aforementioned Vincenzo Nicastro, Davide Rossetti (coordinator) and Carmelo Cosentino (industry and aviation expert).



Aviation Update Editor Kartikeya in conversation with

Mr. François Gautier Founder & CEO Blueberry Aviation

Q How Aviation has influenced you as a child and brought you here?

A I was in aviation even before I was born. My father spent his entire career in aviation, and headed the Concorde programme. I have always admired this industry and always said the great thing about being part of it is being able to have your feet solidly on the ground, yet your head with the stars.

Q How did you progress to your current position since you entered into this supreme industry?

A Even if I love any flying products I am not an engineer and studied law and international business. I began my career in 1986 in the Treasury Division of Aerospatiale (now Airbus) based in Washington DC, USA, until 1988 where I was financing helicopters in the US. I joined Airbus in 1988 where I was successively Director Customer Finance and Director Asset Management. I then served in various management positions in the aerospace industry, as Senior Director with Airbus in charge of the Asset Management team in the USA between 1995 and 2000 and Vice President Sales and Contracts at ATR (Toulouse, France) between 2000 and 2002. I then set up Blueberry Aviation in Dublin in 2003, just over 20 years ago.

Q Where do you see Fixed Wing /Helicopters fleet needs going in the coming years?

A Helicopters provide essential services to society which currently cannot be replaced by any other aircraft programmes at least in the medium term. EMS, rescue, civilian protection, fire-fighting services are proving critical services daily globally. However, the acquisition costs of a helicopter have become extremely high for operators and leadtime to acquire new helicopters is now critically long. The second hand market offers an efficient solution for the operators to respond to these

issues. Helicopter demand is far from being on the decline as there is a real need, which should remain stable on the mid to long term. Our objective is to be able to find the right equipment for our clients anywhere and at any time.

Regarding Commercial aircraft with post-covid travel recovery, we have seen very strong global demand for commercial aircraft.

Manufacturers are not in a position to keep up with new aircraft or parts supply and there is a huge opportunity for second hand aircraft trading and leasing activity. The current lack of capacity has never been so huge since the 90s and our tasks is to source equipment for the airlines to maintain their growth and profitability. We believe this lack of offer will continue for the next two years in particular for the narrowbody market due to the GTF engine issues for the A320 NEO family and more generally suppliers ability to meet the Manufactures ramp-up.

Q What is the average age of fleet you sell?

A We offer used helicopters and commercial aircraft of all ages for all requirements. We have worked on projects for part out as well. However what make us quite unique is that we are able to propose brand new helicopters as we currently have several orders on our books for 2024 and 2025 deliveries. We are aware of Indian DGCA constraints with an age limit for aircraft entering the registry, and helicopters to 20 years. We see this as a real opportunity for new or very recent helicopters that we are in a position to offer to the growing Indian market.

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

A Our core business is - and has been for 20 years - civil helicopter and commercial aircraft sales and acquisitions, remarketing services and procurement advisory, financial services fleet appraisals, technical inspections in the Asian market, as for the rest of the global aviation market.

Blueberry Aviation offers a global dedicated team of experienced sales, technical and legal experts, allowing to evaluate customers' requirements in detail, maximize opportunities by talking to an extensive and diverse active worldwide network of helicopter owners and operators, find the best aircraft or owner to fit the requirement anywhere in the world. Blueberry Aviation looks after negotiations, manages the full acquisition/sale process from beginning to end: contracts, inspections, reconfigurations, maintenance, delivery and de/reregistration of the aircraft.

Blueberry Aviation is a major player worldwide. Its staff is made up of 25 highly skilled individuals based in Monaco, Dublin, New York, Mumbai, and Singapore. By 2023 it had completed over 520 helicopter transactions with more than 290 customers for an asset value exceeding \$1.88 billion. It also completed more than 170 commercial aircraft transactions for over 65 customers for an asset value above \$3.5 billion.

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

A For most of the segments of the Aviation industry I would see the following challenges in the medium term:

Attractiveness for the young generation: when I started to work in Aviation every engineers and junior sales person wanted to work in aviation. This is no longer the case. Now new tech, IT ... is more attractive for young generation. It is not only the salary which might be higher but also because the aviation industry is no longer seen as being part of the future. This is a pity and the industry needs to act to make this changed in the young generation spirit.

Logistics and ability to deliver quality products on time and with reasonable prices: the recent events post Covid have increased delivery delays and quality issues. Inflation on manpower and materials will have also a substantial impact on price. This is why the used market is very active right now as operators could get quality products which have been operated and proved efficient and safe for many years, along with reasonable pricing (even if second hand prices have also increased due to increase in demand).

Over the Long term the industry will need to bring new technology which will be safe, economically viable and provide a real impact on sustainability. We do not particularly believe in electric aviation in particular to replace commercial jets or helicopters (at least for most of the missions). Hydrogen might be more viable but it will clearly take a long time before it could be implemented efficiently, assuming green hydrogen could be efficiently produced and distributed. SAF has the same issue: it could be a very interesting solution to reduce CO2 emission as long as it can be produced economically and sustainably in large quantities (SAF is the main contributor to the 2050 industry

objective to be CO2 neutral). We do not expect this to occur over the short to medium term.

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 As mentioned above attractiveness to the young generation is key to our business. This is also particularly true for a company like Blueberry Aviation. Our goal is to continue to attract young talents while benefiting from the incredible experience of our senior executives. We also need to make sure that this expertise is properly transmitted within the team which will ultimately be key to the quality of services we provide to our customers.

Blueberry Aviation is all about people and what they deliver to our customers.

On the pure business side we need to ensure that we continue to actively source and manage the current products while we also look at how we could help new technology to be available to our customers. This is what we do through our partnership with Dufour Aerospace. This Swiss company will soon deliver a hybrid VTOL solution through its unique tilt wing technology. The first unnamed product Aero2 (providing 40 kg Payload over 350 kms at 170 km/hr speed) will be followed soon by a larger version (Aero3) providing large cargo capability (one ton) or six pax transport for EMS, urgent freight or critical missions.

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

A Believe in the future of Aviation. Be open to embrace new technologies, support and invest into research but do not sell dreams.

We will continue to fly, higher, safer and more sustainably. Aviation will continue to move people and goods around the globe, and save and protect lives. Let's make Aviation great again!

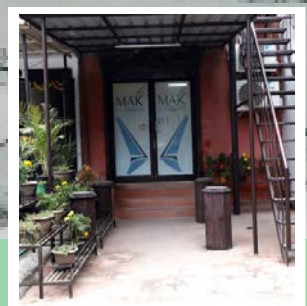


For Further Details:
Mr. Girish Laungani
Commercial Director – India
g.laungani@BlueBerryAviation.com

MAK AIRWAYS PRIVATE LIMITED

MAK Airways Pvt. Ltd. founded in 2014 and today has grown to become MAK Group of Companies, as listed:

- MAK Airways Pvt. Ltd.
- MAK Education Foundation
- MAK Cargo Pvt. Ltd.
- MAK ATO
- MAK ● Aviation Academy
- MAK Airways Flying Club



We have flourished and emerged to be a leader in the Aviation Industry for Training of various personnel's working in Scheduled Commuter, Non Scheduled, Non Scheduled Private, General Aviation, State Aviation Divisions & Defence Personnel, MRO & FTO. Viz: Pilots, Cabin Crew, Ground Staff, Engineering etc.

We are DGCA approved to conduct Training for Fixed & Rotary Wing CRM (Crew Resource Management) SGT (Specific Ground Training) Hill Ops. (Hill Operations) Spl. VFR (Special Visual Flight Rules)

In Addition to the above training's, we also conduct / facilitate AVSEC & DGR (All Categories), SMS (All Categories), Human Factors PBN, RVSM, ADS - B, Monsoon / AWO, ELP, Ramp Safety, Marshalling CAR-M, CAR-145, Internal & Quality Auditor Training, Lead Auditor Training SEP (Safety & Emergency Procedures)



Call : 9873437236 / 7065662224 / 7065662225 or
Write us at : training@makairways.com

**Aviation Update Editor
Kartikya in conversation with**

JS Gavankar **CEO & Country Head** **SAFRAN India**

Q Who are the best Inspiration persons for you in both Personal & Professional Life? What are the lessons you learnt from them?

A "I am always inspired by two people, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and my father Subhash Keshav Gavankar." Incidentally, both share the first name and a common birthdate (23rd January). Netaji lit the fire of freedom struggle even beyond Indian shores and gave true global identity to Indian Leadership (going global). He created a 60,000 strong army against the mighty British which is no small feat (startup to Unicorn). He had embodied the idea of DEI much ahead of its time by setting up a truly multi-religious, multi-cultural Army which had a large representation of women. My father, likewise, is a self-made man who started his life journey from scratch and is still working relentlessly at 80+ with same enthusiasm, dedication and grit. Both of them taught me tenacity and a common lesson that "success is the story of struggle and nothing in life comes for free".

Q Can you share one nostalgic moment in the process of becoming successful in your journey?

A There are many moments in my professional life when I managed to achieve the set goals, so ranking them won't do real justice. However, since you are asking me to state one nostalgic moment, that for me, was the first successful firing of ASTRA, an indigenously developed Air-to-Air Missile from Sukhoi 30MKI aircraft. As Deputy Project Director at DRDO, I was attempting unilaterally, without platform OEM help, integration and launch of ASTRA, which was a tall ask. Among many nay-sayers, we had collectively taken the challenge to make it happen and were extra careful with all our planning and execution. It is not very common that in the very first attempt such a complex weapon system gives 100%

success, so when the first launch exceeded all its objectives including target engagement, we all really felt a true sense of accomplishment. Even today that launch video, RT communication and the uproar in the telemetry data room gives me goose bumps.

Q How do you feel when you get awards/ recognitions for your work?

A People are motivated differently and not necessarily by awards. For me any accomplishment is satisfying even without external award or recognition. For example, I like art work, painting, etc. sometimes it takes hours and days of back breaking effort to complete a piece of art but once it gets ready to be framed/ mounted, I feel like being rewarded. Off course, any recognition by a relevant professional body gives you satisfaction of being first among the equals. I strongly believe that one must not work for recognition or reward but do work worthy of recognition.

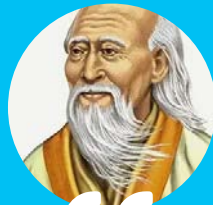
Q What are your suggestions for young entrepreneurs to be taken seriously in their field?

A I agree, young entrepreneurs do face the hurdle of being taken seriously by other established leaders in their field. But age and lack of experience don't have to create a barrier. Young entrepreneurs can create the trust by remaining passionate about the business and doing the best at what they do. Have deep faith in yourself, your product and don't get swayed away by opinions. Try to listen to your customer and experts to have more context about the issues. Last but not the least find a right balance between confidence and humility for people to respect you and take you seriously.

Q Can you share your achievements in last one decade to our readers?

A Last one decade plus has been great for me professionally. I was serving the Indian Air Force for over 2 decades, last position being "Chief Engineer" of a large airbase in North-East India. Following that I decided to try out my experimental spirit and joined Adani Groups Defence and Aerospace Business as a founding member which was my first private sector job. It was a great learning experience to build multiple capabilities, competencies, M&A, partnerships and greenfield projects for the

WHAT ARE THE BEST QUOTES STILL YOU FOLLOW IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?



“

WATCH YOUR THOUGHTS, THEY BECOME WORDS. WATCH YOUR WORDS; THEY BECOME ACTIONS. WATCH YOUR ACTIONS; THEY BECOME HABIT. WATCH YOUR HABITS; THEY BECOME YOUR CHARACTER. WATCH YOUR CHARACTER, IT BECOMES YOUR DESTINY.

”

LAO TZU

“

ONLY PLACE WHERE SUCCESS COMES BEFORE WORK IS DICTIONARY.

”

ANONYMOUS

business from grounds-up. Having done multiple roles in IAF, ranging from Line Maintenance to full MRO, Software Coding to Weapon System Integration, Electronics to Mechanical System, Product Development to Program Management helped me immensely in all my future endeavours. I was fortunate enough to work within DRDO on two R&D programs of national importance. As already mentioned, one of the most satisfying achievement was successfully integrating and launching of ASTRA air-to-air missile from Sukhoi30MKI. At Honeywell India, during Covid times we were awarded with "Fastest Product Development in Honeywell History". At Safran Helicopter Engines (India), we had a very effective engagement with HAL which converted into setting-up India's first private sector companies on Aero Engines, namely "SAFHAL" at Bangalore and "HEMRO" at Goa, for Helicopter Engine Design & Development and MRO respectively. The faith and trust shown by SAFRAN to offer me an opportunity to lead as CEO & Country Head to execute future plans for India is gratifying.

Q Which areas do you think India could do well in coming years?

A While India has historically done well in the past 75 years since its independence overcoming the food security concern of 1960s due to green, pink, blue and white revolutions. India did well to come out of the Balance of Payment crisis of the 80s and the economic crisis of the 1990. Indian growth in the past few decades was dominated by services sector, led by IT. It is time that manufacturing plays an equal role in India's GDP. Currently it is 16% of India's GDP in constant prices. We are seeing some offshoots now and I think we will do well in that with it increasing to

25% of GDP by 25-26. Agriculture is another sector where we need to do more, since we need to feed 1.5 Billion Indians. Certain in few new technology areas like Fintech, EVs, Green Energy (target of 500GW by 2030), Unmanned/Drones/Autonomous systems we are not too behind. Indian space industry has also been liberalized now and private organizations apart from ISRO/HAL are now setting up launch vehicle and satellite manufacturing facilities. AI/ML based applications across sectors is another area to do well. We are already doing well in IT, Healthcare and Pharma sector and will continue to do so. In sum total, I see a great deal of positivity around India and its economic growth in coming decades primarily due to growing ambition of average India and the entrepreneurial spirit seen in the young generation.



Aviation Update Editor Kartikeya in conversation with

Mr. Yogesh Garg

Regional Vice President of Sales
Asia Pacific & Middle-East
De Havilland Aircraft

profound understanding that giving back to society is not just a responsibility but a privilege. These principles have guided me through personal challenges and instilled a sense of social responsibility that goes beyond individual success.

In my professional journey, Mr. Amod Kelkar has been a beacon of inspiration. His leadership style, characterized by a combination of hard work, humility, and groundedness, has left an indelible mark on me. He taught me that no matter how far one progresses in their career, staying connected to one's roots and being humble is essential. His mentorship has not only shaped my approach to work but has also influenced my perspective on leadership and teamwork.

The lessons from my grandparents and Mr. Amod Kelkar form the core of my values, influencing how I navigate challenges, interact with colleagues, and contribute to both professional and societal spheres. They serve as a constant reminder that success is not only measured by personal achievements but also by the positive impact one can make on others and the community.

Q Who are the best Inspiration persons for you in both Personal & Professional Life? What are the lessons you learnt from them?

A In both my personal and professional life, my greatest inspirations have been my grandparents and Mr. Amod Kelkar, my former boss.

From my grandparents, I imbibed invaluable life lessons, with two principles standing out prominently. Firstly, the unwavering belief that there is no substitute for hard work; it is the cornerstone of success in any endeavor. Secondly, the

Q How do you feel when you get awards/recognitions for your work?

A One valuable lesson I've learned is that hard work is inevitably rewarded, whether it's sooner or later. It's natural to feel disheartened if recognition doesn't come immediately, but the key is to persevere in your efforts. By continuing the work without expecting immediate rewards, you create an environment where genuine dedication shines through. Often, it's when you least expect it that the recognition comes, and that moment is particularly rewarding precisely because it wasn't anticipated.

Q What is your message to young entrepreneurs who wish to become influencers?

A Believe unwaveringly in your passion and endeavors, and success will inevitably follow. Remember that becoming an influencer transcends mere social media metrics; it's about positively impacting lives. Strive to be a source of assistance and knowledge for others. By consistently helping people and sharing valuable insights, you'll embody the essence of an influencer from day one. Your genuine commitment to making a difference will resonate far beyond the digital realm, establishing you as a true influencer in the lives of those you touch.

Q Please share your achievements in last one decade to our readers?

A Over the past decade, my journey in the aviation industry has been diverse, spanning roles from aircraft engineer to customer support and sales. Throughout this time, I've had the privilege of contributing to the success of over 18 startup airlines and supporting more than 60 operators across 50 countries. This multifaceted experience has provided a profound learning curve, allowing me to comprehend various facets of the aviation industry, from aircraft maintenance to actively participating in policy-making discussions for different nations, thus contributing to the enhancement of aviation.

One of the most rewarding aspects of aviation is its ability to connect people and places. Having traveled to 76 countries, I've had the unique opportunity to engage with diverse cultures and forge connections with individuals from various walks of life. The legacy I carry from this extensive journey is not just a collection of memories but a wealth of experiences and learnings that I consider to be my most significant achievement.

Leader Profile

In the dynamic world of aviation, Yogesh Garg emerges as a visionary leader, instrumental in bringing the 19-seat Twin Otters to India. His remarkable journey is marked by significant

WHAT ARE THE BEST QUOTES STILL YOU FOLLOW IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?



THE ONLY WAY TO DO GREAT WORK IS TO LOVE WHAT YOU DO," ENCAPSULATES A PHILOSOPHY THAT HAS BECOME A GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN MY DAY-TO-DAY LIFE. IT GOES BEYOND A MERE PROFESSIONAL MANTRA; RATHER, IT IS A PROFOUND INSIGHT INTO THE ESSENCE OF MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL WORK. ULTIMATELY, THIS QUOTE ENCOURAGES A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO WORK, EMPHASIZING NOT ONLY THE PURSUIT OF SUCCESS BUT ALSO THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING JOY AND FULFILLMENT IN THE JOURNEY. IT RESONATES WITH THE IDEA THAT WHEN PASSION FUELS YOUR EFFORTS, THE QUALITY OF YOUR WORK BECOMES A REFLECTION OF THAT GENUINE LOVE, LEADING TO OUTCOMES THAT TRANSCEND MERE ACHIEVEMENT AND CONTRIBUTE TO A FULFILLING AND MEANINGFUL PROFESSIONAL LIFE



contributions to the aviation industry, demonstrating expertise, leadership, and a commitment to innovation.

Yogesh Garg's pivotal role extends beyond the development of the Twin Otter, encompassing collaboration with the Indian Government in shaping regional RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme) and around sea-planes policies. His advocacy and collaboration with the government have not only influenced policy framing but have also paved the way for the successful initiation of the first seaplane operations in the country.

From his beginnings as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, Garg's ascent within the Bombardier /De Havilland hierarchy has been nothing short of spectacular. Currently serving as the Regional Vice President for the Asia Pacific and Middle East region, he stands at the helm of De Havilland's vertical, steering the company towards new heights.

One of Garg's standout achievements lies in expanding De Havilland's footprint and breaking ground in untapped markets. His strategic vision has not only increased the company's global presence but has also been pivotal in penetrating virgin markets, breathing new life into the aviation landscape.

Garg's commitment to customer satisfaction is evident in the positive transformation observed under his leadership. Through innovative approaches and a customer-centric mindset, he has elevated the overall experience for De Havilland's clientele.

Garg's journey is a testament to the impact that visionary leadership can have on an industry. As he continues to propel De Havilland to new horizons, his story stands as an inspiration for aspiring professionals in the aviation sector. Yogesh Garg's legacy is etched in the skies, where his contributions have not only shaped the trajectory of De Havilland but have left an indelible mark on India's aviation landscape.



**Aviation Update Editor
Kartikeya in conversation with**

Mr. Shrenik Ghodawat
Managing Director of Star Air

Q Who are the best Inspiration persons for you in both Personal & Professional Life? What are the lessons you learnt from them?

A In the professional life, my father, Sanjay Ghodawat has been my enduring source of inspiration. He started from nothing and built our diverse businesses with extreme limitation of resources and talent. I was just 19 years old, and through working closely with him has given me invaluable lessons that continue to guide me through daily challenges. When it comes to my personal life, I draw inspiration from my mother Neeta and my wife Salloni. They are both strong women who have not only been a support system but have worked shoulder to shoulder with me and my father to build Sanjay Ghodawat Group.

Q Can you share one nostalgic moment in the process of becoming successful in your journey?

A The journey of entrepreneurship is filled with various nostalgic, career changing and path breaking moments. I have so many of them, specially of all the failures as they have taught me the most. One of them that immediately comes to my mind is of building my own Renewable Energy O&M business from scratch and turning it into a profitable company. Its rightly said, "Few things rival the exquisite taste of hard-earned success."

Q How do you feel when receiving awards or recognition for your work?

A It always gives me feeling of gratitude while receiving any recognition or appreciation. But they are the results of team work and not of any one individual.

WHAT ARE THE BEST QUOTES STILL YOU FOLLOW IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?

There are two quotes or mantras that inspire me greatly



“

DON'T EXPECT TO BE MOTIVATED EVERY DAY TO GET OUT THERE AND MAKE THINGS HAPPEN. YOU WON'T BE. DON'T COUNT ON MOTIVATION, COUNT ON DISCIPLINE.

”

JOCKO WILLINK



“

WORRY ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER, NOT YOUR REPUTATION. YOUR CHARACTER IS WHO YOU ARE. YOUR REPUTATION IS WHO PEOPLE THINK YOU ARE.

”

JOHN WOODEN

Acknowledgment serves as a powerful tool to keep pushing boundaries, validating our efforts in making a positive impact on our customers and society we aim to serve.

Q What message do you have for young entrepreneurs aspiring to become influencers?

A To young entrepreneurs aspiring to become influencers, my advice is centred around authenticity and perseverance. Stay true to your values, showcase your unique perspective, and be patient in building your own brand. Always remember that "Rome wasn't built in a Day". Learn from setbacks, stay adaptable, and prioritize creating a positive impact through your influence.

Q Please share some of your achievements in 2023 with our readers?

A "Recently, I've had the privilege of receiving prestigious accolades, such as the 'Focus 40 under 40' by Business Today, 'Entrepreneur 35 under 35' by Entrepreneur India and 'Times 40 Under 40' Awards.

Star Air became India's largest regional airline recently. Star Air Launches New Routes from Shivamogga to Hyderabad, Tirupati, and Goa and Ajmer (Kishangarh) & Hyderabad to Pune. Star Air has been awarded with 40 new routes under the centre's UDAN 5.0

Star Air Current Fleet

5 Embraer E145 LR

3 Embraer E175 LR

The 4th E175 is expected soon.



**Aviation Update Editor
Kartikeya in conversation with**

Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri
CMD, Ananth Technologies

Q Who are the best Inspiration persons for you in both Personal & Professional Life? What are the lessons you learnt from them?

A In personal life – the most inspiration person to me has been Swamy Vivekananda. He instilled in all of us ‘Confidence’ and being ‘Bharateeya’ to core by inspiring nationalism coupled with Spirituality. It always rings in myself what he said; “ Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life , dream of it , think of it, live on that idea.”

At professional level they are many who inspired me in different ways such as giants in Space sector - Prof Dhavan ,Prof UR Rao , Dr Kasturi Rangan, Prof Deekashatulu, Dr PS Goyal , Dr VK Saraswat etc. Each had different styles of functioning, various ways of inspiring their colleagues with absolute commitments to cause to make Bharat great.

This reminds me of a Thygaraya Kruti – ‘ANDARO MAHANUBHAVULU ANDARIKI VANDANAALU’.

Q Can you share one nostalgic moment in the process of becoming successful in your journey?

A Many moments of nostalgic in being successful – but the earliest one was on success of Indian Remote Sensing Satellite successfully put in to orbit and its data put to use for national development in many fields.

Q How do you feel when you get awards/recognitions for your work?

A Awards typically symbolize recognition or honour for achievements, contributions or excellence in particular field motivates individuals to strive for excellence by achieving distinction. What ever awards I received so far besides encouraging me ; made me conscious of fact that I



WHAT ARE THE BEST QUOTES STILL YOU FOLLOW IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?



“
**FAITH ,
 FAITH, FAITH
 IN YOURSELF**
 ”
 SWAMI
 VIVEKANANDA

should strive harder to achieve more excellence in the area of my work.

Q What is your message to young entrepreneurs who wish to become influencers?

A These days youngsters have more opportunities than what we had in our young age. Hence whatever field they choose , they must pursue with passion put best efforts ‘**MANASA, VAACHA and KARMANA**’; then victory is theirs.

Q Please share your achievements in last one decade to our readers?

A Well , in my professional and entrepreneur career , I have many satisfying things happened . Each one of those I call them more as ‘ immensely satisfying’ ones instead of saying ‘achievements’. The fact that we contributed to 98 satellites and to 78 launch Vehicles and contribution to various planetary missions and continue to work for Indian Space programme besides building satellites to meet global demand by creation of entire eco system in Bharat are all considered as very satisfactory both at personal and professional levels.



**Aviation Update Editor
Kartikeya in conversation with**

Dr Abhay Anant Pashilkar
Director, CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories

Q Who are the best Inspiration persons for you in both Personal & Professional Life? What are the lessons you learnt from them?

A Late Dr. S Srinathkumar, Chief Scientist & Head, Flight Mechanics and Controls Division, CSIR-NAL (Retd.): for his grace, scientific curiosity and rigour.
 Dr. Kota Harinarayana, Former Program Director and Chief Designer of Light Combat Aircraft, ADA-DRDO: for his perseverance in realizing an indigenous Combat Aircraft against all odds.
 Late Prof. R Narasimha, Former Director, CSIR-NAL: for his belief in the ability of future generation of Indian aerospace engineers to deliver cutting edge products and technologies.
 Late Dr. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India and Aerospace Scientist: for dreaming, inspiring and laying the foundations in ISRO, DRDO and CSIR-NAL for an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Q Can you share one nostalgic moment in the process of becoming successful in your journey?

A The formation of the inter-organisational (CSIR, DRDO, HAL) engineers fresh out of college under the able guidance of experienced scientists and engineers who worked to deliver the flight control laws for the LCA Tejas.

Q How do you feel when you get awards/recognitions for your work?

A Awards/recognitions are primarily given for the work which we carry out for our parent organization during the professional phase of our life. While such accolades are primarily seen as appreciation of personal achievements, I believe that they are also recognition of our parent organization, without whose shelter, we could have not pursued good quality research and achieved excellence in our respective fields of interest. So the awards/recognitions which we receive for our work is also a tribute to our parent organization.

Q What is your message to young entrepreneurs who wish to become influencers?

A Every failure will test your mettle. Every success will get you an audience.
 "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall" – Nelson Mandela


Q Why can't you share your achievements in last one decade to our readers?

A On a personal level I was involved in the following initiatives: Wake penetration clearance of LCA – This was

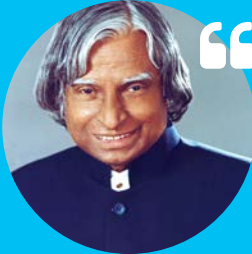
a multi-disciplinary (aerodynamics, structures, propulsion, flight control) and multi-organization (NAL, HAL, ADA) team effort to obtain clearance for onboard systems for close combat, formation flight and air-to-air refuelling.
 Mirage FOC upgrade – Focus of this work was carriage, handling, and store release (aeromechanical aspects) for a fighter aircraft. CSIR-NAL received the CSIR Technology Award 2019 for this program.
 Civil Aircraft Projects – In the capacity of Program Director (Civil Aircraft Program) provided vital inputs for critical decision making for the flagship aircraft programs of CSIR-NAL which include HANSA-NG, SARAS Mk II and RTA.

WHAT ARE THE BEST QUOTES STILL YOU FOLLOW IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?

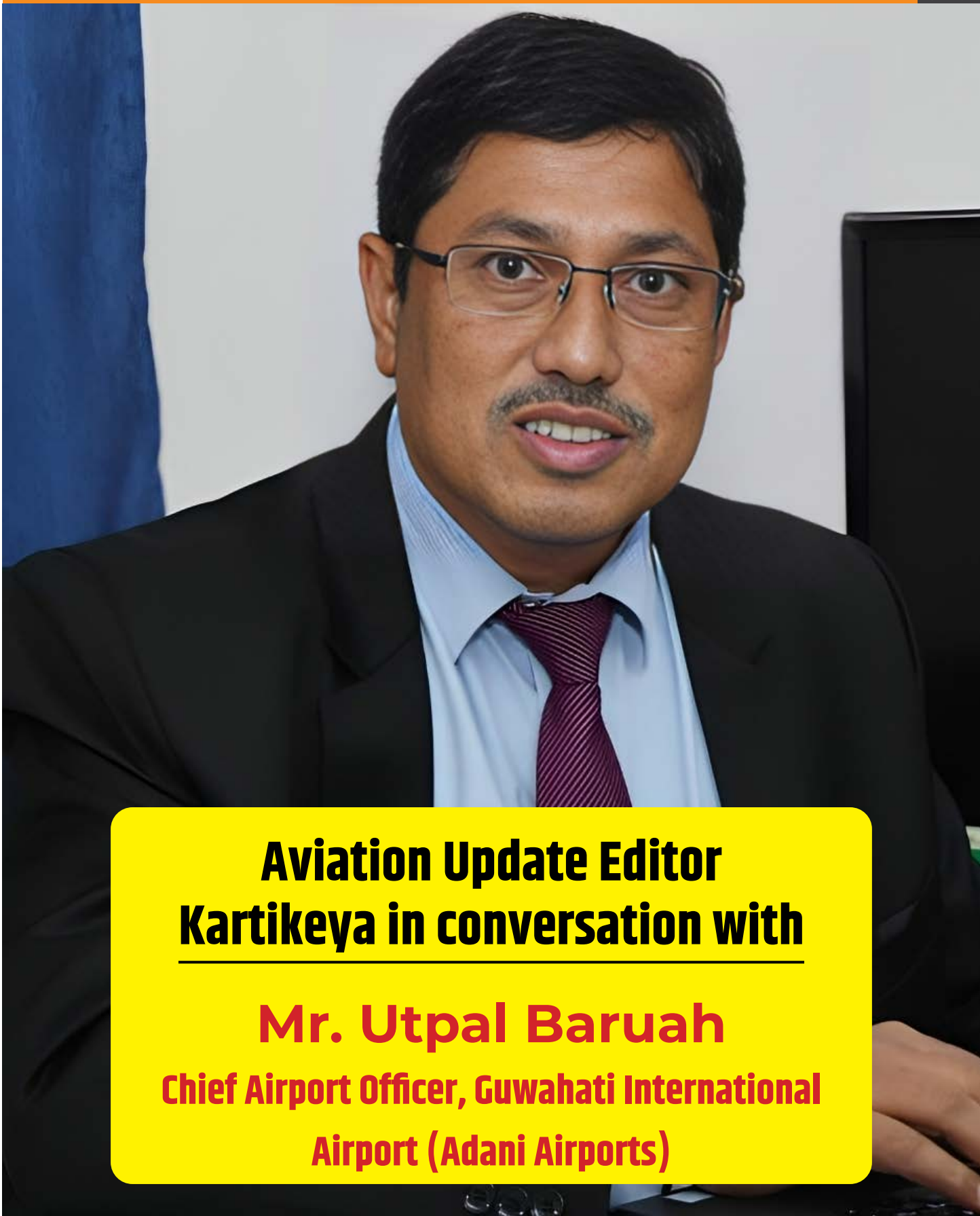
WHILE THERE ARE MANY QUOTES WHICH HAVE INFLUENCED MY DAY TO DAY LIFE, I WOULD MENTION A FEW OF THEM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ASPIRING LEADERS OF TOMORROW'S BHARAT:



“ TAKE UP ONE IDEA. MAKE THAT ONE IDEA YOUR LIFE – THINK OF IT, DREAM OF IT, AND LIVE ON THAT IDEA. LET THE BRAIN, MUSCLES, NERVES, AND EVERY PART OF YOUR BODY, BE FULL OF THAT IDEA AND JUST LEAVE EVERY OTHER IDEA ALONE. THIS IS THE WAY TO SUCCESS. ”



“ LOOK AT THE SKY. WE ARE NOT ALONE. THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS FRIENDLY TO US AND CONSPIRES ONLY TO GIVE THE BEST TO THOSE WHO DREAM AND WORK. ”



**Aviation Update Editor
Kartikeya in conversation with**

Mr. Utpal Baruah
**Chief Airport Officer, Guwahati International
Airport (Adani Airports)**

Q Who are the best Inspiration persons for you in both Personal & Professional Life? What are the lessons you learnt from them?

A In personal front, Late Dr. Bhabendra Nath Saikia, a doyen of Assamese literature, art and culture who has contributed enormously to our society and Mr. S. Raman, my Mathematics teacher in Indian Institute of Engineering Technology, Madras have been my constant source of inspiration throughout my life. From both of them I learnt the purpose of life and values & beliefs to lead the life. What attitude towards life I have today is the outcome of my learning from these two great personalities.

In professional front, Mr. (Late) Anuj Aggarwal, a legendary leader of Indian aviation and Mr. P.S. Nair, former CEO of IGIA New Delhi and RGIA, Hyderabad are my inspiration. I learnt management lessons from Aggarwal Sir whom I found as mentor for more than 15 years until he left us for heavenly abode during the Pandemic. Nair Sir was a key person who led and shaped the transition of Indian airports from Government set up to PPP or Private mode. Nair Sir is still my encyclopedia of Indian aviation and I keep seeking his help as and when required.

Q Can you share one nostalgic moment in the process of becoming successful in your journey?

A I am nostalgic about the days I worked at Imphal Airport with Airports Authority of India soon after completing my training in Civil Aviation Training College, Allahabad in 1993. At that point of time Imphal has very limited operations with a few flights. We had ample of time to learn the technical aspect of an airport. I truly feel, as a navigation & communication engineer what I learnt during that time has paid me a lot in the latter part of my career. I am nostalgic about my days with Goa airport also. I was representing AAI in the organizing committee of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) during 2004-2007. I had the rare opportunity to work with legendary leader like then CM Late Manohar Parrikar. I had several nostalgic moments at IGI Airport, New Delhi too. Now-a-days, there is a term used at Delhi Airport for managing General Aviation aircrafts, called GDC (GMR DIAL Clearance) number. The term was coined by me and the procedure was established jointly by me and Ms. Kiran Jain, now COO of Jewar Airport, U.P.

Q What are the best quotes still you follow in your day to day life?

A I firmly believe that there is no need to see the entire path of travel, traverse the next 100 metres in front of you effectively, then the new portion will appear, keep

going, finally you will complete the entire path effectively. I believe if you give a little more than the expectations every time, while doing anything, it will finally bring success and fulfilment.

Q How do you feel when you get awards/ recognitions for your work?

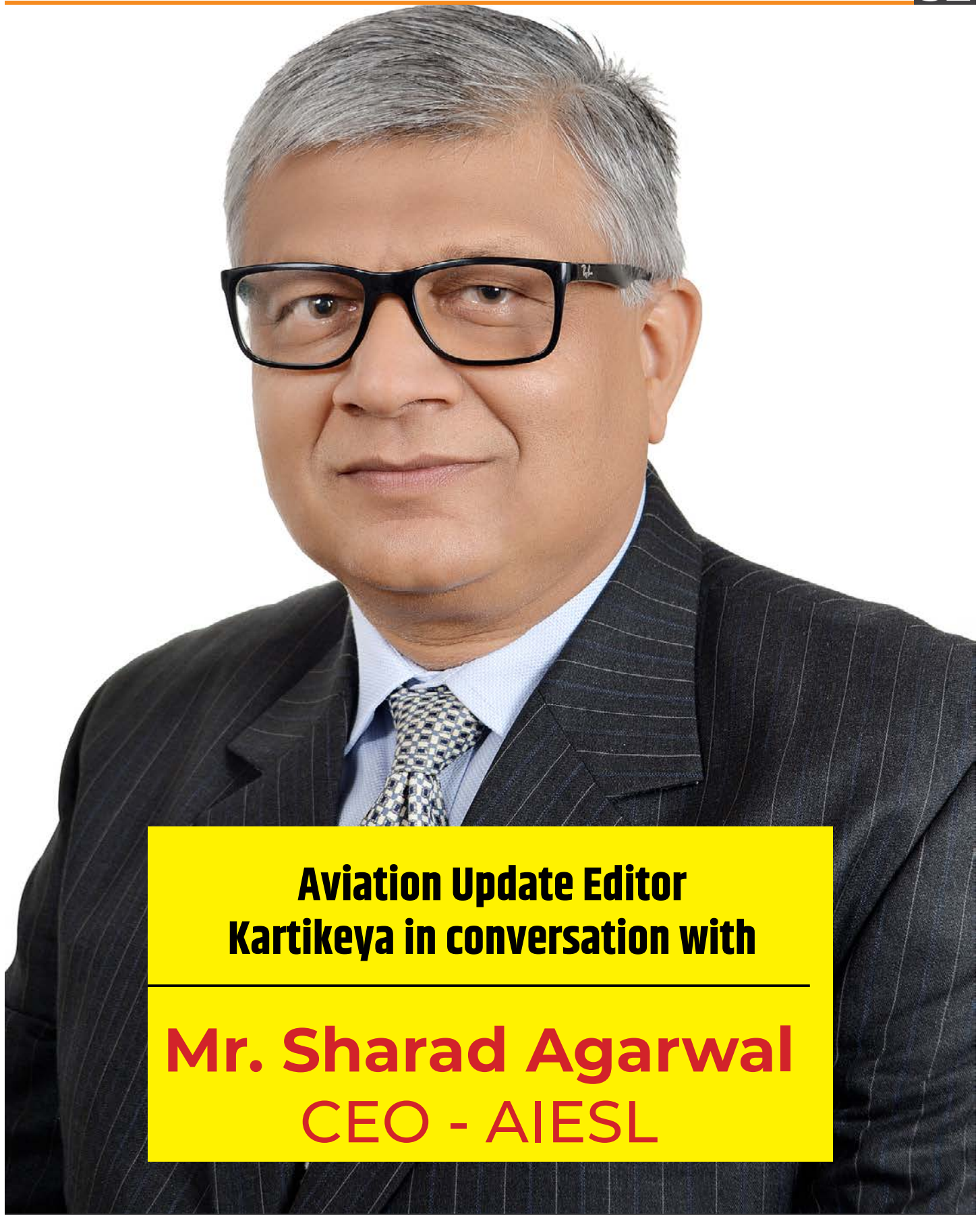
A Awards or recognitions bring happiness and also a sense of responsibility to me. Rewards for good work is really inspiring. However, it has to be genuine.

Q What is your message to young entrepreneurs who wish to become influencers?

A Civil Aviation as a whole is a very vibrant industry. Remaining in this industry has its own charm. Technology plays a very important role in aviation, like now-a-days, digitization is getting implemented everywhere. And, importantly, this industry does not tolerate stalemate. One has to keep himself/herself updated continuously. India, after getting National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 has brought a lot of opportunities to the entrepreneurs. Our country has the world's highest growth of domestic passengers. We are becoming third largest aviation market soon. So opportunities are abundant.

Q Why can't you share your achievements in last one decade to our readers?

A Yes, in 2014, when I was working in Delhi Airport, I got an opportunity to work in the Philippines to take over the Mactan-Cebu International Airport. GMR bagged the concession contract and formed a joint consortium with Philippines' Megawide company, called GMCAC, GMR Megawide Cebu Airport Corporation. It was a seamless transition in 2014. Subsequently, I led the ORAT team of GMR and commissioned the newly constructed Kannur International Airport in Kerala. Commissioning was seamless in 2018. Subsequently I joined there as the first COO. I was invited to speak in the Global ORAT Summit, Singapore in 2017 and in London in 2019. It was a good recognition at International platform. In 2019 when Adani Group bagged six airports in India, I got the most coveted opportunity of my life to join Adani Group and serve the airport at my home state, Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati. Before that, I worked for Mangalore and Ahmedabad Airport for a brief period during the transition. Guwahati is the Gateway to the seven states of India and has high importance and huge potential to grow. We are now zeroing in to give a state-of-the-art terminal to the nation at Guwahati. I am lucky to have the opportunity to lead the team.



**Aviation Update Editor
Kartikeya in conversation with**

Mr. Sharad Agarwal
CEO - AIESL

Q Who are the best Inspiration persons for you in both Personal & Professional Life? What are the lessons you learnt from them?

A In the hangar of leadership, two beacons guided my ascent – H.R. Jagannath, AIESL's former visionary, and my father, grit personified. Jagannath wasn't just a CEO, he molded steel and minds, forging a culture of excellence and unwavering belief. I learned the symphony of diverse talents united by a shared dream. From my father, etched in his calloused hands and unwavering gaze, came resilience, integrity, and the unwavering resolve to face any storm. These two, so different, fueled my climb, shaping the leader I am, forever grateful for their silent echoes in my every decision.

Q Can you share one nostalgic moment in the process of becoming successful in your journey?

A As AIESL's CEO, a defining moment in our organizational spirit occurred during the pre-disinvestment era of Air India. Facing a crisis of 20 grounded aircraft, our team, a diverse blend of engineers and support staff, showcased remarkable resilience. Despite immense pressure and high stakes involving reputation, safety, and finances, we embraced the challenge. The MRO hangar became our haven, sacrificing personal schedules for relentless troubleshooting and repairs. Sleep became a luxury as we pushed our limits, fueled by camaraderie and a shared goal. Eventually, through collective effort, each aircraft soared again, symbolizing our unwavering commitment to teamwork and resilience. This unforgettable experience remains a testament to AIESL's enduring spirit.

Q What are the best quotes still you follow in your day to life?

A As CEO of AI Engineering Services, I live by a few guiding quotes that shape my approach to leadership and our work in maintenance, repair, and overhaul. 'Safety first, quality always' underscores our responsibility in aviation. 'Innovation distinguishes leaders' keeps us agile in a dynamic industry.

Q How do you feel when you get awards/recognitions for your work?

A Awards gleam on shelves, but AIESL's true treasure shines in silent skies. Sure, trophies applaud, but our reward echoes in each soaring dream, in every life connected. We mend metal giants, not for accolades, but for smooth takeoffs, pilot's nods, and whispers of "thank you." It's not gold or praise that fuels us, but the knowledge we keep dreams aloft, guardians unseen, yet vital as the air they fly through.

Q What is your message to young entrepreneurs who wish to become influencers?

A As the CEO of AIESL, my advice to aspiring entrepreneurs seeking to become influencers is rooted in our journey at AI Engineering Services. Embrace innovation, stay resilient in the face of challenges, and prioritize building a strong, collaborative team. Influence is earned through dedication, continuous learning, and a commitment to excellence. Stay true to your values, lead with integrity, and let your passion drive your impact. In the dynamic world of MRO and aviation, success comes from a blend of expertise, adaptability, and a visionary mindset. Seize opportunities, inspire others, and remember that true influence is a

reflection of positive impact and leadership

Q Please share your achievements in 2023 to our readers?

A Our engines roared in 2023, not just weathering turbulence, but redefining it. Here's a glimpse of our sky-high triumphs:

Defense Takeoff: We secured the IAF's trust for A321 maintenance, bolstering national security and reaffirming our mastery of complex military platforms.

Global Voyage: Partnering with Kuwait Airways, our B777 expertise landed us in lucrative Middle Eastern skies, marking our ambitious global expansion.

Pioneering Flight: As India's first B737 MAX Major Check-approved MRO, we conducted the country's first, etching our name in aviation history.

Landing Gear Innovation: Southeast Asia's first B787 Landing Gear replacement bears our stamp – a testament to our cutting-edge capabilities and regional leadership.

Strategic Alliance: A JV with HAL in Nasik, securing A320 & B737 Painting Approval, strengthens India's MRO infrastructure and propels us onto the global stage.

Beyond these peaks, EASA approvals at key stations solidified our international compliance.

At AIESL, we don't just service aircraft, we fuel safe skies that connect dreams. 2023's milestones are a soaring testament to our dedication, innovation, and collaborative spirit. As we navigate the endless flight path, we remain committed to setting new benchmarks and pushing the boundaries of aviation excellence.



Q Who are the best inspiring persons for you in both personal and professional life? What are the lessons you learned from them?

A Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is one of the most inspiring figures of modern India. I had an opportunity to work under the leadership of Dr. Abdul Kalam when he was the Director of DRDL. He was not just a great scientist and President of India but also a motivational source for many young minds aspiring to make a mark in the field of space, defence and aerospace. I was highly motivated by his knowledge, perseverance, hard work, and dedication which was always aimed at the development of the nation. I have always incorporated his values, ethics and learnings in my personal and professional life. His life, work and words have always been my guiding force.

Since, the beginning of my career in DRDO, I was fortunate to be surrounded by visionary people who were constantly striving to achieve next-level of military inspired technologies which will help our nation to build more robust defence systems.

Dr. A Sivathanu Pillai was one such name to reckon with in the arena of defence technologies. Dr. Pillai – a man of vision,

is one of the most successful and inspiring leaders. From setting goals to embracing challenges together with positive thinking, teamwork, integrity and courage, his clear vision encouraged me immensely to work towards achieving goals with dedication and determination. His outstanding techno-managerial skills in networking multiple institutions for the development of critical missile technologies overcoming denial regimes. I have gained invaluable experiences working with him. It is a great honour for me that today, I am heading the organization which was created and nurtured by him.

In my personal life, I would have to say that the persons who have most greatly inspired me are my family members, friends & teachers. They are the only ones in the whole world who have always supported and continue to motivate me to achieve my goals.

Q Can you share one nostalgic moment in the process of becoming successful in your journey?

A Since my initial years in DRDO, I have worked in various areas of military technology with a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems. As a Programme Manager for Programme PJ-10,

steering the feasibility studies, conceptual design, planning, development, testing, integration and certification of DRDO Onboard systems culminating in successful demonstration, induction and subsequent productionisation of BRAHMOS. I was part of all the flight trial campaigns in the initial time. Every flight trial was nostalgic and posed different challenges which we could overcome and establish that we can do it. It paved the way for strengthening our Armed Forces with a formidable weapon system. This unforgettable experience of developing hi-tech systems for the realisation of BRAHMOS weapon system and today as DG BrahMos, DRDO and CEO&MD of BrahMos Aerospace I am leading this prestigious organisation, all these can be termed as nostalgic moments in my journey.

Q How do you feel when you get awards/recognitions for your work?

A Awards and Recognitions make people feel that their work is valued. I always feel deeply humbled and honoured to receive awards recognising our commitment in the field of Aerospace and Defence and take such special moments as another step in the learning curve to focus on new technologies, future challenges and growth opportunities.

Q What is your message to young entrepreneurs who wish to become influencers?

A India today is in a unique position in the world, attracting all developed countries to look at, because India is the best resource hub of young intelligent minds. Today's youth have a tremendous responsibility to shape India's future. Everyone should fix a goal for themselves. There should always be a thirst in themselves to achieve the goal. These budding intellectual minds will play a crucial role in leading nation towards greater heights.

Q Can you please share your achievements in last one decade to our readers?

A In the world missile arena, BRAHMOS has established its credence as a

WHAT ARE THE BEST QUOTES STILL YOU FOLLOW IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?



TO SUCCEED IN YOUR MISSION, YOU MUST HAVE SINGLE-MINDED DEVOTION TO YOUR GOAL



DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM



TAKE UP ONE IDEA. MAKE THAT ONE IDEA YOUR LIFE - THINK OF IT, DREAM OF IT, LIVE ON THAT IDEA. LET THE BRAIN, MUSCLES, NERVES, EVERY PART OF YOUR BODY, BE FULL OF THAT IDEA, AND JUST LEAVE EVERY OTHER IDEA ALONE. THIS IS THE WAY TO SUCCESS



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

versatile, universal and unparalleled weapon. In this glorious journey of 25 years, BRAHMOS has fortified the firepower of the Indian Armed Forces and in the process also indigenised major systems and sub-systems as its resolve to empower India's Atmanirbharta Abhiyaan in the defence sector. We have also been associated with many public-private industries right from the development stage. BRAHMOS is a success story in India's defence domain. Additionally, the successful Joint venture has also bagged India's first military export order along with more in the pipeline. It is the first of its kind that India has achieved a new milestone by the signing of an export contract for whole weapon system.

BRAHMOS – As an Influencer

BRAHMOS has positioned India as a World Leader in missile technology with the fastest, high precision Supersonic Cruise Missile, realised in a short period of time. BrahMos Aerospace, JV between DRDO of India & NPOM of Russia, has successfully developed numerous variants of BRAHMOS - land-to-land, land-to-sea, sea-to-sea, sea-to-land, sub-sea and also the air-launched one strengthening all the three wings of the Armed Forces – Army, Navy & Air Force. The BRAHMOS has become a vital part of modernisation drive of Indian Armed Forces wherein it is being installed in various platforms.

Over the years, BrahMos has successfully developed and tested different variants of the potential missile to meet divergent war scenarios. BRAHMOS, as a role-model, has also set precedence by successfully establishing a robust Missile Industrial Complex in both India and Russia. The public and private sector Indian defence firms have been actively involved in designing, developing and producing various components of the missile. After first mega export deal, India is in advanced talks with several countries.

Defence Secretary inaugurates new design & test facility at HAL's Aero Engine Research & Development Centre in Bengaluru

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurated a new design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru, Karnataka on December 29, 2023. The AERDC is currently involved in the design and development of several new engines including two strategic engines - Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine (HTFE) of 25 kN thrust for powering trainers, UAVs, twin engine small fighter aircraft or regional jets and Hindustan Turbo Shaft Engine (HTSE) of 1200 kN thrust for powering light and medium weight helicopters (3.5 to 6.5 tonnes in single/twin engine configuration).

The new state-of-the-art facility, spanning over 10,000 sq. meters, houses special machines, advanced setups leveraging on computational tools, in-house fabrication facility and two test beds for testing HTFE-25 and one testbed each for testing HTSE-1200 and upcoming JV engine for IMRH to be co-developed by Safran, France and HAL. In addition, the newly developed facility has set-ups for testing Air producer of Jaguar, Gas Turbine Starter Unit (GTSU) - 110 M2 and 127E of Light Combat Aircraft, Auxiliary Power Units of Indian Multi-Role Helicopter and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, Gas Turbine Electrical Generator (GTEG)-60 for An-32 aircraft. Set-ups to carry out various critical tests for engine components and Line Replacement Units (LRUs) have also been established within the new facility.

Hailing the work being done by HAL, the Defence Secretary stated that the government trusts the capability



of the Defence PSU to deliver and make the country self-reliant. "Manufacturing sector is the future of the country and in the coming decades, the HAL should focus on mastering technologies for all types of aircraft. Think ahead as the entire paradigm of warfare is changing," he said.

Highlighting the role of unmanned aircraft in future warfare, the Defence Secretary encouraged the HAL to collaborate with other private companies to develop new platforms. He inspected the manufacturing range of various engines and test beds and also paid a visit to HAL's Aerospace Division.

Chairman & Managing Director (Addl. Charge) of HAL Shri CB Ananthkrishnan said: "The development of this

facility marks a key milestone in HAL's growth trajectory. It is a testimony of our commitment towards achieving 'Aatmanirbharta' in aero-engine design and development."

The Centre, established in the 1960s, holds the unique distinction of being the only design house that has developed test beds for engines of both Western and Russian origin. The Centre has successfully developed & certified PTAE-7 engine, the first indigenous turbojet engine of India powering Lakshya (Unmanned Aircraft), Gas Turbine Electrical Generator GTEG-60 for starting An-32 aircraft, Air starter ATS 37 & Air producer for starting Adour-Mk 804E/811 on Jaguar Aircraft and Shakti engine for powering ALH to support Ad804/811 engine of Jaguar aircraft.

DRDO carries out successful flight trial of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator, an indigenous high-speed flying-wing UAV

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully carried out a flight trial of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator, an indigenous high-speed flying-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga in Karnataka. The successful flying demonstration of this autonomous stealth UAV is a testimony to maturity in the technology readiness levels in the country. With this flight in the tailless configuration, India has joined the elite club of countries to have mastered the controls for the flying wing technology.

This UAV is designed and developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment. The maiden flight of this aircraft was demonstrated in July 2022, followed by six flight trials in various developmental

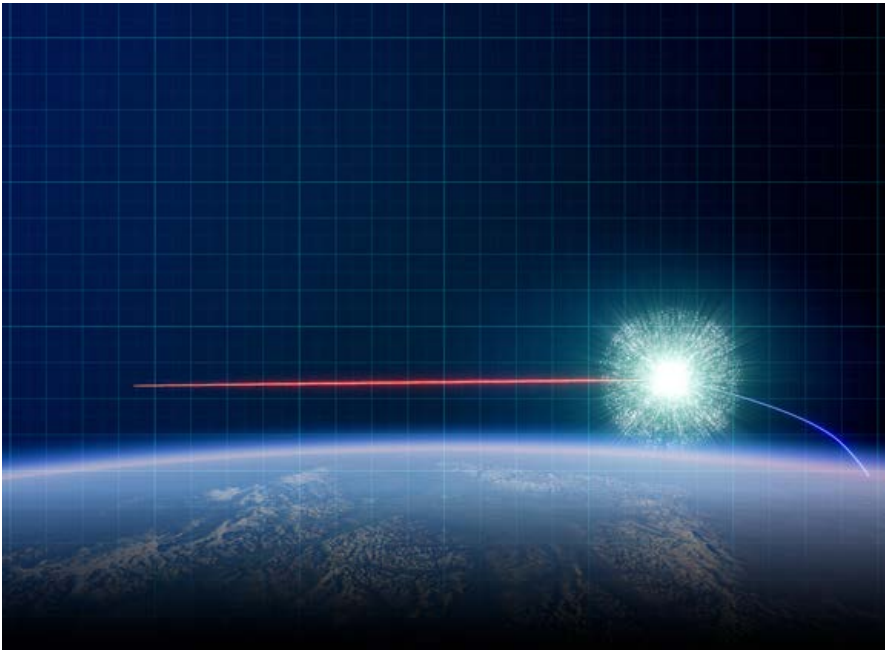


configurations using two in-house manufactured prototypes. These flight-tests led to achievements in development of robust aerodynamic and control system; integrated real-time and hardware-in-loop simulation, and state-of-the-art Ground Control Station. The team had optimised the avionic systems, integration and flight operations towards the

successful seventh flight in final configuration.

The aircraft prototype, with a complex arrowhead wing platform, is designed and manufactured with light-weight carbon prepreg composite material developed indigenously. Also, the composite structure, impregnated with fibre interrogators for health monitoring, is a showcase of 'Aatmanirbharta' in the aerospace technology. The autonomous landing of this high-speed UAV, without the need for ground radars/infrastructure/pilot, showcased a unique capability demonstration, allowing take-off and landing from any runway with surveyed coordinates. This was possible using onboard sensor data fusion with indigenous satellite-based augmentation using GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) receivers to improve the accuracy and integrity of GPS navigation.

Northrop Grumman Supports End-to-End Missile Defense Demonstration



Northrop Grumman Corporation supported Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) test of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system. The FTG-12 test used a stage selectable Ground-Based Interceptor (GBI) missile system against the company's own air-launched Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) target vehicle, managed by the GMD Ground System and Fire Control to demonstrate enhanced capabilities for the warfighter.

During the test, the GMD Ground System processed data from multiple sensors to identify and characterize the inbound IRBM threat, devised a defensive solution and launched the intercepting GMD GBI to negate the threat.

This test validated Northrop Grumman's enhanced capabilities, increasing the performance of the GMD system against the evolving threat. The GMD system is currently deployed in multiple locations and is the first and only operational missile defense system to defend the U.S. against intermediate and long-range ballistic missile attacks.

EXPERT:

Scott Lehr, vice president of launch and missile defense systems, Northrop Grumman: "As the threat landscape advances, it's critical to ensure our homeland defense systems are tested and proven in the event of an attack. This successful test demonstrates we are ready and have confidence in the MDA's end-to-end missile defense solutions that are deployed today."

DETAILS:

Northrop Grumman serves as a strategic partner to The Boeing Company for the GMD development and sustainment contract, providing development, integration, operations and sustainment of the ground systems as well as the interceptor boost vehicle.

Built on over 60 years of mission-proven missile defense experience, Northrop Grumman provides full scope missile defense capabilities to include missile interceptors and test targets, coupled with secure communications, missile warning, and advanced space domain awareness.

BAE Awarded \$92M Contract to Continue US Navy Air Traffic Control & Landing Systems Support

BAE Systems has received a follow-on contract to continue supporting Air Traffic Control & Landing Systems Operations Onboard Navy Ship and Shore Based Sites (AOOSS). The five-year indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract, valued at \$92 million, was awarded by the U.S. Navy Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD).

"Since 1993, we have been providing technical and engineering services for AOOSS worldwide," said Lisa Hand, vice president and general manager, BAE Systems Integrated Defense Solutions. "For those 30 years, we have worked closely with our customers to bolster their readiness—a legacy we're very proud of. We're equally proud to continue to support this mission moving forward."

Under the new contract, BAE Systems will continue to provide fleet services, technical support, and operational software development and maintenance to support various air traffic control and landing systems for the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, Military Sealift Command, and international customers.

BAE Systems will complete the work in Great Mills, St. Inigoes, and Patuxent River, Maryland; Chesapeake, Virginia; and San Diego, California.



South Korea selects the Embraer C-390 Millennium

South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) has announced Embraer's C-390 Millennium as the winner of the Large Transport Aircraft (LTA) II public tender to provide the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) with new military transport aircraft. South Korea is the C-390 Millennium's first customer in Asia.

Under the signed contract, Embraer will provide an undisclosed number of C-390 Millennium aircraft specially configured to meet ROKAF's requirements, as well as services & support including training, ground support equipment and spare parts. The value of the contract will be included in Embraer's backlog in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Embraer will also provide a comprehensive consortium and offset package including a significant amount of C-390 Millennium parts to be locally manufactured by Korean partner companies and the development of a local Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) provider.

"We welcome the Republic of Korea Air Force to the growing number of air forces operating the C-390 Millennium – the most modern military tactical transport aircraft. Day after day, the aircraft has proven its capability to complete a wide range of missions with great efficiency, serviceability and speed," said Bosco da Costa Jr, President and CEO, Embraer Defense & Security. "This is a new era in Brazil-South Korea relations and together with our Korean partners, we are committed to growing the capabilities of its aerospace and defense industries."

South Korea is the seventh nation to select the C-390 after Brazil, Portugal, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria



and the Czech Republic. The C-390 is redefining military airlift and challenging the thinking behind current and future generation platforms, with multi-mission capability, reliability and interoperability built by design.

Since entering operation with the Brazilian Air Force in 2019 and most recently with the Portuguese Air Force

in 2023, the C-390 has proven its capacity, reliability, and performance. The current fleet of aircraft in operation has accumulated more than 10,800 flight hours, with operational availability of around 80% and mission completion rates above 99%, demonstrating exceptional productivity in the category.

Missile Defense Agency, Boeing-Led Industry Team Conduct Early Release Intercept Test

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency and a Boeing led industry team successfully intercepted an intermediate-range ballistic missile in space during the latest test of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense, or GMD, system. The test validated GMD's Capability Increment 6B configuration, which gives the Missile Defense Operators more time, space, and flexibility to intercept ballistic missile threats to the U.S. homeland.

During the test, a GMD interceptor released a kinetic-force Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle, or EKV, during the rocket booster's second stage of its normally three-stage sequence of flight. The threat-representative target was air launched from the Broad Ocean Area and the interceptor was deployed



from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

"This successful test is important because it opens up the window of opportunity to intercept threats to our homeland," said Debbie Barnett, vice president of Strategic Missile & Defense Systems. "We're committed to continuously enhancing the GMD system's capability to meet rapidly evolving missile defense needs for the nation."

Boeing has supported the GMD program as lead system integrator since its inception in 1998 through development, test, operations and sustainment. The system has now been on alert for nearly two decades and is an integral part of America's layered ballistic missile defense architecture.

Thales new Ground Master 400A reinforcing air surveillance and protection for the Royal Malaysian Air Force

Thales has signed on 8 December 2023 a letter of award for the supply of a GM400a long range radar delivered with a complete station infrastructure to the Royal Malaysian Air Force, in the presence of the Ministers of Defence of both Malaysia and France.

The award follows successful live testing, demonstrating the new GM400a radars performance to augment air surveillance and air defense capabilities. With 5 times more processing power, an increase in instrumented range of more than 10% (515km) and advanced artificial intelligence capabilities, the radar provides extended air surveillance capabilities. A field-proven radar globally recognised for its technological superiority, the GM400a is deployed in more than 20 nations and will provide the Royal Malaysian Air Force superior situational awareness.

Given the multitude of threats and conflicts in constant evolution, building a reliable, accurate, up-to-date Recognized Air Picture (RAP) the GM400a meets the challenges to maintain airspace sovereignty, providing superior situational awareness at all times.

Leveraging on years of successful field experience, GaN technology and surveillance capabilities, the GM400a detects simultaneously targets from fast jets and missiles, to hovering helicopters and UAVs, flying close to the ground, hiding in the clutter near the radar. In addition, the radar maintains the highest level of mobility and availability performance on the market. Thales will deliver a complete radar station, including building, access road, energy, air conditioning, telecommunications, radome and all the associated logistics.

“We are thrilled that Thales’ GM400a radar is selected by the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) to be a strategic asset of Malaysia’s air defence and surveillance systems. This contract is a strong testament to Thales’ leadership in the radar domain and marks a new milestone in the ongoing success story started in 2009 when Malaysia became the launch customer of the predecessor radar, the GM400.

This new contract reinforces the defence cooperation between France and Malaysia. With historic deep roots in Malaysia, a strong local installed base, Thales is proud to strengthen Malaysia’s air sovereignty.” François-Xavier Boutes, Country Director, Malaysia, Thales.

Belgium and Lockheed Martin Celebrate Rollout of First F-35A for Belgium



Lockheed Martin [LMT] presented Belgium’s first F-35A Lightning II to the Belgian government during a rollout ceremony at Lockheed Martin’s F-35 production facility. This event marks a significant milestone in the Belgian Air Force’s history and strengthens the alliance between the United States and Belgium, a key NATO ally.

“The introduction of the F-35 within the Belgian Air Force will enable us to continue to fulfil all our missions in the coming decades, in cooperation with our allies and partners in NATO, the EU and beyond,” said Chief of Defense for the Belgian Armed Forces, Admiral Michel Hofman.

Building on the strong legacy of the F-16, the F-35 will provide the next generation of air power to ensure the Belgian Air Force can fulfill its NATO missions and protect the alliance’s key interests. By serving as the most advanced 21st Century Security solution, the F-35 will connect assets across domains to increase situational awareness for Belgium and its key European partners.

“We congratulate Belgium on this significant achievement,” said Lt. Gen. Mike Schmidt, program executive officer, F-35 Joint Program Office. “The growth of the F-35 in Europe strengthens international partnerships, interoperability, and warfighting capability; and emphasizes the importance the aircraft provides as a deterrent against potential adversaries.”

“With its unmatched capability, connectivity and interoperability, the 5th Generation F-35 will enable the Belgian Air Force to stay ahead of threats for decades to come,” said Greg Ulmer, executive vice president, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. “Today’s milestone would not have been possible without the strong partnership and key contributions from our close partners in Belgian government and industry.”

Senior government and military leaders from Belgium and the United States attended the ceremony. Belgium’s program of record calls for 34 F-35As. The first aircraft, designated AY-01, will be delivered to the Belgian Air Force next year and will be based at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, where international F-35 pilot and maintainer training takes place.



**SPEED
PRECISION
POWER**

**WORLD LEADER
IN CRUISE
MISSILE FAMILY**

BRAHMOS

Supersonic Cruise Missile



BRAHMOS AEROSPACE

16, Cariappa Marg, Kirby Place, Delhi Cantt., New Delhi-110010 INDIA

Tel.: +91-11-42285000 **Fax:** +91-11-25684827

Website: www.brahmos.com **Mail:** mail@brahmos.com



**A JOINT VENTURE OF
DRDO, INDIA & NPOM, RUSSIA**



Vietnam Airlines and Turkish Airlines expand cooperation on air cargo transportation

Vietnam Airlines and Turkish Airlines signed an agreement to further foster cooperation in the field of air cargo transportation. The agreement between Vietnam Airlines and Turkish Airlines will bring additional long-term benefits to air cargo customers and both airlines. Vietnam Airlines and Turkish Airlines intend to enhance cooperation in the field of cargo transport and will conduct research to enable a potential launch of an air cargo joint venture providing customers with the benefits of a larger, faster network with enhanced direct flights, a wider range of destinations and increased frequencies. Combining the resources of the two national airlines will support increased efficiency in the use of their aircraft capacities and further boost their position in global competition.

Dang Ngoc Hoa, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Vietnam Airlines said: "The cooperation between Vietnam Airlines and Turkish Airlines was established on the basis of mutual benefit. Turkish Airlines will benefit from expanding the scale of its transportation network to previously limited areas such as Oceania, and Northeast Asia through the advantages offered by Vietnam's central geographical location as a transit point. Furthermore, by using freighters and connecting to Turkish Airlines' global network of 345 destinations around the world, Vietnam Airlines will be able to significantly expand its scale. We hope this cooperation will facilitate Vietnam's position and advancement towards becoming one of the leading logistics centers in the Asia-Pacific region."

Turkish Airlines' CEO Bilal Ekşi commented at the signing ceremony: "Asia is one of our most important markets. Our efforts to increase our presence on this prominent continent continue unabated with our competent teams and R&D activities. In an era where global aviation is shifting from West to East, these efforts are even more meaningful. I hope the collaboration we have started with Vietnam Airlines, currently focused on our air cargo brand Turkish Cargo, but planned to be developed in different categories in the future, will be beneficial and fruitful for both countries and both flag carriers."

Turkish Airlines to order an additional 220 Airbus aircraft

Türkiye's national carrier, Turkish Airlines, will expand its fleet with an order for 220 Airbus aircraft, made up of 150 Airbus' best-selling A321s and 70 of the world's most modern and efficient A350 widebody aircraft (50 A350-900s, 15 A350-1000s and 5 A350F freighters). This follows two orders from the airline for 10 A350-900s in September and four A350-900s in July 2023. This latest order will take Turkish Airlines' total orderbook for Airbus aircraft to 504, of which 212 are already delivered.

"On the new order, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bolat stated: "This landmark order is more than an expansion; it's a testament to our dedication to innovation, operational excellence, and a sustainable future. The addition of these advanced Airbus aircraft to our fleet will not only enhance our operational capabilities but also significantly contribute to our environmental goals. This investment is a crucial milestone in the further evolution of Türkiye's aviation industry. By modernising our fleet with more efficient and environmentally friendly aircraft, we are reinforcing our leading position in global aviation and contributing to the nation's prominence as an aviation hub."

"This order for the latest generation aircraft is a demonstration of the bold vision by Turkish Airlines. The A350-900, A350-1000, A350F and A321 will all be flagship aircraft in their respective category and efficiency drivers to shape the airline's future and sustainable expansion, with more range, less fuel, noise and emissions and best cabin in class," says Christian Scherer, Airbus Chief Commercial Officer and Head of International. "The opening into the A350-1000 and the A350F highlights the cross-model value of the A350 family and reinforces our long-lasting partnership with Turkish Airlines and Türkiye's aviation sector. We are proud to accompany Türkiye's connection to the world with our state-of-the-art aircraft."



Menzies Aviation goes live with Wipro's New Cargo Management System

Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, together with leading technology services and consulting company, Wipro have announced the successful launch of its new Menzies Aviation Cargo Handling (MACH) cargo management system. Following the successful launch of Menzies' cargo operation at Bucharest Otopeni Airport (OTP) in Romania, the MACH system will be deployed initially at 10 air cargo locations, with plans to implement the system across Menzies' global network by the end of 2024.

The partnership between Menzies Aviation and Wipro has combined Menzies' extensive knowledge and expertise in air cargo operations with Wipro's cutting-edge technology capabilities. In just over 12 months since signing the contract, it has delivered a pioneering, end-to-end cargo management system, MACH, which is set to transform Menzies operations across the network.

MACH represents a significant enhancement on Menzies' current cargo management system, boasting a modern user interface (UI) with easy to use navigation, making it exceptionally user friendly for all stakeholders. Its cloud-based architecture ensures accessibility from anywhere, anytime and on any device, providing real-time insights and data. Operating from a 'single source of truth,' MACH seamlessly integrates with other systems helping



to simplify and standardise all processes. An integral part of the cargo management ecosystem, it improves data accuracy as all electronic information is populated automatically across the system.

Beau Paine, Global Head of Cargo, Menzies Aviation said: "We are excited to embark on the journey to deliver MACH to our customers in Bucharest. It is said, technology is best when it brings people together and we are very proud of the accomplishments of our team and Wipro over the last 12 months. We can't wait to accelerate the implementation plan in continuing to roll out MACH across the wider network in the months to come."

Rory Fidler, VP Cargo Technology, Menzies Aviation, said: "I am incredibly proud of the team and partnership that we have developed with Wipro. Their knowledge and experience have been vital to bringing our vision to life and developing

a truly game-changing product for the industry. In just 13 months, we have achieved an incredible feat, which has been underpinned by hard work. From a six page briefing document to five million lines of code, 3,000 test scripts and more, we are excited to develop a truly innovative platform for the Menzies Cargo Network."

Omkar Nisal, Managing Director UK& Ireland, Wipro Limited, said: "We are proud of our partnership in helping Menzies transform their cargo business through the deployment of Wipro's state-of-the-art cargo handling solution. Working together leveraging our leading technology capabilities and combining it with Menzies' deep aviation knowledge is a reflection of Wipro's ethos. We're delighted to be able to help Menzies realise their ambitions through technology and innovation."

Subha Tatavarti, Chief Technology Officer, Wipro Limited, said: "With our vision to transform industries through technology and invent the future of enterprises, we continue to be excited and grateful for the opportunity to work with Menzies to transform the cargo handling industry through our aviation products. In partnership with Menzies, we built a modern, scalable solution that will not only cater to one of the world's leading cargo handlers, but will open the door to building an industry-changing aviation platform. We look forward to our continued success with Menzies."

OMAN AIR LAUNCHES FREIGHTER SERVICE FROM GMR HYDERABAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Oman Air launched its maiden freighter services from GMR Hyderabad International Airport, operating its first Boeing B737-800BCF connecting Hyderabad and Muscat. The freighter service will operate two weekly flights, on Tuesday and Saturday. The flight will depart from Hyderabad at 14:00 hours. With a one-way capacity of 22 metric tons, the freighter will add an additional weekly capacity of 88 metric tons from Hyderabad Airport. This service is poised to boost the export of pharmaceuticals and hatching eggs shipments from the city.

Mr. Pradeep Panicker, CEO, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd, said, "The Oman Air



freighter services from Hyderabad Airport will not only link our diverse industries and the thriving market within the city but will also provide opportunities for the businesses in the surrounding regions access to the global market. As global cargo demand continues to grow, we have emphasized and developed infrastructure

and innovative capabilities, digital solutions, and added multiple value additions. We look forward to adding more cargo routes in the coming years."

Oman serves as a large importer of hatching eggs from India. With this new connection, Oman Air expects a substantial surge in exports of hatching eggs from Hyderabad, leveraging the large hatchery infrastructure in the city. This new connectivity will also boost pharma exports to Oman and further to the US and Europe with Muscat serving as a transshipment base. Middle East is also a major importer of fruits and vegetables. This new freighter would enhance exports of fruits and vegetables from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to the Middle East.

Luxcargo Handling S.A. takes over Luxair's Ramp and Cargo Handling activities



Cargolux is pleased to announce that its wholly owned subsidiary, Luxcargo Handling S.A., LCH, has been awarded a license for ramp handling at Luxembourg airport. The decision was announced following a tender process for two ground handling licenses. This license also permits LCH, to handle third party airlines. LCH will take over Luxair's ramp and warehouse handling operations at Luxembourg's Findel airport.

"The takeover of Luxair's ramp and warehouse handling services by LCH, is a great opportunity for Cargolux to strengthen its position in the air cargo industry and to further enhance its service offering to its customers. LCH also looks forward to continuing the relationship Luxair had with other airlines besides Cargolux. We look forward to commencing operations in 2024. Cargolux' and Luxair's cargo ramp and warehouse handling teams have been working hand in hand for decades and I am confident that the transition will proceed smoothly" says Richard Forson, Cargolux President & CEO.

As an all-cargo carrier with over 50 years' experience in the industry, Cargolux is aware of the challenges and requirements for seamless cargo handling.

Thai AirAsia X and Unilode extend ULD management partnership until 2029

Unilode Aviation Solutions, the market leader in outsourced unit load device (ULD) management, repair and digital services, and Thai AirAsia X, a low-cost medium-haul carrier based in Bangkok, announce the early extension of their full-service ULD management partnership until 2029.

Thai AirAsia X awarded the full-service management of its ULD fleet to Unilode in 2014. Unilode supplies a digitised ULD fleet from its global pool to Thai AirAsia X for its current fleet of seven Airbus A330 aircraft. As part of Thai AirAsia X's expansion plans, the total aircraft fleet size will grow to 20 widebody aircraft with new routes being added over the next few years.

Captain Pittinun Intarasak, Chief Operations Officer of Thai AirAsia X, said: "Thai AirAsia X is thrilled to return to a stabilised operation mode after the pandemic and strengthen its leading position in the low-cost medium-haul market in the Asia Pacific region. We are delighted to continue partnering with Unilode for ULD solutions as the expansion of our widebody fleet creates significant revenue-generating opportunities for our cargo business. ULD availability is crucial for the success of our passenger and cargo operations, and we will continue counting on Unilode's excellent support over the next six years and beyond."

Ross Marino, Unilode Chief Executive Officer, said: "Unilode has been providing ULD management solutions to Thai AirAsia X since the airline's launch in June 2014, and we are delighted with the extension of our ULD management partnership. Unilode's full-service ULD solutions provide a solid foundation for growth that is enhanced by our global MRO network, 24/7 management support and 100% asset availability. We are honoured to be part of Thai AirAsia X's growth story, and we are committed to providing the highest level of service and supporting its expansion plans for many years to come."

UPS Expands in Asia with Hub at Hong Kong International Airport

United Parcel Service, Inc. UPS is actively forging ahead to strengthen its foothold in the Asia Pacific market. To this end, UPS has recently inked a deal with the Hong Kong Airport Authority aimed at opening a new hub at the Hong Kong International Airport and near the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

The new hub, anticipated to be completed by 2028, should serve as UPS Hong Kong's main center for processing and managing imports, exports, and transshipments to and from Europe, the United States, and other parts of Asia.

The hub will be built on an area of 20,000 square meters, having direct access to aircraft. Powered by state-of-the-art sorting and scanning



technology, the hub will be fully automated and environment-friendly. The hub is being constructed in such a way as to accommodate almost 1 million tons of annual capacity.

Apart from enhancing UPS' existing

operations in Hong Kong, this move is an initiative on the company's part to expand its presence in the Greater Bay Area and serve the growing Asia Pacific consumer market. Last month, UPS completed a major expansion of its package sorting hub at Clark Airport.

Daryl Tay, president of UPS North Asia District, stated, "Hong Kong continues to be an engine of growth and a critical part of UPS's global smart logistics network. This new hub, along with our existing operations at Shenzhen Bao An Airport, demonstrate our continued commitment to Asia. We will continue to invest in areas of our network that bring unique value to our customers and create additional growth opportunities for UPS."

Reliable Manufacturing Ecosystem

Maximized in-country value-add for
global Aerospace customers.



India's first Precision Manufacturing SEZ



Stefan Schaffner and Sergiy Nevstruyev appointed to lead SITA's airports and customer experience teams



SITA announced the appointments of Stefan Schaffner as Senior Vice President of SITA AT AIRPORTS and Sergiy Nevstruyev as Senior Vice President of SITA Global Services (SGS). The two bring a wealth of management experience in the travel, transport, and mobility technologies sectors to SITA.

With SITA's presence in more than 1,000 airports globally, Stefan is responsible for transforming SITA's Airport portfolio to meet a growing demand for digitalization and automation. Prior to joining SITA, he was responsible for preparing Touchless Biometric Systems AG (TBS) for global rollout as its CEO, driving geographical expansion and building international partnerships and investor relations.

Sergiy will oversee the daily management of SITA's critical infrastructure for around 2,500 airline, airport, ground handler and related customers. He will also play a key role in SITA's transformation, responsible for optimizing SITA's IT landscape. He steps into his new role after an extensive tenure working with the aviation industry within Accenture's global industry group, focusing on strategy, transformation, customer experience and delivery.

David Lavorel, CEO SITA, said: "I am delighted to welcome Stefan and Sergiy to the executive management team. They each bring abundant experience in diverse facets of the global travel, transport, and IT industry. I look forward to the valuable new perspectives they will provide to shape our growth strategy in two of the most vital pillars of our business: our airport offerings and our approach to the customer experience."

Stefan Schaffner said: "I am excited to be joining SITA, an established partner innovating within the air transport industry. We see airports are increasingly investing in technology to improve the passenger experience and streamline operations. Supporting this demand with robust solutions will be a key focus in 2024 and beyond."

Sergiy Nevstruyev said: "Ensuring a high-quality customer experience is the cornerstone of the value we bring to our customers. Around the world, airports and airlines depend on us to ensure their infrastructure is robust and reliable, day in and day out. At this time of transformation, I look forward to applying my knowledge of the complexities of delivery and IT strategy to help reshape SITA's service management and optimize the tools supporting this."

Florian Guillermet chosen as future Executive Director of EASA

Florian Guillermet has been named the prospective Executive Director of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), following a decision by the Agency's Management Board.

Piotr Samson, Chair of the EASA Management Board and President of Civil Aviation at the Polish Civil Aviation Authority, expressed his satisfaction with the selection, stating, "I am pleased to announce that we have selected Florian Guillermet as the Executive Director of EASA. I have known Florian for many years and deeply respect his operational knowledge of aviation as well as his high-level strategic thinking. I am sure that, under his leadership, EASA and the European aviation community will grow and prosper even further."

Currently serving as the Director at DSNA, the Air Navigation Services Provider designated by the French State, Guillermet brings over 26 years of aviation experience, with a focus on air navigation and air traffic management. He served as the Executive Director at SESAR Joint Undertaking from



2014 to 2021, joining in 2012 from EUROCONTROL, where he held various roles since 2004. Earlier in his career, he held positions at the French DGCA and Air France. Guillermet, a graduate engineer from Ecole Polytechnique, holds a specialised Master in Air Transport Management and Aeronautics.

The nomination follows an open and transparent procedure launched by the European Commission and a preliminary selection to identify the candidate best suited in terms of merit, competence and experience relevant for civil aviation. A shortlist of candidates was then proposed to the EASA Management Board to make its selection.

SR Technics Business Development team welcomes Vincent Metz

In this role, Vincent will leverage his experience in the aviation industry to grow SR Technics' market share in Europe.

With over two decades in aviation, Vincent Metz held key roles at Air France - KLM, including VP of Strategy, Marketing, and Communications. He possesses extensive experience in MRO, with positions such as Director of Component Repair at KLM and Product Sales Director for Air France Industries. In 2020, he worked on building sustainable aviation solutions with Smart Airport Systems and later founded his consultancy firm Strategy2Fly. Beyond aviation, he made significant contributions in the train sector as interim CTO at Ermewa SA, restructuring their MRO operation.

Vincent Metz holds a master's degree in industrial engineering and management Science, along with a Bachelor's in Aeronautical Engineering, showcasing his comprehensive grasp of the technical, managerial, and human



dimensions of the aviation business.

Senior Vice President Caroline Vandedrinck welcomes Vincent Metz: "We are delighted that Vincent Metz joins our team as the Vice President for Europe. His wealth of experience and proven leadership in the aviation industry aligns seamlessly with SR Technics' commitment to delivering world-class MRO services."

AerFin Appoints Paul Ashcroft as Senior Vice President - Asia Pacific

Paul is a vastly experienced industry veteran with over 30 years' service in wide ranging technical and commercial functions. After starting his career at GE Wales, where he led the powerplant technical support of CFM56 engines with Asia Pacific customers and trained as a Six-Sigma Black Belt, Paul moved to hold leadership positions in Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong, where he was part of the Aircraft trading team and responsible for the engineering aspects of lease transitions. Within Rolls Royce Civil Aerospace, as Chief of Service Engineer, he led a large team improving operational reliability, enhancing customer technical support, and optimising life cycle cost of the worldwide RB211 and Trent fleets; he also supported the expansion of operations into Singapore. Most recently he was Head of Engineering Services in Rolls Royce Defence leading international teams and ensuring customers' in-service needs were met.

In this new position Paul will be responsible for growing AerFin's presence across the region, nurturing a high performance culture



environment, and developing and executing the company's revenue objectives. He will also be helping set out the vision for AerFin's growth and long-term partnership opportunities with our existing and future customer base.

AerFin's Chief Commercial Officer, James Bennett, said "I am delighted to secure Paul's services. Not only is he hugely knowledgeable and respected with relationships cultivated over the years, none more so than in Asia Pacific, but he's also a proven people leader with extensive experience of developing high performing teams, which will be key for us as we build presence in region."

Boeing Appoints Key Senior Leaders

Boeing announced Chris Raymond as president and chief executive officer of Boeing Global Services (BGS). Raymond will succeed Stephanie Pope, who was recently named Boeing chief operating officer. Brian Moran has been named Boeing's chief sustainability officer, succeeding Raymond. The appointments are effective Jan. 1, 2024.

As president and CEO of Boeing Global Services, Raymond will lead all aspects of the company's aerospace services business supporting commercial, government and aviation industry customers worldwide. BGS had 2022 revenue of \$17.6 billion. Raymond will report to Pope and continue to serve on Boeing's Executive Council. "Chris brings more than 30 years of Boeing expertise in nearly every aspect of our operations, and has strong employee, customer and supplier connections across our commercial and government markets," said Pope. "I'm confident he will continue the strong operational performance with our Services team and remain focused on delivering on our customer commitments."

As Boeing's chief sustainability officer, Moran will be responsible for advancing Boeing's sustainability efforts, focused on aerospace sustainability priorities, stakeholder-oriented reporting, industry-wide partnerships and company performance to achieve key sustainability goals. Based in Boeing's Amsterdam office, Moran will report to Dave

Calhoun, Boeing president and CEO, as well as to the Governance & Public Policy committee of the Boeing Board of Directors. He will also serve on Boeing's Executive Council. "With more than 20 years of Boeing service, Brian has wide-ranging expertise within nearly every aspect of our operations and businesses, including a deep understanding of and commitment to our partners and stakeholders



around the globe," said Calhoun. "Sustainability is a key priority at Boeing, and I am confident under Brian's leadership, our team will continue to elevate our focus and enable our company and our industry to achieve a more sustainable aerospace future."

Chris Raymond Biography: Chris Raymond has been serving as Boeing's chief sustainability officer since October 2020. Prior, Raymond was the vice president of Sustainability, Strategy and Corporate Development. He previously led Autonomous Systems within Boeing Defense, Space & Security (BDS), as well as other BDS business segments and BDS business development and strategy. Raymond began his career as an engineer and has held leadership assignments in engineering, supply chain management, program management, strategy and operations across Boeing. Read his full bio.

Brian Moran Biography: Brian Moran has been serving as vice president, Global Sustainability Policy & Partnerships for Boeing. He leads a diverse, global team that elevates and showcases Boeing's focus on sustainability, which includes informing the global policy landscape and deepening partnerships to advance Boeing's sustainability objectives, such as the scaling of sustainable aviation fuels. Brian has held leadership roles in Boeing's commercial and defense businesses, in communications and in government affairs and has been based with the company in St. Louis, Washington DC, London, Seattle, Berlin, Brussels, Chicago and Amsterdam.

Boeing Names Stephanie Pope Chief Operating Officer

Boeing announced Stephanie Pope as executive vice president and chief operating officer of The Boeing Company. In this newly created position, effective January 1, 2024, Pope will report to Boeing President and Chief Executive Officer Dave Calhoun.

As Boeing COO, Pope will oversee the performance of the company's three business units with responsibility for driving supply chain, quality, manufacturing and engineering excellence across the company. The business unit Chief Executive Officers, the Boeing Chief Engineer and the President of Boeing Global will report directly to Pope. Senior corporate functional leaders will continue reporting to Calhoun.

"Stephanie brings tremendous operational, financial and customer experience to this role, as well as a proven record of performance across our commercial, defense and services business units," said Calhoun. "Next year will be a significant transitional year in our performance as we continue to restore our operational and financial



strength; and Stephanie will help drive the stability and predictability necessary to ensure we deliver on our customer, employee, regulatory, investor and other stakeholder commitments."

Pope's successor to lead Boeing Global Services will be named at a later date.

"I am honored to step into this new role and look forward to working closely with Dave, our Executive Council and all of our Boeing teammates," said Pope. "Together, we will continue to improve operating performance and remain committed to delivering for our customers, while ensuring the highest levels of safety, quality and transparency in all that we do."

UDAN RCS connectivity by PAWAN HANS



**Presently Providing connectivity
in the states of Assam,
Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand**



पवन हंस लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
Pawan Hans Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
We fly for you

For Booking and Information:
please visit website:

<https://booking.pawanhans.co.in>

TOLL FREE# 18001803649



PIF INVESTS IN SAUDIA TECHNIC TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL MRO CHAMPION IN THE AVIATION SECTOR

The Public Investment Fund (PIF) announced the signing of an agreement to invest in Saudia Technic, a subsidiary of Saudia Group. Formerly known as Saudia Aerospace Engineering Industries, Saudia Technic has a long-established presence and rich legacy in Saudi Arabia, tracing its roots back to the 1960s. It provides services across key aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul segments (MRO), including line, base, components and engines.

PIF and Saudia Group will transform Saudia Technic into a national MRO champion by investing in infrastructure, boosting efficiency and capturing market growth in Saudi Arabia over the next decade. Saudia Technic's ambition is to become the MRO of choice for domestic airlines and global partners seeking access to the Saudi market.

The investment will support the development of an approximately 1 million-square-meter MRO village in Jeddah, including a state-of-the-art jet propulsion center that will expand Saudia Technic into the leading MRO in the Middle East. The new MRO



village will significantly increase hangar capacity and the number of component shops, successfully positioning Saudia Technic to capture Saudi Arabia's future market demand by unlocking scale and efficiency across line, base, engine, and component segments. The MRO village will entail the construction and operationalization of an engine test cell that will serve next generation wide-body and narrow-body aircraft engines, solidifying Saudi Arabia's MRO ambitions through 2030.

Raid Ismail, Co-Head of MENA Direct Investments at PIF, said: "PIF continues to invest in one of the world's most dynamic and rapidly expanding

sectors in an increasingly interconnected global economy. The investment in Saudia Technic is a significant milestone as we unlock capabilities, localize expertise and create a first-class, world-leading aviation sector in Saudi."

Captain Fahd Cynndy, CEO of Saudia Technic, added: "This strategic investment by PIF underscores our commitment to becoming a leader in the aviation industry. We are excited to work alongside PIF in shaping the future of aviation in Saudi Arabia and the region. Together, we aim to enhance our capabilities, drive innovation, and become the MRO of choice for airlines and partners worldwide."

Airbus Helicopters, Indamer come together for helicopter maintenance in India

Airbus Helicopters and Indamer have joined hands to provide cutting edge after-market services for helicopters in India, in a significant boost to the development of the rotary-wing Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) ecosystem in the country.

Under authorisation from Airbus Helicopters, Indamer will provide MRO services for Airbus helicopters at its facilities in Mumbai, New Delhi and Nagpur. Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, inaugurated the Nagpur facility today in the presence of Romain Trapp, Executive Vice-President, Customer Support and Services for Airbus Helicopters, and Prajay Patel, Director, Indamer Aviation Pvt. Ltd., along with Rémi Maillard, President and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia, and Sunny Guglani, Head of Helicopters,



Airbus India and South Asia.

"Building and supporting a sustainable end-to-end rotary-wing aviation ecosystem in India is key for Airbus Helicopters. With Indamer, we aim to cater to our growing fleet in India and the future potential while at the same time bring in the technical competencies that will help advance India's helicopter MRO ambitions," said Romain Trapp, Executive Vice-President, Customer Support & Services for Airbus Helicopters.

"Over a decade ago, Indamer made the strategic decision to establish its rotary-wing MRO division, concentrating on addressing the increasing demands of Indian customers for helicopters. The recognition from Airbus is a direct outcome of the company's commitment to this focus. With the right support, we maintain our belief that the maintenance requirements of Indian customers can be effectively fulfilled domestically. We align with Airbus in sharing this collective vision and express gratitude for their recognition," said Prajay Patel, Director, Indamer Aviation.

The Indamer-Airbus Helicopters MRO will provide faster turnaround for servicing and help create an efficient after-market experience for Airbus Helicopters customers not only in India but also in the wider South Asia region.

Air India gets key regulatory approval for A350 engineering maintenance



Air India, India's leading global airline, has received the DGCA approval for engineering line maintenance of A350 and A320 aircraft. This is a major step forward in ensuring the smooth operation and maintenance of the six A350 aircraft which is set to join the Air India fleet, with the first one expected to land by the month end. Along with this key approval, Air India engineers also received the DGCA certification for attending to any work related to the maintenance of A350 aircraft.

Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) 145 provides certification to ensure that the processes, systems, and controls at the MRO have been thoroughly reviewed, evaluated, and tested by the regulatory body i.e. the DGCA and is certified to have the capability to perform maintenance tasks safely and effectively conforming to all the airworthiness requirements.

"This approval will further inspire us to ensure smooth operation of our fleet, including, of course, the A350, with the highest technical despatch reliability," said S.K. Dash, Chief Technical Officer, Air India.

Air India is the first Indian airline to induct the technologically advanced A350 into its operations. The Engineering team of Air India has been gearing up to welcome the A350 aircraft and ensure that all necessary checks, maintenance, and repairs is available from the outset in the Air India facilities itself. The Engineering teams comprising Air India, Vistara, and AIX Connect representatives have successfully completed training at the Airbus centre in Toulouse.

In collaboration with SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC), Air India has been ensuring that its aircraft engineers have a hands-on experience of scheduled maintenance activities, turn-around inspections, and other essential orientation to have an immersive experience to handle the requirements of the A350 aircraft before it starts joining the fleet. Besides, the engineers have been participating in workshops on A350 for a comprehensive familiarity with the aircraft

Pilatus Enters Agreement to Acquire Pilatus Focused Aircraft Maintenance Business from Aero Centers Epps



Founded in 1965, Epps Aviation has been an Authorized Pilatus Sales and Service Center since 1996. Pilatus will assume responsibility for aircraft sales within this territory, and, after the deal closes, will incorporate the Pilatus maintenance operations (MRO) from 2024 and manage them independently from thereon. The Pilatus Service Center operation will continue to operate through Epps until the deal closes. The workforce of around 40 employees will join the Pilatus Group.

Based in Atlanta at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport, Aero Center Epps provides sales and maintenance services for Pilatus aircraft on the southeast coast of the USA. Last year, Epps was acquired by SAR Trilogy Management, LLC. In the context of this acquisition, the new owner decided to sell the Pilatus maintenance and repair operations to better focus on its FBO, non Pilatus maintenance, and aircraft management and charter business.

Seeking to ensure first-class customer support, Pilatus has decided to continue providing MRO services on an independent basis. Comprehensive product support over the entire life cycle of a Pilatus aircraft will remain guaranteed in the future. This will include maintenance and repair services, as well as avionics and spare parts sales for the single-engine PC-12 and the twin-engine PC-24 Super Versatile Jet.

Speaking at the contract signing, Markus Bucher, CEO of Pilatus, emphasizes: "With this acquisition we want to safeguard and further improve the continuity and quality of our award-winning services on the southeast coast of the USA. I'm delighted that we will have the expertise and the employees on board with us, and that we can continue to offer our customers a first-class service – 'Together we create the Pilatus Class!'"

In connection with the acquisition, Pilatus will also continue the PC-12 and PC-24 sales activities previously provided by Aero Center Epps.

SIA ENGINEERING COMPANY UNIT SIGNS LEASE AGREEMENT FOR HANGAR FACILITIES IN SUBANG, MALAYSIA

SIA Engineering Company Limited refers to its announcement of 5 April 2022 in relation to a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with Impeccable Vintage Properties Sdn Bhd (“IVP”), a whollyowned subsidiary of Malaysia’s sovereign wealth fund Khazanah Nasional Berhad, to potentially lease two hangars at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, Selangor, Malaysia.

The Company wishes to update that Base Maintenance Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (“BMM”), a whollyowned subsidiary of the Company, has entered into an agreement with IVP for the lease of the two hangars located within Complex A of Sultan Abdul Aziz Airport in Subang (“Subang Hangars”) for a period of 15 years, with an option to renew for a further term of 15 years.

The entry into this lease agreement is a significant milestone for SIAEC as it establishes the Company’s third base maintenance hub in the Asia-Pacific region. The addition of the Subang Hangars, each being able to accommodate two wide-body aircraft, will boost SIAEC’s airframe check capacity in providing comprehensive maintenance, repair and overhaul (“MRO”) of current and next-generation aircraft for SIAEC’s expanding portfolio of airline customers.

Mr Chin Yau Seng, Chief Executive Officer of SIAEC said, “We believe that our investment in the Subang hangars complements our component



and line maintenance joint ventures in Malaysia, allowing us to augment our extensive MRO offerings to our customers globally. With the expansion of our MRO network, this will further solidify our position as a leading provider of MRO services.”

Mr Fuad Sharuji, Chief Executive Officer of IVP said, “With a proven track record in MRO business, SIAEC’s establishment in Subang, Malaysia, will further bolster the thriving growth of Malaysia’s aerospace industry in support of the Government of Malaysia’s aspirations to position Malaysia as a leading aerospace hub in Southeast Asia and also in line with the Selangor Aerospace Action Plan 2020-2030, Malaysian Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030 and 12th Malaysia Plan. The lease of the two wide-body hangars to SIAEC will further serve to benefit the local MRO industry and contribute to the

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program of the local aviation institutions.”

Datuk Wira Arham Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (“MIDA”) applauded the signing of this Lease Agreement between the two parties, affirming, “The formalisation of this lease agreement between SIAEC and IVP underscores a robust commitment from a prominent global aerospace MRO company like SIAEC to establish roots in Malaysia. It stands as a testament to the nation’s competitive edge in the aerospace ecosystem. SIAEC’s reputation in delivering comprehensive MRO solutions will contribute to bolstering Malaysia’s aerospace sector, establishing the nation as an ideal investment hub for aerospace companies seeking expansion within ASEAN and beyond.”

GE AEROSPACE AND PARTNERS COMPLETE TESTING ON TENTH ENGINE MODEL USING 100% SAF SINCE 2016

GE Aerospace reached a new milestone for a more sustainable future of flight with the completion of testing on its tenth engine model using 100% SAF since 2016, confirming the company and its joint ventures have one of the most expansive programmes for testing the alternative fuel in the industry.

For example, in 2018, GE90 engines powered the first commercial airliner flight with 100% SAF in both engines on the Boeing ecoDemonstrator, a 777 freighter in partnership with FedEx Express. Then in 2021, LEAP-1B engines (CFM56 and LEAP engines are a product of CFM International, a 50-50 joint company between GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines) powered the first passenger



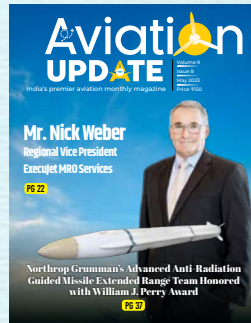
experimental flight with 100% SAF in one of the two engines on a United Airlines Boeing 737-8. This year, LEAP-1B engines powered test flights on 100% SAF in both engines of the Boeing ecoDemonstrator Explorer, a 737-10 destined for United Airlines, as part of emissions testing with NASA. Most recently, in November, Emirates became the first airline to operate an Airbus A380 using 100% SAF in one of

the four GP7200 engines (GP7200 engines are a product of Engine Alliance, a 50-50 joint company between GE Aerospace and Pratt & Whitney).

Additional engines tested at the component, engine, or aircraft level using 100% SAF include F414, GE9X, LEAP-1A, Passport, GENx, HF120 (HF120 engines are a product of GE Honda Aero Engines LLC, a 50/50 joint company between GE Aerospace and Honda Aero, Inc) and CFM56 engines. The wide range of tests represents a mix of propulsion systems used for domestic and international commercial air travel, military aviation, and business and general aviation. These tests also evaluated a wide scope of factors, such as engine performance and the impact of 100% SAF on contrails and emissions.

Aviation UPDATE

India's premier aviation
monthly magazine



BE PART OF OUR POST SPECIAL EDITION
WINGS INDIA 2024
OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER

Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation
(Commercial, General and Business Aviation)



**WINGS INDIA
2024**

18th - 21st January 2024
Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, India

“Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal:
Setting the Stage for Indian Civil Aviation@2047”



Magazine to be distributed at
Aviation Update Booth at **WINGS INDIA 2024**
For Editorial & Advertisement : 09444499221, Kartikeya@futureaviation.in

RNI No. : TNENG/2014/59266

Postal Regn No: TN / CH(C) / 505 / 15-17, Publication Date: 1st of Every Month.

Postal Permission Date: 5th or 7th of Every Month

ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD



An AS-9100D & ISO
9001:2015 certified company
Committed Partner for Indian
Aerospace & Defence Programs

Facilities

- Complete satellite manufacturing facilities under one roof
- Launch Vehicles Facilities
- Design and Manufacture of Space and Defence Equipment
- Contributed to 91 Satellites and
- 71 Launch vehicles so far
- In-house environmental test facilities
- Class 100K, 10 clean rooms with SMT Production lines

Products

- Assembly, Integration & Testing (AIT) of Satellites for LEO and for GEO orbits
- Digital & Embedded systems
- EW systems & Simulators
- Laser & Optical Systems
- Sights for weapons
- AIT of Launch Vehicles
- Telemetry & Tracking systems
- On-board computing systems
- Sensor Systems
- Navigation & Controls systems
- RF and Microwave systems

Meeting Quality & Reliability Standards for Space & Defence programs

Dr. SUBBA RAO PAVULURI, CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR,

E-mail : subbarao@ananthtech.com

Headquarters

ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD.

Ananth Info Park, Plot No.39,
Phase-II Madhapur

Hyderabad – 500 081

Tel:+91-40-6615 6615

Fax:+91-40-6615 6531

E-mail: subbarao@ananthtech.com

mail@ananthtech.com

Satellite Facilities

ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD.

No:64, KIADB Bangalore
Aerospace Park, Singahalli Village,
Budigere Post, Bangalore
North Taluk

Bangalore – 562129

Tel:+91-80-6616 6616

E-mail: mail@ananthtech.com

Launch Vehicles Facilities

ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD. Plot No.51(b) KINFRA Park,
Menamkulam Sub-Dist : Kazhakuttom Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Tel:+91-471-2315913 E-mail: mail@ananthtech.com

