

Aviation UPDATE

India's premier aviation monthly magazine

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Aviation UPDATE

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**B. KARTIKEYA**

Welcome to another issue of Aviation Update. As we wrap up an eventful year, Aviation Update brings you a power-packed December issue with exclusive insights and the latest happenings from the global aviation industry.

In this issue, we are delighted to share our engaging conversations with two distinguished personalities – Mr. Yaniv Mizrahi, CEO of Hela Systems Pvt Ltd, and Mr. Reuven Azar, Ambassador of Israel to India. Their perspectives on innovation, collaboration, and growth offer thought-provoking insights into the future of aviation and technology.

Our popular Quick Updates section returns with the latest headlines, covering mergers, groundbreaking innovations, strategic business developments, and more from the international aviation landscape.

As usual, this edition features dedicated coverage of Defense & Military news, updates from the Engines and MRO sectors, and the latest in Business Aviation and Air Cargo. We also highlight key leadership changes across the industry, keeping you informed of the dynamic shifts shaping aviation today.

As the new year approaches, Aviation Update offers unparalleled opportunities for businesses looking to elevate their reach. Showcase your products or services to a targeted audience and take advantage of our exclusive New Year advertising deals. With the prestigious Aero India 2025 airshow just around the corner in February, now is the perfect time to maximize visibility and connect with industry leaders.

For advertising and business promotions, reach out to us and let's help your brand soar to new heights.

Wishing all our readers a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year in advance! Here's to a prosperous 2025 filled with new opportunities and growth.

Till you hear from me in the next issue of our beloved magazine

Airbus Delivers 1st A330neo for Malaysia Airlines



Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), the parent company of Malaysia Airlines, has taken delivery of its first A330neo. The A330-900, is the first of 20 to be leased from Avolon by MAG, setting new standards for fuel efficiency and passenger experience.

MAG's A330neo is configured with a premium two-class layout, featuring 297 seats, with 28 fully-flat Business Class suites and an all-new Economy cabin accommodating 269 passengers. Passengers will enjoy more personal space throughout, with larger overhead storage, improved air quality and the latest in-flight entertainment and high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity. The airline will deploy the aircraft on routes across Asia and the Pacific, as well as on selected routes to the Middle East.

MAG is the 20th to join a growing number of global airline operators of the modern fuel efficient A330neo. To date, Airbus has delivered more than 140 A330neo aircraft to airlines worldwide, with the model offering unmatched efficiency in its class.

Ethiopian Airlines Takes Delivery of Africa's 1st Airbus A350-1000

Ethiopia's national flag carrier and largest Airbus operator in Africa,

Ethiopian Airlines, has taken delivery of its first of four A350-1000 from Airbus in Toulouse, France. The first of its kind to be operated by an african based operator, the A350-1000 will enable Ethiopian Airlines to enhance its premium service on key destinations including Washington D.C., London, Paris and Frankfurt.

To date Ethiopian Airlines operates a fleet of 21 A350 Family aircraft. A total of 14 additional A350 aircraft are set to join the airline's fleet in the coming years, including 11 A350-900 and three additional A350-1000. The A350-1000 will provide great operational commonality with the A350-900 fleet, ensuring seamless



integration with shared pilots and mechanics simplifying training and maintenance processes.

With a total capacity of 395 seats, the A350-1000 will increase Ethiopian Airlines' passenger capacity and provide enhanced passenger experience in the largest business class cabin in the airline's fleet. Ethiopian Airlines will also introduce Airbus' new HBCplus satcom connectivity solution, offering seamless, high-speed gate-to-gate connectivity.

The A350 is the world's most modern and efficient widebody aircraft and the long-range leader in the 300-410 seater category. The A350's clean sheet design includes state-of-the-art technologies and aerodynamics delivering unmatched standards of efficiency and comfort.

The A350's unique Airspace cabin is the quietest of any twin-aisle in the sky featuring a 50% noise footprint reduction versus the previous generation aircraft. It offers passengers and crews the latest modern in-flight products for a comfortable flying experience. The aircraft's new generation engines and use of lightweight materials make it the most fuel efficient large widebody aircraft.

As with all Airbus aircraft, the A350 aircraft is already able to operate with up to 50% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Airbus is targeting to have its aircraft up to 100% SAF capable by 2030.

By the end of September 2024, 1,340 A350s had been ordered by 60 customers worldwide, making it one of the most successful widebody aircraft ever. [Click here](#) for more information on the A350 Family.

Avia Solutions Group Orders up to 80 Boeing 737 MAX Jets to Gear up Expansion



Boeing and Avia Solutions Group, the world's largest ACMI (aircraft, crew, maintenance, insurance) provider announced its first order with the company for 40 737-8s, with the potential to order 40 more later.

Avia Solutions Group has 11

air operator certificates (AOC) including Avion Express, Smartlynx, Klasjet, Air Explore, BBN, Ascend Airways and Skytrans among others. These AOCs operate year round in over 60 countries on behalf of various scheduled airlines and tour operators.

“As the world’s largest ACMI provider, carrying over 35 million passengers annually for our clients, we have committed to a strategic approach of expanding our capacity to meet our customers’ seasonal needs, and our first order with Boeing is a key pillar of this,” said Gediminas Ziemelis, Chairman of Avia Solutions Group. “This is a proud moment for all of us at Avia Solutions Group and is testament to the fact that Avia Solutions Group is now entering a clear phase of sustained growth. These 737 MAXs will enhance the fleets of our airlines, giving their customers both operational flexibility and greater fuel efficiency.”

The 737-8 is the market’s most versatile single-aisle airplane, capable of operating profitably on short- and medium-haul routes. This flexibility is crucial for an ACMI operator like Avia Solutions Group, enabling it to provide additional capacity to airlines during peak travel periods or support operations during unexpected aircraft or staff outages.

“ACMI providers such as Avia Solutions Group offer important, flexible capacity to meet the dynamic demand in our industry, and we are honored Avia has selected Boeing airplanes to help meet that demand from its customers,” said Brad McMullen, Boeing senior vice president of Commercial Sales and Marketing. “By choosing the 737-8, Avia Solutions Group is aligning with its customers’ plans to operate increasingly fuel-efficient fleets that improve the passenger experience.”

CFM Powers 1st A321XLR Commercial Flight



CFM International congratulates Iberia on the entry into service of the first Airbus A321XLR, powered by CFM LEAP-1A engines. Iberia recently launched revenue service with a flight from Madrid to Paris, and the airline is now bringing the aircraft into long-haul service with flights between Madrid and Boston. “We are thrilled to be the first airline to take delivery of the Airbus A321XLR,” said Marco Sansavini, chairman and chief executive officer of Iberia. “The A321XLR, with its CFM LEAP engines, will allow us to offer new long-haul routes and enhance our overall operational efficiency.”

The LEAP-powered A321XLR offers higher fuel efficiency, lower noise and emissions, and extra-long-range capability. With the industry’s highest utilization rates and a departure reliability rate of 99.95%, LEAP engines offer 15 to 20 percent better fuel consumption and lower carbon emissions versus CFM56 engines.

“The LEAP-powered A321XLR is give operators like Iberia much greater route scheduling flexibility,” said Gaël Méheust, president and CEO of CFM International. “We didn’t need to make any modification to the engine because we designed it with 35,000-pound thrust capability from the beginning to support longer range, higher max takeoff weight aircraft. The added benefit for operators is 100 percent commonality with existing LEAP-powered A320neo family fleets.”

To date, LEAP engines have been the preferred choice of more than 70 customers to power Airbus’s large, long-range single-aisle aircraft (A321neo, A321LR and A321XLR).

MHI RJ Teams Up with Maeve on Groundbreaking Sustainability Projects



MHI RJ Aviation Group (MHIRJ) and Maeve Aerospace B.V. have agreed to cooperate with respect to the development of Maeve’s groundbreaking M80 aircraft. At the heart of this partnership are collaborative efforts in engineering services, and advisory services from MHIRJ’s team of regional aviation experts. Maeve is a European innovator in the development of sustainable and economic aircraft design and the M80 is an aircraft designed for the future of regional flight.

The M80, a hybrid electric regional aircraft, promises to transform regional aviation with unparalleled economics and a significantly reduced environmental footprint. The M80 will utilize technology that will allow significant reductions in fuel burn and emissions driving significantly better economics as well as a greatly reduced environmental footprint.

This strategic partnership highlights MHIRJ’s unique ability to accelerate

the design, industrialization and commercialization of the M80 program, an initiative that's set to redefine the industry. Leveraging its extensive expertise in the regional aviation sector, MHIRJ is well-positioned to elevate and accelerate this project, instilling confidence in the success of this collaboration.

"We're teaming up with the best in regional aviation to bring an aircraft to market that meets the unique needs of small communities," said Martin Nuessler, Maeve's Chief Technology Officer. "This is a pivotal moment for our industry, and we're proud to be part of it."

"I'm impressed by MHIRJ's genuine passion to support innovative projects that will make a true difference for the future of regional aviation," declared Maeve's CEO, Jan-Willem Heinen, about this anticipated collaboration.

Ismail Mokabel, MHIRJ's President and Chief Operating Officer, echoed these sentiments: "This new partnership presents a fantastic opportunity for us to invest our expertise and skills in a project that will undoubtedly transform the future of regional aviation. MHIRJ has the right expertise in Engineering and Advisory services to be able to make a true difference for aviation innovators, like Maeve" We are thrilled to be able to contribute to this forward-looking project with our talented in-house team, he added.

"The Maeve M80 represents truly game changing technology for the regional market of the future," added Ross Mitchell, Senior Vice President, Strategy, Business Development and Communications. "MHIRJ's strategy is to find the truly interesting projects where our wealth of expertise can help bring that technology to the market. We believe Maeve represents such an opportunity."

Emirates receives its 1st of 65 A350-900s



Emirates has taken delivery of its first A350-900 aircraft, marking an important step in Emirates' fleet growth strategy. It marks the long-standing partnership between Emirates and Airbus which is built on innovation, efficiency and operational excellence. The A350 is set to enhance Emirates' medium and long-haul operations beyond the airline's existing network.

Emirates has ordered a total of 65 A350-900s as part of the airline's broader plans to support Dubai's Economic Agenda, which aims to add 400 cities to Dubai's foreign trade map over the next decade. The A350 will play a vital role in establishing the newly announced Dubai World Central (DWC) mega hub, further strengthening Dubai's position as a global aviation leader. Emirates A350-900 will feature three spacious and comfortable cabin classes, accommodating 312 passengers (32 business, 21 premium economy and 259 spacious economy class seats). Emirates will also be the first airline in the Middle-East to introduce Airbus' new HBCplus satcom connectivity solution, offering seamless, high-speed global connectivity.

The A350 is the world's most modern and efficient widebody aircraft and the long range leader in the 300-410 seater category. Its clean sheet design includes state-of-the-art technologies, aerodynamics, lightweight materials and latest generation engines that together

deliver a 25% advantage in fuel burn, operating costs and CO2 emissions. The A350's Airspace cabin is the quietest of any twin-aisle in the sky featuring a 50% noise footprint reduction versus the previous generation aircraft.

As with all Airbus aircraft, the A350 aircraft is already able to operate with up to 50% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Airbus is targeting to have its aircraft up to 100% SAF capable by 2030.

At the end of October 2024, the A350 Family had won more than 1,340 firm orders from 60 customers worldwide.

Indra Furthers its Asia-Pacific ATM Business with Contract to Renew Vietnam's ATM Systems with Cutting-edge Technology



Indra has been awarded a contract with Vietnam's Air Navigation Service Provider, VATM (Vietnam Air Traffic Management Corporation), to overhaul a large part of the country's air traffic management systems. Based at the Ho Chi Minh control centre, Indra will deploy its cutting-edge automation solution ManagAir, one of the most advanced and widely used systems in control centers and airports around the world.

Indra's system will bring together all the air traffic management (ATM) processes occurring during a flight in a single centralised suite

and will be equipped with en-route services, approach and control tower management systems. With the renewal of the systems, Vietnam will have the capacity to increase its efficiency in air traffic control and contribute to a more sustainable and efficient aviation. Indra will employ cutting-edge technologies that allow it to apply new levels of cybersecurity with the aim of guaranteeing the maximum protection in all operations. In addition, Indra has equipped the centre with a backup system that will share all the information in real time.

Indra's technology will enable VATM to optimise all its air traffic operations resources, not only by improving efficiency in the use of its airspace capacity and reducing flight times, but also by minimising the environmental impact. The ManagAir solution will facilitate 4D trajectory-based management, which allows for more accurate and efficient routing, reduced fuel consumption and therefore lower CO2 emissions.

"With this project to modernize Vietnam's air traffic management systems, Indra continues with its goal of positioning itself as a key operator in air navigation in the Asia-Pacific region, as envisaged in the Leading the Future Strategic Plan. This contract shows that our flexible, safe and highly secure automation solution is one of the best options for managing the skies around the world," said Javier Ruano, director of ATM at Indra.

Furthermore, in Asia-Pacific, Indra has deployed its automation systems in three of the four control centres which divide up India's airspace, one with the highest traffic density in Asia. It has also implemented such systems with the latest technology in major airspaces such as Chengdu in China and Incheon in South Korea,

among others.

Globally speaking, Indra's over 11,000 air traffic installations worldwide make it one of the few companies in the world with a portfolio of next-generation solutions capable of managing a flight from gate to gate, from take-off to destination. The company helps ensure the safety of 85% of the passengers who take a flight every day anywhere in the world, as its technology is behind those journeys at some point, making it one of the global leaders in the sector.

Thales to Empower JetZero's Innovative Aircraft for Safe and Eco-friendly Flights



In line with the Aviation industry's commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050, JetZero has designed a breakthrough blended wing body aircraft that burns 50% less fuel using today's engines. It also has the internal volume to accommodate hydrogen. With a full-scale demonstrator being planned for 2027, the innovative aircraft requires a reliable flight control system to ensure a safe and smooth flight. Field-proven for over 40 years and installed on board more than

12,000 aircraft, Thales's Fly-by-Wire flight control solution is perfectly suited to JetZero's needs.

The Fly-by-Wire system, which calculates and adjusts the position of the aircraft's control surfaces, is a critical element of flight safety. Thales pioneered Fly-by-Wire solutions and has remained at the forefront of innovation, growing to become one of the world's largest supplier of flight control solutions. Today, Thales and JetZero are opening up a new chapter of aviation history towards greener flights while capitalizing on proven experience to ensure uncompromising safety.

Thales's Fly-by-Wire flight control systems offer substantial benefits in terms of flight safety, aircraft performance, reliability and availability. Those benefits encompass flight envelope protection, reduced pilot workload, minimized aircraft weight, improved handling qualities and reliability.

"Finalizing supplier contracts for the Flight Control Systems is a significant milestone on our journey from design, to test, to demonstration," said Dan da Silva, chief operating officer for JetZero. "It's just the latest example of the steady progress JetZero is making toward building this airplane. Thales has a reputation for excellence, and we're so pleased to see their shared enthusiasm and belief in the blended wing airplane we're building at JetZero."

"Actively engaged in a low carbon future, Thales is proud to support JetZero in their innovative pursuit of net zero flights. Our proven flight controls solution is the perfect fit for a disruptive aircraft paving the way for a sustainable future in aviation." Yanik Doyon, VP Business Development and Sales North America, Flight Avionics activities at Thales.

ATR Reinstates Core Business Focus



Following an extensive market review and in light of lingering tensions on its supply chain, ATR has decided to focus efforts on further boosting the competitiveness of its current product portfolio. As a consequence, ATR will stop the development of its Short Take-Off and Landing variant (STOL), the ATR 42-600S, reflecting the company's commitment to aligning operations with evolving market dynamics.

The comprehensive review of market conditions, technological advancements and future projections shows a reduced addressable market for the variant compared to the initial forecast. In Southeast Asia, for instance, the number of targeted airports requiring STOL-capable aircraft has significantly decreased, primarily because of runway extensions or the construction of nearby alternative airports, and this trend is mirrored in other key target markets. While this reduces the addressable market for the ATR 42-600S, it means that our current product line can operate at its full capacity.

Nathalie Tarnaud Laude, ATR's Chief Executive Officer, stated: "As a global leader on the regional market, ATR

has a responsibility towards its customers, stakeholders and the industry at large to continuously evaluate its product portfolio to meet market demand. The decision to halt the STOL project reflects our dedication to operational efficiency and long-term sustainability."

This strategic endeavour will enable ATR to shift efforts towards enhancing existing product lines, advancing technological innovation, and addressing emerging market demands more effectively. This includes further breaking into North America, where the manufacturer is looking to replace ageing fleets of regional jets and boost point-to-point regional connections.

"We are now entering the next phase of growth and improvement where we will focus on further investing in the competitiveness of our market-leading products, the ATR 42-600 and 72-600. Delivering strong value propositions to regional airlines has always been central to our success. This commitment is the reason why our aircraft have remained industry leaders and a trusted choice for our customers over the past 40 years and continues to be our driving force for what lies ahead," she added.

She continued: "As part of this commitment, we have identified a series of product improvements which aim at further reducing the costs of operations and increasing the availability of our aircraft. These improvements directly reflect the needs and insight shared with our customers. To achieve these goals, we are working closely with our key suppliers and have developed comprehensive action plans to drive progress on these enhancements. This step is essential to maintain our competitive edge, as well as our position as a trusted partner to our customers, operators and stakeholders worldwide."

IndiGo commences operations to its 35th international destination



IndiGo has commenced direct flights to its 35th international destination, Mauritius. IndiGo is breaking new ground as the first airline to operate on the Bengaluru - Mauritius route with four weekly flights. With this new route, Port Louis, Mauritius becomes IndiGo's second destination in Africa. The addition of this new destination not only caters to the growing demand in tourism but also plays a pivotal role in fostering trade, investment, and business collaborations in the Indian Ocean region.

Mr. Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales at IndiGo, said, "It gives us pleasure in announcing the commencement of direct flights from Bengaluru to Mauritius, the Indian Ocean Island nation. India and Mauritius share deep cultural, political, and economic ties, and these flights would further strengthen the bond. With the convenience of visa-on-arrival for Indian passport holders, this new route presents exciting prospects for both leisure as well as business. IndiGo remains committed to delivering on its promise of an affordable, on-time, courteous, and hassle-free travel experience across an unparalleled network."

Tourism Australia and Air India sign a 3-year MoU to boost visitor growth from India



Tourism Australia and Air India have signed a three-year marketing agreement to sustain and drive the positive trend in Indian visitor arrivals to Australia as Air India expands its presence in the market. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Tourism Australia and Air India will explore opportunities to jointly undertake and implement marketing activities to showcase Australia's world-class appeal and drive future growth in visitation.

Phillipa Harrison, Managing Director, of Tourism Australia said, "We have seen tremendous growth in the number of arrivals from India to Australia in recent years and we are keen for arrivals to continue to track in that direction. Tourism Australia's agreement with Air India highlights our commitment to strengthening partnerships and exploring new ways to encourage Indian travellers to plan and book an Australia holiday. We look forward to working closely with Air India to showcase Australia as a holiday destination."

Tourism Australia's Executive General Manager of Eastern Markets and Aviation, Andrew

Hogg said, "As one of Australia's valuable tourism markets, India holds immense promise, and we're excited to collaborate with Air India to further elevate Australia's appeal for high-yielding Indian leisure and business travellers. We aim to sustain growth in visitor numbers from India to Australia while enhancing travel experiences and connectivity between the two countries."

Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India said, "We are excited to partner with Tourism Australia to facilitate travellers' experiences of the unique offerings this destination has to offer. As we broaden our network across the globe, we aim to deepen our presence in Australia as well."

Air India group to set up aircraft maintenance training institute in Bengaluru to develop a pool of maintenance engineers, support progressive fleet expansion

Air India, India's leading global airline group, is setting up a Basic Maintenance Training Organization (BMTO), which will offer an integrated 2+2 year Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) program certified by the Indian aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The Air India BMTO is a step towards building a robust, future-ready aviation ecosystem in India. It will serve the ambitions of the airline as it moves ahead in its transformation journey, strengthening the availability of aircraft maintenance engineers as Air India expands its fleet, making it self-reliant.

Air India has signed an agreement with Bengaluru Airport City Limited (BACL),



a subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), to develop a build-to-suit facility for the AME program that will feature modern classrooms, well-equipped laboratories for practical training and a team of qualified trainers. The purpose-built campus, spread over 86,000 square feet at Bengaluru Airport City, is expected to be operational by mid-2026.

The BMTO will be housed close to Air India's new 12-bay Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bengaluru that will be operational in early 2026. The program at the BMTO will include two years of in-classroom academic coursework followed by two years of practical on-job training at the MRO.

The aim of the BMTO is to foster a workforce of skilled professionals for aircraft maintenance and engineering operations where students will receive hands-on experience and training, adhering to industry standards and Air India's specific requirements.

Till the new BMTO facility commences operations, Air India will implement a Cadet AME program with other reputable institutions across Bengaluru and Hyderabad to ensure continuity in its commitment towards AME education and workforce development as well as to support its requirements for aircraft maintenance engineers.

"The Basic Maintenance Training Organization will establish a pipeline of skilled engineers trained to Air India standards from the outset. This facility and program, combined with proximity

to Kempegowda International Airport, will enable our AME cadets to gain hands-on, real-world experience as part of their training, supporting their future as industry-ready professionals aligned with Air India's ongoing fleet expansion needs," said Sunil Bhaskaran, Director, Aviation Academy, Air India.

The program is designed to meet Air India's growing fleet maintenance requirements and provides specialised career paths for its AME graduates. Students will also be encouraged to pursue a simultaneous bachelor's degree through university partnerships, which will enhance their academic and career opportunities.

"Air India's commitment to establishing a state-of-the-art training facility symbolises a bold step forward in enhancing India's aviation capabilities. Education and skill development are vital to sustaining the growth of Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru. The Air India BMTO reinforces our vision of developing a thriving ecosystem that drives innovation and collaboration," said Rao Munukutla, Executive Director & CEO, BACL.

Air India completes merger with Vistara; Second group airline merger in a span of six weeks

Air India Group has completed the operational integration and legal merger between Air India and Vistara, creating a full-service carrier of scale and marking a significant milestone in the post-privatisation transformation journey. This follows the merger of the Group's low-cost airlines Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly Air Asia India) on 1 October 2024.

The consolidation of the four Tata-owned airlines into one Group operating one full-service and one low-cost airline is part of the ongoing, five-year transformation program, Vihaan.AI, which is focussed on



establishing Air India Group as a world-class global aviation company with an Indian heart. The unified Air India Group now operates over 8,300 weekly flights on 312 routes, connecting more than 100 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 300 aircraft.

The new full-service entity Air India operates over 5,600 weekly flights and connects more than 90 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 208 aircraft. The airline will now be flying over 120,000 passengers every day and offers an extended worldwide connectivity to over 800 destinations through more than 75 codeshare and interline partners.

Preparation for the full-service merger commenced in earnest more than two years ago and has seen the induction of more than 6,000 staff from Vistara into a new organisation structure, harmonisation of operating procedures across the four airlines, and alignment of over 140 IT systems. Amongst many other aspects, more than 4,000 vendor contracts have been consolidated, 270,000 customer bookings migrated and 4.5 million Club Vistara frequent flyer accounts inducted to Air India's recently-redesigned frequent flyer program, Maharaja Club.

Given the unprecedented nature and complexity of the parallel mergers, which coincide with the Group's significant expansion and transformation programs, close contact was maintained with India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) which supported and monitored the process throughout. The merger also received support from the

Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and other key stakeholders, including multiple international regulators.

Besides the consolidation of the four Tata-owned airlines, the Vihaan.AI transformation program has seen commitment to more than 500 new aircraft, delivery of which is well underway, and the commencement of a USD 400 million interior retrofit program for legacy aircraft. A new 600,000 square feet training facility with the capacity to train 2,000 employees per-day has been opened, and ground has been broken on a 12-bay maintenance base that will be operational in early 2026. More than 9,000 new employees have been inducted and trained, and the airlines' IT platform has been entirely modernised, amongst much else.

Campbell Wilson, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Air India, said, "The merger of Air India and Vistara completes the consolidation and restructuring phase of the Air India Group's post-privatisation transformation journey, and is thus a significant milestone. Over the past two years, teams across the four airlines have worked closely together and with other stakeholders to ensure that the transition of people, assets, operations and, most importantly, customers, was as seamless as possible. Given the scale and scope of this project and its unprecedented nature, I would like to acknowledge the support received from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and others in making this merger possible. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our staff, who have undertaken this task whilst also driving comprehensive transformation across the business and supporting the induction of over 100 additional aircraft to the operating fleet. Finally, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the support and encouragement of our customers, for whom all the effort is ultimately intended, and to re-emphasise our commitment to creating a world-class global airline with an Indian heart."

DRDO CARRIES OUT SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT-TRIAL OF INDIA'S 1ST LONG-RANGE HYPERSONIC MISSILE OFF THE ODISHA COAST



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-trial of India's first long-range hypersonic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha late on November 16, 2024. This hypersonic missile is designed to carry various payloads for ranges greater than 1,500 kms for the Armed Forces.

The missile was tracked by various range systems, deployed in multiple domains. The flight data obtained from down range ship stations confirmed the successful terminal maneuvers and impact with high degree of accuracy. This missile has been indigenously developed by the laboratories of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile complex, Hyderabad along with various other DRDO laboratories and Industry Partners. The flight-trial was carried out in the presence of senior scientists of DRDO and officers of the Armed Forces.

In a post on X, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh described the flight-trial as a historic achievement which has put India in the group of select nations having capabilities of such critical and advanced military technologies. He congratulated DRDO, Armed Forces and the Industry for the successful flight trial.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat congratulated the team of DRDO which has actively contributed to this successful mission.

Hensoldt and LM Sign a MoU

Oliver Dörre, CEO of HENSOLDT AG and Paul Lemmo, vice president and general manager Integrated Warfare Systems and Sensors at Lockheed Martin, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a potential cooperation in the field of maritime command and control systems and radar technologies. "This MoU with Lockheed Martin reflects our positioning as a reliable partner for national and international security and defence programs and our strategic development as a provider of integrated system solutions," said Oliver Dörre on the occasion of the signing of the MoU.

"We are already working together successfully on various projects. We are therefore all the more looking forward to working with the Lockheed Martin team to drive forward concepts with pioneering technologies in the field of maritime command and control systems and radar and thus contribute to the sustainable expansion of the capabilities of our military customers and partners including the potential of local value creation" Dörre continued.

"Lockheed Martin is dedicated to building industrial partnerships for programs in Germany and beyond. Our collaborative efforts in radar development will result in high-performance systems, constructed, and sustained in Germany, ensuring operational capability now and for decades to come." - Paul Lemmo, vice president and general manager, Integrated Warfare Systems and Sensors at Lockheed Martin.

Austria Begins Modernisation of its C2 Capability with Systematic Defence

Systematic Defence is proud to announce the signing of a significant contract with the Austrian Armed Forces for the delivery of its world-leading command and control software, SitaWare Headquarters and SitaWare Frontline. This contract marks an important expansion of the SitaWare user community, with Austria becoming the latest nation to adopt the proven C4ISR solution to enhance its operational command and tactical capabilities. Following a public tender process, the Austrian Federal Army selected SitaWare Headquarters for its advanced command-and-control (C2) capabilities, including its ability to deliver seamless interoperability and information sharing across military units and coalition partners. In tandem, SitaWare Frontline will provide Austrian forces with a robust mounted solution, enhancing communication and situational awareness at the tactical edge.

Supporting Modernisation and Operational Efficiency This marks a key component in the Austrian Armed Forces efforts to modernise its C2 infrastructure and ensure efficient communication from headquarters to the frontline. SitaWare Headquarters, already used by over 50 countries worldwide, is renowned for its ability to enhance collaborative planning, provide comprehensive situational awareness, and improve decision-making processes at all levels of command.

The addition of Austria to the SitaWare user family also strengthens the international network of militaries benefiting from its force-multiplying capabilities. Earlier this year NATO also procured SitaWare for its land forces, with SitaWare Headquarters becoming the Future Land C2 capability under the project DEMETER. The interoperability with NATO, especially the compliance with NATO's Future Mission Networking (FMN) concept, was key criteria for the selection of SitaWare. In line with this growing partnership, Systematic Defence is also opening a new office in Vienna, Austria, further strengthening the company's commitment to customers within the DACH region.

Global reach : Mr Sven Trusch, Managing Director of Systematic's German subsidiary, emphasised the importance of this contract in expanding the reach of SitaWare across Europe:

"We are delighted to welcome the Austrian Armed Forces to the SitaWare user community. This contract demonstrates Austria's commitment to enhancing its operational efficiency and interoperability. With Austria, all countries in the DACH region are now finally using SitaWare for command-and-control," he said. "We look forward to extend our cooperation with the Austrian Armed Forces in implementing SitaWare Headquarters and SitaWare Frontline, providing them with state-of-the-art C2 capabilities that will support their mission success." The signing of this contract reinforces Systematic's position as a leader in defence software solutions, while underscoring the company's dedication to supporting modernisation efforts across global military forces.

The Austrian Armed Forces adoption of SitaWare will further enable its participation in operations with NATO and other western partners, ensuring effective collaboration and secure communication across all levels of military operations. Major General Harald Vodosek, National Armaments Director, said: "Battle Management Systems and Management Information Systems serve to improve leadership and capability, enhance leadership performance at all levels, support the command and planning process of commanders and staffs and are an important milestone in the digitalisation of the Austrian Armed Forces."

Embraer Defense and Security Chooses Fokker Services Group for C-390M Aircraft Modification Package

Fokker Services Group, an independent aerospace service provider, announced at the NIDV Exhibition Defence & Security (NEDS) event that it has been chosen by Embraer Defense & Security for an extended modification package including turnkey engineering, certification and modification services for nine C-390M military aircraft.

These modifications will prepare the aircraft for use as tactical transport for Special Operations of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), fulfilling a broad range of military and humanitarian missions. The final operating configuration will be the most extensive C-390M version once delivered and will be far beyond 'just' a transport aircraft.



Recently, the Netherlands and Austria confirmed a joint deal for nine C-390M aircraft for Embraer's tactical transport. Five (5) of these will be operated by the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf), and the remaining four (4) by the Austrian Air Force.

Since its introduction in 2019, the C-390M has received extremely good attention and feedback across the industry for its exceptional performance, adaptability to various missions, and innovative features.

FSG has a rich history in aircraft modifications and conversions, supporting several Air forces with F16 support and partnering with the RNLAf for NH-90 helicopter base-maintenance, and delivering many troopship and surveillance aircraft. The company recently announced the joint operation of a new hangar facility with the RNLAf in Woensdrecht (The Netherlands) for maintaining key RNLAf assets. Additionally, FSG this year delivered a factory-new Gulfstream G550 converted to Special Mission Aircraft.

"We are delighted with our continued cooperation and partnership with Embraer and we look forward to making this Defense & Security agreement a success", say Menzo van der Beek and Roland van Dijk, both co-CEO of FSG.

"The experience on highly sophisticated NATO modifications in combination with our existing capabilities in engineering, interiors, sheet metal work and structural modifications will create a valuable advantage in becoming a partner of choice for other programs for NATO, United Nations or other organisations and operators. FSG is grateful to contribute in these kind of special mission projects for peacekeeping, security and humanitarian aid.", says Robert Koolen, Sales Director Aircraft Conversions & Completions.

AIRBUS DELIVERS 1ST OF UP TO 82 H145M HELICOPTERS TO THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES



Less than a year after the contract was signed, Airbus Helicopters has delivered the first of up to 82 H145Ms ordered by Germany at its Donauwörth site. The Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) have named their new H145Ms "Leichter Kampfhubschrauber" (light combat helicopter), or LKH for short. The helicopter's missions include training, reconnaissance, Special Forces operations and light attack.

"We remain a reliable partner of the German Bundeswehr. Delivering the first H145M LKH in less than a year after the contract signature demonstrates our commitment. The H145M LKH will be a true multi-mission asset for the German Armed Forces, supporting their crucial missions," said Stefan Thomé, Managing Director of Airbus Helicopters in Germany.

This first helicopter is dedicated to training operations and will be used at the German Army's Bückeburg base. The first delivery of an H145M LKH in the light attack role to the German customer is scheduled for 2025, as contracted. The training of the Bundeswehr's pilots started already in August this year.

In December 2023, the Bundeswehr and Airbus Helicopters signed a contract for the purchase of up to 82 multi-role H145M helicopters (62 firm orders plus 20 options), the largest order ever placed for the H145M and consequently the largest for the HForce weapon management system. The contract also includes seven years of support and services, ensuring optimal entry into service and support. The German Army will receive 57 helicopters, while the Luftwaffe's Special Forces will receive five.

The H145M is a multi-role military helicopter that provides a broad range of mission capabilities. Within minutes, the helicopter can be reconfigured from a light attack role with axial ballistic and guided weapons and a state-of-the-art self-protection system into a special operations version with fast rappelling equipment. The comprehensive mission packages include hoisting and external cargo capabilities.

The standard version of the ordered H145Ms is equipped with fixed provisions, including HForce, the weapon management system developed by Airbus Helicopters. This allows the Bundeswehr to train its pilots on the same type of helicopter that is used for operation and combat. Costly type transfers are eliminated and the highest level of professionalism will be achieved.

Boeing Awarded 15 Additional USAF KC-46A Tankers



Boeing will build 15 additional KC-46A Pegasus tankers under a Lot 11 contract award from the U.S. Air Force valued at \$2.38 billion. In all, Boeing has 168 KC-46A multi-mission aerial refuelers on contract globally, providing advanced capability advantages for the joint force and allies.

"We appreciate our continued partnership with the U.S. Air Force," said Lynn Fox, vice president and KC-46 program manager. "This is another big milestone for our team, and we look forward to delivering the world's most advanced multi-mission aerial refuelers for years to come."

The KC-46A continues to demonstrate its unparalleled capabilities having flown more than 100,000 flight hours and offloaded more than 200 million pounds of fuel to receivers globally. In October, the Pegasus made its inaugural full-scale operational deployment after the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command approved the KC-46A for global combat operations in 2022.

In July, the Air Force awarded Boeing a contract to upgrade the mission readiness and performance of the KC-46A tanker. This builds on the 2023 Block 1 upgrade, further enhancing the tanker's advanced communications, data connectivity and situational awareness for aircraft survivability and operational advantage in contested environments.

Since 2019, Boeing has delivered 89 KC-46As to the U.S. Air Force and four to the Japan Air Self-Defense Force.

Saab has placed a New Order for the Senop AFCD TI Smart Sight

Senop has received an order from Saab for the delivery of the Senop AFCD TI smart sight. The order for the Senop AFCD TI underlines Senop's ability to support a NATO country's fighting capability in the modern battlefield. Senop Advanced Fire Control Device Thermal Imager (AFCD TI) is one of the first intelligent sights on the market for the Carl-Gustaf® M4 and M3 weapons and the only system which integrates all performance-critical features into one casing, and it is qualified for both Carl-Gustaf M4 and M3 weapons.

Currently with high demand for military equipment, the capability to produce volumes of high-quality products is more and more valuable.

"For the past four-five years, Senop has grown significantly and that has allowed us to invest strongly into production capability and in research and development," says Aki Korhonen, President of Senop.

"We are proud to support our customer with the Senop AFCD TI. The order we received is a clear indication and proof of our expertise and ability to deliver innovative solutions that meet our customer's requirements and enhance operational firepower," Korhonen continues.

For the Carl-Gustaf, the AFCD TI offers several performance-enhancing functionalities in one device. This is a significant difference compared to other solutions currently on the market, which utilize the traditional day sight and Clip-On night optics combination. The state-of-the-art optronics, ballistic calculation and communication with the most modern rounds result in extremely good first round hit probability for both moving and stationary targets. Depending on the conditions, the operator may use a day camera, a thermal camera, or a combined fusion image to detect, identify and recognize targets in the battlefield. The AFCD TI is the lightest fire control system for Carl-Gustaf on the market with all the capabilities mentioned above. The device weighs only 1.7 kg and is designed and built to meet the highest usability requirements.

Due to the contract and current climate, the end-customer and details of the transaction will remain undisclosed.

RAYTHEON LOWER TIER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE SENSOR EXCELS AT LATEST, MOST COMPLEX LIVE FIRE TEST

Raytheon, an RTX business announced that its Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor, or LTAMDS, successfully completed its most complex live-fire exercise to date, detecting and defeating a tactical ballistic missile. Achieving all objectives, the milestone is the latest in a rigorous U.S. Army test program, advancing towards fielding the 360-degree, full sector capability this year.

This was the fifth of a series of exercises, increasing in complexity, to effectively demonstrate the radar's performance and integration with the Integrated Battle Command System, or IBCS. A tactical ballistic missile surrogate was launched, flying at high speed and at a long range, representing a current and relevant threat. LTAMDS acquired and tracked the target, passed track data to IBCS, and LTAMDS guided a PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) missile to intercept.

"The progression of the LTAMDS program has been



remarkable – from a sense-off and contract award in 2019, successful testing in 2023, to the program's planned entry into production early in 2025 – that is unprecedented for a new development program," said Tom Laliberty, president of Land and Air Defense Systems at Raytheon. "It is a testament to a strong government-industry partnership that, together with the Army, we have designed and developed the most advanced air and missile defense radar, capable of defeating the complex threats of today and tomorrow."

The LTAMDS program has been executing to an aggressive

schedule, with the first six prototype units rotating through simultaneous testing and integration at multiple Raytheon and Army test sites. Tests have increased in complexity to stress the radar and prove its capabilities against real and representative threat sets. Throughout, LTAMDS has met complex test objectives and showcased the performance of this transformational radar. While rigorous testing continues in 2024, the program is expected to achieve Milestone C, the official transition from development to production, in second quarter of FY2025.

International interest in LTAMDS is strong, with more than a dozen countries requesting information and receiving briefings. In October 2023, the Polish Minister of Defense signed a letter of acceptance with the U.S. Army for 12 radars. With this Foreign Military Sale, Poland will be the first international customer to add the advanced 360-degree LTAMDS radar to their air and missile defense architecture.

SWEDEN SELECTS THE EMBRAER C-390 MILLENNIUM AS ITS NEW MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

The Swedish Ministry of Defense announced the selection of the Embraer C-390 Millennium as Sweden's new tactical transport aircraft. This strategic decision from another North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member country marks the first acquisition of the C-390 in Northern Europe, underscoring Sweden's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities with state-of-the-art aircraft.

"Embraer is honored with this selection by Sweden. After several European NATO countries selected the C-390, this decision is a testimony that this multi-mission aircraft represents a tremendous operational capability upgrade compared to previous generation tactical transport aircraft," said Bosco Da Costa Junior, President & CEO of Embraer se & Security. "The aircraft is being recognized, gradually, by the most advanced Air Forces in the world such as the Swedish Air Force. This selection encourages us to offer our customers the aircraft they need to perform their most demanding missions with unparalleled versatility, reliability, and performance."

Embraer already has a long-term partnership with Sweden, which will be further deepened with the C-390 selection. The company is ready to support the Swedish Armed Forces in order to meet the demanding



requirements of their acquisition process, as this decision represents a new chapter in Brazil-Sweden relations.

The C-390's selection aligns with a growing trend among European NATO member countries recognizing the aircraft's effectiveness in addressing both current and future defense needs. Sweden is the sixth European nation to select the aircraft, along with Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Netherlands and Portugal. Sweden's acquisition of the C-390 will

not only bolster national defense, but also enhance interoperability with allied forces while benefiting from the synergies present in Europe in terms of training facilities, support and logistics. The C-390 has also been ordered by Brazil and South Korea. Since it entered into service with the Brazilian Air Force in 2019, the fleet in service has accumulated more than 15,000 flight hours, with a mission capability rate of 93% and mission completion rates above 99%, demonstrating exceptional productivity in the category.

THE ITALIAN COAST GUARD ADDS AN ATR42 MARITIME PATROL TO ITS FLEET

Leonardo has signed a contract with the General Command of the Port Authorities - Coast Guard for the supply of an ATR42-600 Maritime Patrol (MP) aircraft. The acquisition forms part of the General Command's plan for renewal of its fleet of aircraft, which already includes three MPs based on the ATR 42-400 and the ATR 42-500.

The ATR 42 MP, developed and produced on the basis of the ATR 42-600 turboprop regional aircraft platform, is an aircraft perfectly expressing Leonardo's capabilities in terms of both platform and systems. The aircraft is equipped with multi-domain sensors and state-of-the-art research and communication systems, and is capable of transmitting and receiving information in real time, thereby optimising operations along the entire chain of command.

The ATR42 MP will be integrated into the Corps'



aeronautical fleet to fulfil the multiple roles assigned to the Coast Guard, including maritime patrolling all along Italy's coastline and in international waters, carried out with the aid of the advanced technological equipment integrated into its fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

Already in service with versions specially designed for other Italian government operators, the

aircraft is equipped with Leonardo's ATOS (Airborne Tactical Observation and Surveillance) modular mission system. ATOS manages the vast spectrum of aircraft sensors, combining the information received in a comprehensive tactical situation and presenting the results to operators in the most appropriate format to offer an excellent and constantly updated scenario of the situation, also in complex operations.

The aircraft integrates the reliability, maintainability, low life cycle cost and comfort of the ATR 42-600 from which it derives, while offering the crew a level of ergonomics that increases its efficiency and effectiveness during maritime patrol, search and identification, and SAR (search and rescue) missions, in the fight against drug trafficking, piracy and smuggling, and in the protection of territorial waters: missions that typically last more than 8 hours.

BAE TO DEVELOP ADVANCED ELECTRONIC WARFARE COUNTERMEASURES TO PROTECT US ARMY COMBAT VEHICLES



BAE Systems was awarded a follow-on contract from the U.S. Army to further develop its Multi-Class Soft Kill System (MCSKS) countermeasures to protect ground combat vehicles against guided missiles and adjacent threats, improving vehicle survivability and mission success.

Under the MCSKS contract, BAE Systems will further develop its laser-based Stormcrow™ and TERRA RAVEN™ countermeasure systems, advancing the Army's electronic warfare (EW)-based Active Protection System (APS) work. The advanced systems effectively counter threats and allow crews to conserve kinetic countermeasures.

"Today's combat vehicles need active protection systems that quickly and efficiently counter modern threats," said Jared Belinsky, director of Integrated Survivability Solutions at BAE Systems. "Missile countermeasures are part of our full-spectrum approach to electromagnetic warfare. We're creating an Intrepid Shield™ around our customers' platforms - improving their effectiveness on the battlefield."

BAE Systems' active protection systems provide next-generation layered defense capabilities for vehicles and maritime platforms, leveraging advanced electro-optic/infrared (EO/IR) and radio-frequency (RF) spectrum technologies. The systems are small, modular, lightweight, rugged, and cost-efficient. They use multi-function sensors, intelligent processing, and electromagnetic emitters to provide enhanced situational awareness and threat response in all weather and lighting conditions and in challenging terrain and complex battlespaces.

BAE Systems has provided combat-proven aircraft survivability equipment to the U.S. Department of Defense and its allies for decades and is an innovator in full-spectrum electromagnetic warfare technology. The MCSKS contract builds on the company's successful execution of the Advanced Layered Soft Kill System (ALSKS) and the Layered Soft Kill System (LSKS) development programs, including several successful capability demonstrations.

The company's vehicle protection systems are developed and manufactured at its state-of-the-art facility in Austin, Texas with research and development support from the company's FAST Labs™ organization in Merrimack, New Hampshire.

HENSOLDT DEMOS SUCCESSFUL OVERALL SYSTEM INTEGRATION IN "TIMBER EXPRESS 2024"



Sensor solutions provider HENSOLDT has once again demonstrated its technological capabilities as part of the multinational 'Timber Express 2024' exercise. The OPTARION mission support system successfully integrated NH90 and TIGER helicopters in a secure data link network and connected them to modern command and information systems.

"Seamless connectivity and the secure exchange of situational information between different weapon systems are crucial for today's hybrid operations on the battlefield," explains Alex Irmischer, programme manager for ground stations at HENSOLDT. "Thanks to our EUA solutions, it was possible to integrate the aircraft into the Bundeswehr's digital command network without having to modify the weapon system."

The centrepiece of the demonstration was the transmission of real-time data between the helicopters and other platforms along the 'sensor-to-effector' chain. A special feature was the connection of the platforms to the "SitaWare HQ" battle management system and the real-time integration into Link-16, the standardised tactical data link network used by NATO and partner nations. This networking helps the armed forces to create a unified situation picture and improve decision-making in complex scenarios.

A core aspect of the OPTARION mission support system is its ability to increase the operational efficiency and deployment flexibility of the armed forces. In an increasingly network-centric warfare, it enables the linking of different platforms and systems via secure data links, creating a common and dynamic situation picture. This network-centric operations capability not only improves real-time decision-making, but also ensures a high level of interoperability. This makes OPTARION a key component for modern combat operations and provides the armed forces with the technological basis for successfully operating in complex and rapidly changing threat scenarios.

Innovation in the field: EUA NT and modular technology : During the exercise, functionalities from the EUA NT (new technologies) modernisation project were already in use. These include the modular radio concept for flexible antenna and radio operation and innovative data network technologies that ensure increased interoperability.

What is "Timber Express"? : "Timber Express" is an annual multinational exercise that focuses on the cooperation and interoperability of air forces. Various NATO countries take part in this exercise to jointly train the skills needed to lead and coordinate air operations in complex scenarios. The aim is to optimise the networking and data exchange between aircraft and command systems while ensuring the security requirements for the transmission of information.

Teledyne FLIR Defense to Deliver New Airborne Surveillance Systems to NL EASP AIR for Maritime Search & Rescue Operations

Teledyne FLIR Defense, part of Teledyne Technologies Incorporated has announced that it will be delivering its UltraFORCE® 380X-HDc multi-spectral imaging systems to NL EASP AIR, the first sale of Teledyne FLIR's newly launched surveillance gimbal specially designed for customers outside the United States.

NL EASP AIR will install the systems on their three fixed-wing Dornier DO328-110 multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft. The company will deploy UltraFORCE 380X's advanced imaging technology in support of its Search and Rescue (SAR), maritime patrol, and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions.

First introduced in July, UltraFORCE 380X-HDc delivers superior high-definition imaging in a compact, low-profile package not subject to ITAR restrictions. Full 1080p resolution across its visual, thermal, low-light, and shortwave infrared cameras makes the UF 380X an ideal solution for airborne reconnaissance, border patrol, and other operations, day or night.

"We wanted the best long-range surveillance technology available in today's market to support European Union member



state end-users and other individual EU customers, and we are getting exactly that with Teledyne FLIR Defense," said Pieter Voeten, CEO and Director of Operations for NL EASP AIR. "On many occasions, thermal and daylight imagery has become even more important than radar in providing us the information we need on these high-stakes missions.

"Equipped with UltraFORCE 380X, our aircraft crews will be receiving optimal real-time video from the moment they take-off until the operation is complete," Voeten added.

"Immigration activity at sea is increasing across Europe, and NL EASP AIR serves as a valuable partner to help spot where it's happening and save lives," said Kety Frachey, senior director for airborne systems-Europe at

FLIR Defense. "The precision imaging sensors on UltraFORCE 380X will allow operators to quickly identify and respond to border crossings as they unfold and direct resources to those at risk.

"We are pleased to see our relationship with NL EASP AIR grow over the years as we continue to innovate across our product portfolio," Frachey added.

With its low 14.6-inch height profile and weighing only 31.3 kg (69 lbs), the UltraFORCE 380X-HDc gimbal is designed to maximize ground clearance in rotary aircraft without sacrificing capability and performance. The system provides two- to four-times greater magnification than other products in its class. Deliveries to NL EASP AIR are expected to be completed by early 2025.

Textron Systems Awarded UAS Contract for Additional US Navy Ship

Textron Systems Corporation, a Textron Inc. company, announced that it has been awarded a task order valued at up to \$17 million by the U.S. Navy's Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) to provide COCO UAS services to a U.S. Navy ship deploying to 6th Fleet. This award brings the total number of U.S. Navy ships supported by the Aerosonde® UAS to 11.

Textron Systems will deploy its Aerosonde UAS and skilled personnel to provide mission overwatch and extended range intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) services with enhanced mission payloads. In September, Textron Systems was contracted to provide support to three additional Littoral Combat Ships (LCS).

"Textron Systems is committed to enhancing the Navy's mission sets. The



continued use of ISR support demonstrates the benefit of the COCO model and the services our Aerosonde UAS provides to the sailor," said David Phillips, Senior Vice President Air, Land and Sea Systems. "The flexibility in a COCO mission allows the Navy to extend their capabilities while we as the contractor manage the full life cycle of the system, ultimately resulting in greater

efficiency and reliability."

The Aerosonde UAS offers multi-mission capability built upon a family of systems which have amassed over 700,000 flight hours over more than 10 years. The system is equipped for multiple payload configurations with both vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) and fixed-wing options.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA - F-15K AIRCRAFT UPGRADE

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Republic of Korea of F-15K Aircraft Upgrade and related elements of logistics and program support for an estimated cost of \$6.2 billion. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

The Republic of Korea has requested to buy equipment and services to upgrade its F-15K aircraft fleet, including ninety-six (96) Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II) mission system computers; seventy (70) AN/APG-82(v)1 Active Electronically Scanned Arrays (AESA) radars; seventy (70) AN/ALQ-250 Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) electronic warfare (EW) suites; and seventy (70) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS). The following non-MDE items will also be included: Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS) with unique planning components; Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINs); Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems; major modifications and maintenance support; aircraft components, parts, and accessories; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; training aids and devices; weapons software and software support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; aerial refueling support; aircraft ferry and transportation support; facilities and construction support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$6.2 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

This proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing its critical air defense capability to deter aggression in the region and to ensure interoperability with U.S. forces. The Republic of Korea will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The primary contractors will be Boeing Company, based in Arlington, VA; Raytheon Technologies, located in Forest, MS; and BAE Systems, situated in Falls Church, VA. The U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Republic of Korea. There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

The description and dollar value are for the highest estimated quantity and dollar value based on initial requirements. Actual dollar value will be lower depending on final requirements, budget authority, and signed sales agreement(s), if and when concluded.

Thales and Partners Selected for 1st European Project to Develop Sovereign AI for Embedded Cyberdefence

Thales is technical coordinator for the AIDA project funded by the European Commission, with CR14 in Estonia in charge of overall project coordination. This EDF project is a response to three major challenges faced by the armed forces today: attack surfaces are growing due to battlespace digitisation; the cyberattack detection-response chain needs to be automated due to the ever-greater use of autonomous systems such as drones and robots; and AI is being used ever more widely both to launch and respond to cyberattacks.

Christophe Salomon, Executive Vice President, Secure Communications & Information Systems, Thales: "This project initiated by the European Union is fundamental to the security of our combat systems and the sovereignty of our cyberdefence capabilities. It is a chance for Thales to consolidate its strengths in onboard aircraft systems and sovereign cybersecurity solutions, and a further opportunity to leverage our AI hacking expertise. Thales's AI accelerator, and in particular cortAIx, will be directly involved in the AIDA project. The ultimate goal is to employ AI-enabled techniques for detecting threats and protecting aircraft systems from the growing risks and dangers encountered in today's high-intensity, technology-driven conflicts."

Responding to the 2023 European Defence Fund call for projects for the development of deployable autonomous



AI agents.¹ Thales submitted an innovative proposal based on the training of intelligent cyberdefence agents capable of identifying, protecting, detecting and responding to cyberthreats in real time in the five military operating domains:² land, air, sea, space and cyberspace.

Thales will also lead the project to develop a prototype aircraft using frugal AI agents to protect electronic warfare equipment installed on combat aircraft. This prototype will be tested, using Thales's Cybels Analytics solution in particular, in scenarios including cyber-electromagnetic threats and advanced adversarial AI attacks.

AI is being used increasingly in the theatre of operations to increase the detection performance of air defence radars, for example, and to help plan tactical missions and assign tasks to swarms of drones and robotic systems. This type of AI must be reliable, robust and cybersafe to prevent it being exploited by hostile forces in any environment (land, sea, air, space and cyberspace). To counter this type of threat, Thales's Friendly Hacker Unit will conduct a battery of adversarial AI attacks and define appropriate countermeasures to ensure that these cyberdefence AI agents can never become targets themselves.

Global leader in data protection and cybersecurity: As a world leader in cybersecurity, with more than 5,800 experts in 68 countries, Thales is involved at every stage in the civil and defence value chain: Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, Restore. Thales develops sovereign products including encryptors and sensors for governments and institutions to protect their critical information systems, as well as sovereign cyberthreat detection products to protect embedded and onboard systems. Thales is a trusted partner of the Galileo satellite navigation system, operating a number of national encryption laboratories in Europe and supplying NATO member countries with the only tactical IP encryptor with "Cosmic Top Secret" security certification. Thales is also a strategic partner of the German, UK, French and Belgian defence ministries for the construction and handover of key management centres and infrastructure.

AI at Thales: Thales is a major player in trusted, cybersafe, transparent, explainable and ethical AI for armed forces, aircraft manufacturers and critical infrastructure providers. The Group employs over 600 engineers specialising in AI and around 100 doctoral candidates are conducting their AI research with Thales. Organised within Thales's AI accelerator for research (AI Lab), systems, including decision support systems, (AI Factory) and sensors, including sonar, radar, radios and optronics, (AI Sensors), these experts are helping to incorporate AI into over 100 of Thales's products and services. Thales's AI capabilities draw on the most advanced sensor and system technologies to address the full spectrum of user requirements in the defence, aviation, space, cybersecurity and digital identity industries. Trusted AI is designed to meet the specific security and sovereignty needs of Thales's customers. It brings greater efficiency to data analysis and decision support and speeds up the detection, identification and classification of objects of interest and target scenes, while taking account of specific constraints such as cybersecurity, embeddability and frugality in critical environments.

Kratos Awarded \$116.7M Prime Contract from the US SDA for Ground System to Support AFC Missions

Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc., a technology company in the defense, national security and global markets, announced that it has been awarded a contract valued at a maximum of \$116.7 million over five years to create and operate an Advanced Fire Control Ground Infrastructure (AFCGI) for the U.S. Space Development Agency's (SDA) Advanced Fire Control (AFC) program. The AFC will deliver integrated space and ground elements to demonstrate advanced fire control missions for missile defense.

Advanced fire control brings highly sophisticated systems for space-based sensing. These systems enable precise, real-time coordination for tracking operations in space for effective responses to threats. Among its applications, the AFCGI will support SDA's Fire-control On Orbit-support-to-the-war Fighter program, also known as FOO Fighter or F2, which is tasked with detecting and tracking advanced missile threats, including hypersonic missiles.

As the AFCGI prime contractor, Kratos will lead a team of partner companies to:

- Deliver and manage ground segment resources, including ground entry points and



- terrestrial network connections;

- Fit-out and manage a government-owned, contractor-operated (GOCO) facility called the Demonstration Operations Center;

- Manage a government-procured, contractor-operated cloud environment to provide cloud services, including hosting space vehicle mission operations center software and interfacing with mission partner systems; and,

- Provide program management, systems engineering, integration, verification, and operations and maintenance of the AFC ground infrastructure.

Members of the Kratos-led team include ASRC Federal Systems Solutions, LLC, Peraton, Inc., Sphinx Defense, Inc. and Stellar Solutions, Inc.

Core to the AFCGI, Kratos will provide a Ground Resource Manager (GRM) which will be built for the FOO Fighter program and designed to support any future fire control demonstrations. Built upon Kratos's OpenSpace Ground Platform, the GRM will ensure interoperability to support new

space vehicles built by multiple manufacturers from multiple AFC constellations. OpenSpace is an orchestrated, software-defined and cloud-native platform based on accepted industry standards. With it, these satellite manufacturers will be able to synchronize their Command and Control (C2) missions into the AFCGI infrastructure, and new network elements and software applications will integrate seamlessly into the AFCGI. The GRM will act as the hub for the AFC constellations, serving to demonstrate modern capabilities as they evolve to support increasingly sophisticated operational programs. Phil Carrai, President of Kratos' Space Division stated, "Advancements in missile technology and hypersonics that can travel at more than 3000 mph present new adversarial threats and will require new defensive capabilities to identify, track and respond to them rapidly. The AFCGI will serve as a standing sandbox for exploring and validating new technologies, solutions and techniques to address these threats with commensurate speed and agility. The GRM will enable the Space Force to capitalize on best of breed technologies from across the most advanced developers, and seamlessly integrate and orchestrate their operations."

L3Harris Hits Key Testing Milestones in Modernizing F/A-18 EW Capabilities

L3Harris continues to deliver on its promise to elevate electronic warfare (EW) capabilities on the U.S. Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jet, modernizing its defenses to protect aircrews from emerging threats in increasingly contested, complex environments. As part of an \$80 million contract awarded in 2023 to develop a next-generation EW system for the Boeing-made aircraft, L3Harris recently successfully completed critical hardware checks and cutting-edge capability demonstrations that set the stage for the next phase of integration and testing.

3D printing paves the way to successful hardware fit checks. Over a two-day period in August, teams from L3Harris and Boeing came together at the Navy's air test and evaluation unit in Patuxent River, Md., to conduct hardware fit checks on our Advanced Electronic Warfare (ADVEW) system for the F/A-18. The L3Harris team used 3D-printed models of the system, including connectors and wiring, to ensure the system's physical



interfaces will integrate properly with the aircraft. No significant issues were found, validating our design and smoothing the path toward further prototype development.

The successful fit checks show that using 3D printed models is a smart, effective way to test and develop new technology. By creating detailed, physical replicas of components, engineers can identify and resolve potential issues well ahead of the formal prototype modification period.

Simulation tests reveal groundbreaking ADVEW capabilities. The L3Harris and Naval Air Systems Command team put ADVEW through its paces at the U.S. Navy's Threat

Air Defense Lab (TADL), which provides a closed-loop simulation environment to evaluate capabilities against government-validated threat models. ADVEW achieved expectations over five days of rigorous testing, demonstrating cutting-edge capabilities in advanced threat response techniques.

"These two critical testing milestones are our latest successes in decades of delivering cutting-edge EW capabilities to the F/A-18," said Jennifer Lewis, President, Airborne Combat Systems, L3Harris. "We're proud of the progress we've made and excited to move to the next phase of development as we continue push the boundaries of what's possible in protecting U.S. Navy aircrews from emerging threats."

L3Harris plans to conduct the next major design review with the Navy by the end of 2024. Prototype integration and testing are planned for Q1 2025, with delivery of the initial system expected in Q2. The Navy aims to conduct chamber testing in late 2025, where it'll validate the system installed in an actual F/A-18.

SR TECHNICS IS PARTNER OF CHOICE FOR LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE SUPPORT OF AIR INDIA'S CFM56-5B/-7B FLEET



SR Technics, a world-leading Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) service provider, is proud to announce its selection by Air India, India's largest full-service global carrier, as the partner of choice for long-term maintenance support of the airline's CFM56-5B/-7B engine fleet.

Under the terms of the six-year agreement, SR Technics will provide comprehensive MRO services for Air India's fleet, ensuring the highest levels of engine performance and operational reliability.

"This strategic partnership is a milestone for SR Technics and reflects Air India's trust in our expertise and commitment to excellence in engine maintenance," said Owen McClave, CEO of SR Technics. "We are thrilled to collaborate with Air India and are confident that our state-of-the-art services will contribute to the continued success of their operations."

Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Air India, commented: "SR Technics was able to meet our stringent technical, commercial, and operational requirements. High-quality services delivered by SR Technics will enable Air India to enhance safe and enjoyable flight experiences for its customers."

This partnership marks a significant development in SR Technics' growing footprint in the Indian market and Asia-Pacific region and highlights the company's role as a trusted partner for major airlines around the globe.

DEUTSCHE AIRCRAFT SELECTS HONEYWELL TO PROVIDE HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO SYSTEM FOR THE D328ECO®

Honeywell has been selected by Deutsche Aircraft, a German aircraft manufacturer, to supply its Primus HF-1050 high-frequency (HF) radio system for the recently debuted 40-seater D328eco turboprop. The HF-1050 is designed to deliver global voice communications, leveraging its unique features to enhance reliability and performance for operators worldwide. The selection of the HF-1050 supports Honeywell's alignment of its portfolio to three compelling megatrends: automation, the future of aviation and energy transition.

As a high-frequency system, the HF-1050 enables seamless communication over vast distances with built-in technology that reduces background noise, ensuring clearer transmissions between pilots and air traffic controllers.

"We are delighted to continue our partnership with Deutsche Aircraft and support the D328eco program," said Flavio Michio Osana, EMEA Vice President, Business & General Aviation Sales at Honeywell Aerospace Technologies. "Deutsche Aircraft's selection of the HF-1050 underscores our commitment to the future of aviation and reinforces our focus on delivering reliable, cutting-edge avionics solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers and their passengers."

Honeywell avionics are already widely deployed on in-service D328® aircraft such as the Dornier 328-100 and Dornier 328-300. The selection of the HF-1050 builds on Honeywell's longstanding relationship with Deutsche Aircraft and highlights its continued support for the Dornier fleet.

"We are pleased to partner with Honeywell to bring this proven communication technology to the D328eco," said Patricia Ferrari, Vice President of Supply Chain at Deutsche Aircraft. "The HF-1050 system will offer operators a modernised aircraft that is equipped with reliable, long-range communication capabilities that will contribute to more efficient flights across the globe."

Fokker Services Group Signs MoU with Airbus Helicopters for MRO Services on H225M Helicopters

Fokker Services Group is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Airbus Helicopters. The MoU was signed during the recent NIDV Exhibition Defense & Security in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

The MoU follows the recent decision by the Ministry of Defense of The Netherlands to attain 12 H225M helicopters. Under the MoU, Airbus Helicopters and FSG will collaborate to establish the H225M base maintenance capabilities in the Netherlands, enabling the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf) to access comprehensive aircraft maintenance capabilities whenever needed.

Airbus Helicopters, renowned for its expertise in rotorcraft engineering and maintenance, will play a pivotal role in this collaboration. Leveraging years of experience



with the H225M platform, Airbus Helicopters will actively contribute its wealth of knowledge to FSG. In turn, FSG, an established strategic maintenance partner for the RNLAf's

NH90 NATO Frigate Helicopter, brings extensive experience and sustainment expertise to the project.

Roland van Dijk, CEO of FSG, expressed his satisfaction with the signing of the MoU, stating: "The H225M Base Maintenance capability will be an excellent fit with our current capabilities and our ambition to grow as a strategic maintenance partner for the RNLAf. We are thrilled that we will collaborate with Airbus Helicopters to bring this capability to the maintenance valley in Woensdrecht."

Alain Krief, Head of Region Industrial Participation for Europe at Airbus Helicopters states: "Together, our common strengths form a robust foundation for bringing valuable services towards RNLAf. In particular, RNLAf and FSG will respectively benefit from higher fleet availability and high-end skilled jobs on a long term basis."

Safran inaugurate a new test center – the only one of its kind in Europe – for the aircraft engines of the future

Adrien Dolimont, Minister-President of the Government of Wallonia and Olivier Andriès, Chief Executive Officer of Safran inaugurated BeCOVER, a new compressor test center located in Herstal, in the Province of Liège (Belgium).

This 3,000m² facility is designed to test all types of compressors for the next generations of civil and military aircraft engines. It represents a valuable research tool that will be capable of validating breakthrough innovations in order to meet the major environmental challenges of the aviation sector.

BeCOVER provides a range aerodynamics-testing services that are unrivalled in Europe, thanks to its outstanding technical capabilities, including a closed air loop, which will enable turbomachinery to be tested in altitude conditions. It was designed and produced by Safran Test Cells, the “test-cell” unit of Safran Aero Boosters, which is a world leader in this field. The site has been equipped with the most advanced technologies for optimizing resources (energy, water), and the building’s semi-buried architectural design helps to reduce noise pollution and blends harmoniously into the landscape.

As of next December, it will house a



full-scale prototype of a low-pressure rapid compressor built by Safran Aero Boosters for the future Open Fan engine of the CFM RISE (Revolutionary Innovation for Sustainable Engines) technology-demonstration program. This ground-breaking architecture, which is the cornerstone of the CFM RISE technology-demonstration program, is currently the most promising in terms of reducing the environmental footprint of aircraft engines. The Open Fan engine would cut fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions by 20% – even up to 80% in terms of emissions, if sustainable fuels are used – on the next generation of single-aisle aircraft by 2035.

The prototype compressor was developed in just over two years, with the support of the Partenariat d’Innovation Technologique Wallon (P.I.T. - «Wings», for «Walloon Innovations for green Skies»), which aims to support the innovation capacity of the entire Walloon value

chain and to attract talent.

A high-speed compressor makes it possible to reduce the size of the low-pressure spool, thus reducing the engine weight and the raw materials used in manufacturing. The BeCOVER test cell will be used to check the aerodynamic efficiency of the innovative technologies required for a high-speed compressor. The prototype, fitted with 1,200 sensors, will undergo a six-month test campaign.

Designed to serve the entire industrial world, the BeCOVER test center is available as an independent service to other players in the aerospace market, as well as companies in other sectors such as energy. The center will also be made available to the academic and scientific world for experimental research into the aerodynamics of turbo machinery. It will act as a genuine laboratory for Belgian universities and research centers, and contribute to developing a network of shared skills.

Lufthansa Technik to Support Avianca’s LEAP-1A Engines

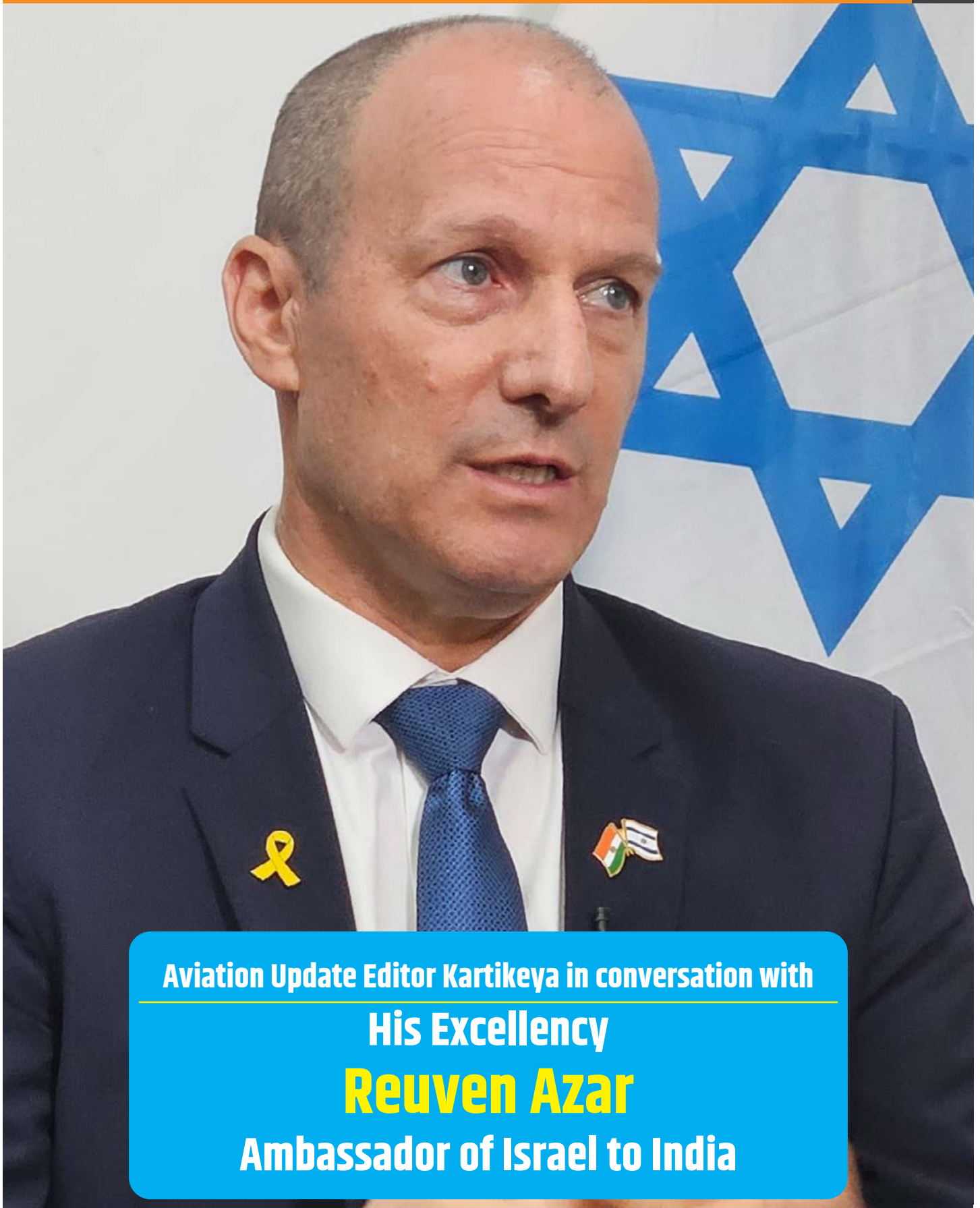
Lufthansa Technik has entered into a non-exclusive contract with Avianca, a leading carrier in Latin America, to provide maintenance support for CFM International LEAP-1A engines. This agreement marks Avianca as Lufthansa Technik’s first customer in South America to benefit from Lufthansa Technik’s LEAP-1A services.

Through this cooperation, Lufthansa Technik will provide quick turn services for the LEAP-1A engines powering Avianca’s A320neo fleet. These services are designed to address specific technical issues swiftly and cost-effectively, allowing engines to return to service quickly without the need for a full overhaul. This approach minimizes downtime and maximizes cost-efficiency, allowing Avianca’s fleet to

remain in service longer. “We are very pleased to announce a new agreement with Lufthansa Technik, this time to support the maintenance of the LEAP-1A engines of our A320neo fleet. This is a result of the great teamwork we have achieved. We are very focused on becoming more and more efficient and this agreement will allow us to move forward on that path”, said Francisco Lalinde, Senior Vice President of Engineering and Maintenance at Avianca.

Lufthansa Technik was the first independent MRO provider worldwide to conclude a service agreement for the two engine types LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B, thus securing access to the fleets of the future. In 2018 the company performed the very first full performance restoration shop visit on a LEAP-1A worldwide.

Alejandra Castellote, Director Sales Latin America at Lufthansa Technik, commented: “This agreement with Avianca, our first LEAP-1A quick turn contract in South America, underscores our ability to deliver fast, reliable and cost-effective maintenance solutions. We are excited to support Avianca in maintaining the high performance of their LEAP-1A engines.” In addition to this agreement, Avianca benefits from several key services provided by Lufthansa Technik, including a comprehensive Total Component Support for its Boeing 787 fleet. Additionally, the airline has adopted AVIATAR’s Condition Monitoring and Predictive Health Analytics to enhance its maintenance processes. In early 2024, Avianca completed its migration to the AMOS cloud, further improving its fleet management capabilities.



Aviation Update Editor Kartikeya in conversation with
His Excellency
Reuven Azar
Ambassador of Israel to India

Q *Recently IAI's Innovation Acceleration Program launched in India – NEUSPHERE. How does Indian deep tech startups will benefit from this program?*

A The launch of the NeuSPHERE Innovation Acceleration Program in India reflects IAI'S commitment to strengthening its strategic partnership with India and to partner with its startup ecosystem. NeuSPHERE provides Indian deep-tech startups with access to IAI's global expertise, resources, funding and mentorship. Through this program, startups gain opportunities to co-develop cutting-edge technologies in fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and green energy, while receiving guidance on scaling their innovations to global markets.

Q *Radars plays a crucial role in aviation industry, how does HELA's MRO capabilities will address the challenges?*

A HELA Systems' MRO facility in Hyderabad provides specialized support for advanced radar systems used in aviation and defense. By offering high-quality repairs, rapid turnaround times, and cost-effective solutions, the facility ensures that radar

systems remain reliable and operational at all times. The facility is focused on building local capabilities, in line with the "Make in India" initiative, and with its sophisticated infrastructure and highly trained workforce, HELA is ready to meet India's evolving aviation needs with precision and excellence.

Q *Let's now talk a bit about the specific areas of cooperation. We could discuss political ties, trade and investment, defense and security, energy, so on and so forth. Let's start with the state of play in defense cooperation. How would you describe current relations as far as defense goes, and how do you see the role of the Israel manufacturers in PM Modi's flagship enterprise- Make in India?*

A We have a strategic partnership between our two countries: It started with solutions supplied by Israel to Indian challenges, but it evolved into a much deeper cooperation that includes partnerships, joint projects in maintenance and manufacturing and even R&D. Israel might have been the first country to adapt to Make in India. We are seeing a complete transformation of how the Israeli defense industry works in India. Multiple

local companies have been established all around the country. Some of them Israeli owned, some with Israeli majority stake and others with a minority stake. All that is tailored to adapt to the various conditions of domestic procurement. All these changes have on the one hand lowered the size of defense exports from Israel to India, because more products and components are produced here, but on the other hand the adaptation in the structure of how we operate here has increased as mentioned the number of partnerships and has deepened the cooperation. In this way, supply chains are more interconnected and it increases options for both countries. It was even mentioned by India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar recently, when he stated that defence exports to Israel align with the Indian national interest. The Israeli Director General of the Ministry of Defense came to India recently for a joint working group discussion with the Indian Defense Secretary. They've dealt strategic issues, innovation and industrial defense collaboration.

Additionally, we can talk about Counterterrorism Collaboration and Intelligence Sharing: Both India and Israel have been the victims of terrorism and deal with

cross-border terrorism. Both the countries strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. With Israel having a vast experience in counterterrorism and intelligence activities, we could both benefit from enhanced intelligence-sharing methods and joint counterterrorism training projects.

Q *Besides defence, which of Israel's strengths can India harness today?*

A There are multiple areas in which India and Israel already collaborate and others which are evolving

1. Take a look at the agri-tech industry for instance: some of the Israeli global leading solutions in agricultural technology are already being implemented in India through a network of centers of excellence the Indian government has established. Millions of Indian farmers have benefited from them. These centers work with special consulting experts coming from MASHAV, Israel's agency for development. Other solutions are supplied through the private sector. Israeli innovation can help boost further Indian productivity and address pressing challenges such as soil degradation and crop diseases.

2. Or water conservation and water purification for example: As you know, India faces water scarcity and water pollution problems. In this field, Israel has multiple innovations and inventions already vastly implemented in our country that could benefit India in optimizing water usage and purification for both urban and rural populations.

3. Start-ups too are abundant in Israel: India's start-up ecosystem, which is already witnessing a rapid growth, can collaborate with Israel (known as the "Start-Up Nation") to foster innovation hubs, support start-ups, and boost technological advancements. We have a joint R&D fund that already spent 25 USD Million in partnerships managed by DST and the Israeli Innovation Authority. Only last month 4 new projects were approved. Our challenge is to create multi billion dollar partnerships between private sector stakeholders.

4. A few months back, PM Modi, at an event, highlighted that cybersecurity had to be paramount as no country is immune to its impact. With Israel having advanced expertise in cybersecurity, India can strengthen its cyber defense capabilities and foster partnership between Israeli and

Indian cybersecurity companies to build resilience against cyber threats.

5. A new area we want to introduce is infrastructure. Israel needs India's companies and workers in Israel to build our infrastructure projects, such as new 100km metro we intend to build in the greater Tel Aviv area. The international tenders are being written now. Indian companies have already built 1000 kilometers of metro so they can contribute from their experience and compete against companies from all around the world.

Q *What are the terms and conditions of cease fire? What is the duration of cease fire?*

A There is a ceasefire signed with Lebanon in the north. The Hezbollah terrorist organization finally agreed to stop its aggression following severe blows given by Israeli. Unlike in previous ceasefires, Israel will enforce strict measures of implementation if the Lebanese government fails in preventing Hezbollah from going south of the Litani River. We won't accept Hezbollah deployed on our border again.

In Gaza, We all want to see a ceasefire sooner rather than later, however that will NOT happen



India's start-up ecosystem, which is already witnessing a rapid growth, can collaborate with Israel (known as the "Start-Up Nation") to foster innovation hubs, support startups, and boost technological advancements.



Aviation Update Editorial Team With Ambassador Family.

before all our remaining hostages are back. We have said this from day one. Hamas started this war, and we will finish it. And if they want a ceasefire – they must return all the hostages right now. We still have 100 people in captivity held under inhumane conditions. We cry for their urgent release.

In addition – we have to reach a situation where Hamas does not pose any threat to our border and our civilians. That means – continue eliminating Hamas' capabilities and preventing them from regrouping and rearming. . And we are working quite successfully to do that. The People of Gaza deserve to live free from this savage terrorist organization.

Q *What is your advice for Indian businesses that are interested in Israel?*

A The collaborative potential is huge: Israel is a power-house for innovation and technology, but lacks the population to unfold it to the entire economic chain. In India, on the other hand, there is no shortage of people or markets, and there's a thirst for innovation that can trickle down to benefit all of the country's emerging industries in all fields: communications, cyber, electronics, mobility, renewable energy, agriculture, water, healthcare and more. This is the time to take action and reach out to collaborate in order to strengthen our countries economically.

Q *What would be your special message to our readers related to the Aviation community?*

A The aviation community everywhere is educated, talented, entrepreneurial and curious. These qualities make them a perfect fit for seeking cooperation with Israeli companies. In the last few years the aviation community in Israel is also rapidly evolving inside and outside the country. We are looking forward to creating partnerships that will both increase the number of direct flights between our countries and also deepen collaboration in marketing and developing solutions that increase flight and airport safety, a field in which Israel excels.

Royal Jordanian Announces Order for GENx-1B Engines to Power Expanded Boeing 787-9 Fleet

B787-9



Following the Arab Air Carriers Organization Annual General Meeting in Amman held recently, Royal Jordanian and GE Aerospace announced an order for GENx-1B engines to power Royal Jordanian's growing fleet of Boeing 787-9s. The commitment includes eighteen engines plus spares, as well as a TrueChoice services agreement to cover the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) of the engines.

"We have been pleased by the performance of the GENx engines in our existing fleet. Expanding our partnership and introducing higher-thrust technology into our operations will support our long-haul route expansion goals and fleet modernization program," said Samer Majall, Vice Chairman and CEO, Royal Jordanian. "With this order, we look forward to continuing to build on our strong relationship with GE Aerospace for many years to come."

"We are happy that Royal Jordanian, our partner of over 60 years, has selected the GENx-1B engine to support its fleet expansion," said Aziz Koleilat, President and CEO - Middle East, Türkiye & CIS (METCIS) for GE Aerospace. "The reduced CO2 emissions and higher efficiency of the GENx-1B compared to its predecessor will also contribute to Jordan's national sustainability goals. We continue to be committed to supporting this important customer."

CAE ACCELERATES MAINTENANCE TRAINING WITH NEW MODULAR PROGRAM FOR BOMBARDIER



Global aviation training leader CAE and Bombardier are collaborating on the development of a modular maintenance training program which will aim to optimize the time required to train Bombardier Service Centre maintenance technicians. The testing phase of this new training program will take place at Bombardier's service centres in Wichita, Kansas; Tucson, Arizona; and Opa Locka, Florida.

CAE's 2023 Aviation Talent Forecast predicts a need for 402,000 new maintenance technicians industry-wide by 2032, more specifically 74,000 in business aviation.

"While there is a need to better promote the career path of an aircraft technician to students around the globe, a big part of the challenge is that it currently takes too long to train new technicians and even longer to train them across several aircraft platforms," explained CAE Business Aviation Division President Alexandre Prévost. "CAE's new modular solution developed for Bombardier will reduce training time by consolidating courses for an entire aircraft family since they share many components and features."

"We are very excited about this potential new program. Given the need for qualified technicians in the marketplace, it is imperative that we maximize their time working on aircraft and optimize the value of their time away for training. The goal of this new modular system is to allow us to better tailor our training to the needs of our technicians, our organization and ultimately our customers," added Mike Menard, Senior Director Bombardier Aircraft Services Americas. "Providing our customers exceptional service availability and quality continues to be at the center of every initiative we undertake. Expertly trained technicians are core to Bombardier's continued success."

MARSHALL NAMED 1ST LM-APPROVED CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR C-130 HERCULES CENTER WING BOX REPLACEMENTS

Marshall has been recognized by Lockheed Martin as the world's first authorized Center of Excellence for center wing box replacements on the C-130 Hercules tactical airlifter. Leaders from Marshall and Lockheed Martin recently gathered to mark the achievement during the annual Hercules Orion Conference (HOC) in Atlanta, located near the C-130 production line in Marietta, Georgia.

Marshall has completed nearly 80 center wing box replacements since 2004 and remains the only organization to have performed these highly complex procedures on both legacy C-130 platforms and the current production model C-130J Super Hercules. Furthermore, no other organisations have successfully completed a C-130J center wing box replacement outside the United States.

"We are incredibly proud to have added yet another

world-first to our C-130 engineering credentials," said Bob Baxter, Marshall Chief growth officer. "This recognition from Lockheed Martin reinforces our position as an industry leader in non-standard repair and replacement, and demonstrates the strength of our capability enhancement offering"

The purpose of a center wing box replacement is to extend the operational life of an aircraft. The center wing is a major primary structure of an aircraft, referred to as a "lifed article." The original center wings fitted during aircraft manufacture have a lifespan of approximately 19,000 hours. Installing a new enhanced service life center wing effectively re-lives the aircraft, maintaining airworthiness and potentially extending its lifespan by decades.

Lockheed Martin supplies Marshall with service bulletins, bespoke tooling and kits with all of the parts and

components required to perform the replacement on the aircraft. While the original center wing is removed, interfacing structures and main frames are thoroughly inspected and serviced before the enhanced service life center wing is installed and the internal wiring and plumbing is replaced.

"Recognizing Marshall as the first Lockheed Martin-approved Center of Excellence for its work leading the C-130 center wing box replacement program is a natural choice. Marshall is a vital part of the C-130 Hercules community because it embodies a commitment to excellence in C-130 maintenance and support, ensuring these versatile aircraft continue to serve operators reliably and efficiently in meeting global mission demands," Rod McLean, vice president and general manager of the Air Mobility & Maritime Missions Line of Business at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics.

GE Aerospace, Waygate Technologies to deliver new AI-assisted Commercial Jet Engine Borescope Inspection Solution to Enhance Defect Recognition

GE Aerospace and Waygate Technologies, a Baker Hughes business, announced they have jointly developed a new, AI-assisted commercial engine borescope solution that will be available to Waygate Technologies customers and introduced to GE Aerospace's MRO network later this year. The development represents the successful completion of their first development program under a Joint Technology Development Agreement between the two companies announced in May of 2023.

As part of this first program, GE Aerospace and Waygate Technologies focused on enhancing machine vision-based assisted defect recognition (ADR) systems using AI for commercial aviation engine borescope inspections. Specifically, High Pressure Compressor (HPC) inspections were targeted, as these are one of the most critical and time-consuming tasks in the engine Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) process.

"At GE Aerospace, we increasingly are seeing the value AI technologies are bringing to help improve the speed, accuracy, and reliability of commercial jet engine inspections," said Nicole Jenkins, Chief MRO Engineer, GE Aerospace. "Collaborating with Waygate Technologies, we have successfully combined our industry domain knowledge and digital expertise to integrate new AI techniques with the right data to improve the detection capabilities of commercial engine borescope inspections."

Jenkins noted that once the new AI-assisted borescope solution is deployed to its MRO shops, it will be used to perform HPC inspections for its GENx and CFM LEAP* engines.

Jenkins added, "This joint development illustrates a bigger effort to give our inspection engineers more advanced tools using AI, computer vision, and automation to help them work productively and meet the needs of our customers. We believe this AI-assisted borescope system will help significantly reduce the time it takes to perform HPC inspections, while delivering high accuracy at the same time." "The latest results of this collaboration demonstrate the value added by technological partnerships that are firmly anchored in the business strategy of Waygate Technologies," said Michael Domke, General Manager Visual at Waygate Technologies, a Baker Hughes business. "The combination of GE Aerospace's extensive customer data and our market-leading advanced borescope solutions promises to be an extremely valuable optimization for the entire MRO sector."

Through this joint development effort, GE Aerospace provided Waygate Technologies with a comprehensive dataset of engine inspection videos, which resulted in thousands of new representative images used for training Waygate Technologies' Gas Power-assist ADR model. GE's Services Technology Acceleration Center (STAC) and GE Aerospace Research brought subject matter expertise to ensure accurate and complete data labeling was performed. Waygate Technologies then leveraged this data and applied cutting-edge AI techniques, including a compute-optimized, state-of-the-art object detection algorithm and a novel temporal smoothing algorithm.

MUBADALA AND SAFRAN STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO DRIVE AEROSPACE GROWTH IN THE UAE



Mubadala Investment Company PJSC (Mubadala), an Abu Dhabi sovereign investor, and Safran, a French multinational aerospace and defense corporation, are joining forces to accelerate aerospace innovation and development within the UAE. Announced at the Abu Dhabi Air Expo, this enhanced strategic framework agreement focuses on key areas of Maintenance, Manufacturing, Human Capital Development, Advanced Material and Space.

This expanded collaboration leverages Mubadala's established aerospace assets, including Strata Manufacturing and Sanad, and integrates Safran's expertise to reshape the aerospace landscape. The partnership will significantly expand Sanad's capabilities and open doors to new partnerships across Safran's diverse aerospace portfolio. Additionally, the partnership aims to broaden Strata's existing strengths within aircraft structure manufacturing to include engine component manufacturing complementing Mubadala's extensive aerospace portfolio.

Furthermore, the partnership prioritizes nurturing local talent through collaborative training opportunities for Emirati engineers and aerospace professionals. With space a key focus area for Mubadala, this partnership unlocks opportunities in air traffic management, Earth observation, and propulsion systems. Additionally, it enhances capabilities within Strata Solvay Advanced Materials, focusing on advanced materials for engine applications, solidifying the UAE's position in aerospace materials science.

"We are pleased to strengthen our long-term partnership with Safran, a global aerospace leader," said Ismail Ali Abdulla, Executive Director of UAE Clusters, at Mubadala's UAE Investments Platform. "As a national investor, we are dedicated to support the diversification of the UAE's economy by building world-class national champions and fostering innovation in high-growth sectors. This agreement not only reinforces Abu Dhabi's position as a premier aerospace hub but also underscores our shared commitment to upskilling local talent, empowering the next generation of engineers and professionals to lead in the global aerospace industry."

«This strategic framework agreement marks a significant milestone in our partnership with Mubadala, contributing to positioning the United Arab Emirates as a global leader in aerospace innovation and manufacturing. By joining forces, we are enhancing our ability to support technological advancements, develop a skilled workforce, and promote aerospace excellence under the <Made in the UAE> brand,» declared Philippe Errera, EVP, International Development and Government Relations Safran.

GE Aerospace, Boeing and NASA to study performance of installed Open Fan engine design for future of more efficient flight

A new project led by GE Aerospace with collaboration from Boeing, NASA, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory will model the integration of an Open Fan engine design with an airplane, supporting the aviation industry's efforts to develop more energy efficient technology.

The U.S. Department of Energy announced that the effort has been awarded 840,000 supercomputing hours through its INCITE program. INCITE is a highly competitive program that supports the world's most computationally intensive projects. GE Aerospace engineers have previously used exascale computing to model the performance and noise levels of Open Fan engine components. Open Fan architecture is a new design of jet engines that removes the traditional casing, allowing for a larger fan size with less drag to improve fuel efficiency.

Now, engineers will be able to study the aerodynamics of an Open Fan mounted on an aircraft wing in simulated flight conditions. This allows the engine design to be optimized for additional efficiency, noise, and other performance benefits. Replicating a full-size integrated engine and airplane in the design phase would be impossible without the computational power of the newest supercomputing machines.

"Advanced supercomputing capability is a key breakthrough enabling the revolutionary Open Fan engine design. Airplane integration is critical. Today's announcement with Boeing, NASA, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to simulate the latest airplane and engine designs continues a longstanding legacy of world-leading innovation in the aviation industry," said Arjan Hegeman, general manager for future of flight technology at GE Aerospace.

The team will have access to the Aurora supercomputer at Argonne National Laboratory, and to the Frontier supercomputer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Frontier and Aurora are the world's second and third fastest supercomputers, both capable of crunching data at more than a quintillion calculations per second.

CFM RISE program Open Fan is one of a suite of technologies being advanced through CFM International's Revolutionary Innovation for Sustainable Engines (RISE)* program. Unveiled in 2021, the CFM RISE program is one of the aviation industry's most comprehensive technology demonstrators showing real progress with more than 250 tests completed.

Through the RISE program, CFM is developing advanced engine architectures like Open Fan, compact core and hybrid electric systems to be compatible with 100% or unblended Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). The CFM RISE program targets more than 20% better fuel efficiency with 20% lower CO2 emissions compared to the most efficient commercial engines in service today.

"We aim to do something our company has never achieved before — introduce a new jet engine that is 20 percent more fuel efficient than our most advanced commercial engines today. This represents a jump in technology development that usually takes multiple generations to achieve. Supercomputing helps make it possible," Hegeman said.

Honeywell and Curtiss-Wright Develop Cockpit Voice Recorders to Help Boeing, Airbus Meet New 25-Hour Safety Mandate



Honeywell and Curtiss-Wright Corporation announced they have collaborated to develop a Honeywell Connected Recorder-25 (HCR-25) cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and flight data recorder (FDR) that is now available for applicable Boeing and Airbus commercial and cargo aircraft.

The HCR-25 was type-certified for use on Boeing 737/767/777 aircraft last year and is scheduled to be type-certified for use on Airbus A320 series platforms in the first half of 2025. The development of this new technology supports Honeywell's alignment of its portfolio to three compelling megatrends including automation and the future of aviation.

"The Honeywell HCR-25 addresses the need for cockpit voice and data recorders that has been mandated by the FAA to increase flight safety," said Steve Hadden, vice president, Services & Connectivity, Honeywell Aerospace Technologies. "Honeywell's collaboration with Curtiss-Wright leverages our joint capabilities to deliver superior audio clarity in combination with data streaming to enable next-generation access to aircraft performance."

The HCR-25 satisfies the 2024 FAA Reauthorization Act's directive that requires commercial passenger aircraft to be equipped with a CVR set to record the most recent 25 hours of flight data. The directive specifies that all newly manufactured aircraft must meet the 25-hour requirement, while existing aircraft must be compliant within six years.

"We are proud to work closely with Honeywell to bring 25-hour cockpit voice recorder capability to both new OEM installations and retrofit applications, enhancing commercial aircraft flight safety with extended recording duration and real-time streaming connectivity," said Brian Perry, senior vice president and general manager, Curtiss-Wright Defense Solutions Division. "Working together, we are ready to utilize our extensive experience developing flight recorders to deliver advanced technologies that provide open access for airline operators to retrieve their own data."

The use of a 25-hour CVR dramatically improves the ability to identify the root cause of commercial aircraft incidents and accidents, which results in greater air travel passenger safety and improvements to training, policies and procedures. Honeywell and Curtiss-Wright's joint development of the CVR follows a letter earlier this year from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) that called for the installation of 25-hour CVRs in new aircraft production and the retrofit of existing airplanes. The letter highlighted 14 NTSB investigations since 2018 that were hampered by a lack of CVR data because that data was overwritten due to insufficient recording capacity.

Honeywell HCR-25 CVR : Based on Curtiss-Wright's compact, lightweight Fortress® CVR technology, the HCR-25 is compliant with the latest FAA regulations and requirements for 25-hour CVRs as well as existing international regulations in Europe, Canada, Mexico and Singapore. The HCR-25 provides four channels of audio recording, all with wideband performance, providing investigators with superior clarity over current-generation recorders.

Honeywell HCR-25 FDR : The HCR-25 FDR surpasses the requirements of each of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)-defined flight recorder types. The HCR-25 FDR, when coupled with Honeywell's Aspire SATCOM system, adds real-time data streaming to support the ICAO Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety (GADSS) initiative and timely recovery of data requirements. It can record and store more than 3,500 hours of data in crash-protected memory before needing to overwrite the oldest data collected. The HCR-25 also provides a 25-hour CPDLC datalink recorder (DLR) function.



Aviation Update Editor Kartikeya in conversation with

Mr. Yaniv Mizrahi
CEO-HELA Systems Pvt. Ltd.



Q *Could you outline your journey in the Aviation industry for our dear readers?*

A I have been living and working in India for the past eight years. It has been a rewarding journey to be part of this vibrant and growing aviation and defense ecosystem, contributing to the development of cutting-edge technologies and strengthening India's capabilities.

Q *What are the various services that you are*

offering at Hela Systems?

A HELA Systems specializes in the maintenance and repair of radar modules and sub-systems, including power systems, cooling systems, IT integration, radar testing, and calibration. We are proud to provide comprehensive, localized support that enhances India's self-reliance in radar technology.

Q *What are the factors you wish if changed can contribute to the*

growth of the MROs in India?

A HELA Systems and IAI, we are deeply honored and excited to collaborate with India on building a self-reliant and robust MRO ecosystem. Working with such talented professionals and organizations in India is both a privilege and a responsibility, and we are committed to supporting the growth of the defense sector through innovation and cooperation.

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

A The focus will remain on continuing to provide better and better services and systems to meet the evolving needs of the defense and aviation sectors. By constantly innovating and enhancing our offerings, we aim to address challenges and seize new opportunities as they arise.

Q *Can you share your visions and priorities for the company? What is the roadmap ahead and what are the major objectives?*

A Our primary objective is to enhance our capabilities in radar module manufacturing and continue providing unmatched support to the Indian Armed Forces. We aim to reduce turnaround times further, improve cost efficiency, and expand our footprint across India.

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

A One moment that stands out is when we significantly increased our monthly repair output for radar modules through innovative thinking and relentless effort by the team. Witnessing the pride and joy on their faces as we celebrated this achievement together was truly unforgettable. It reaffirmed my belief that when people feel valued and empowered, they accomplish extraordinary things.

Our employees are deeply committed and motivated, driven by a shared sense of purpose and belonging. This

culture is what enables us to overcome challenges and achieve remarkable results.

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

A My family has been my greatest source of inspiration, shaping who I am both personally and professionally. My parents instilled in me the values of hard work, integrity, and perseverance, which have been the foundation of my journey. These days, my children inspire me the most. Their curiosity, resilience, and boundless energy remind me to approach challenges with

never stop learning.

Q *Welcoming the New Year 2025, your cheering message for our fellow aviators would be..?*

A As we welcome 2025, I extend my warmest wishes to the readers of Aviation Update and the broader aviation community. The past year has demonstrated the incredible potential of our industry, and I am confident that the year ahead will bring even greater achievements. Let us continue to innovate, collaborate, and build a stronger future for aviation and defense. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and drive progress that benefits us all. Wishing you a prosperous and inspiring New Year!



Aviation Update Editorial Team with Mr. Yaniv Mizrahi, CEO-HELA Systems.

RAVI K TAKES OVER AS DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS) AT HAL



Mr. Ravi K has been appointed as Director (Operations) at HAL. He is responsible for formulation of strategic and functional plans, optimizing the capacities, upgrading of capabilities within the company and ensuring indigenization and implementation of a robust IT framework across the company. Prior to this, he held the position of Executive Director (Corporate Planning). He is a Mechanical Engineering Graduate and is an alumnus of IIM, Ahmedabad & IAS, Toulouse-France and has a rich experience of over 30 years across various sectors.

Mr Ravi has experience in fixed wing business of HAL and was responsible for operationalization of LCA Tejas fleet in the Indian Air Force. He spearheaded a team to conclude the biggest-ever contract in the Indian Defence sector for supply of 83 LCA MK1A with a contract value of more than Rs 36,000 crores in 2021. He worked with IAF for an additional 97 LCA MK1A order which would form the backbone of the Indian Air Force in times to come.

Mr Ravi was instrumental in establishing the facilities and creating capacity for manufacturing of 16 LCA per year and was responsible for delivery of LCA twin seater aircraft for the first time in the program. He led the indigenization team to enhance the local content in LCA-Tejas program and transformed LCA Division to be a lead integrator by successfully outsourcing the major fuselage assemblies to private partners.

As Executive Director & General Manager of LCA Tejas Division, he was instrumental in increasing the fleet serviceability through various initiatives and established seamless data communication with IAF bases with single point of contact (SPOC) concept for all customer issues. Going forward, his priority areas are increasing HAL's footprint in the global arena and preparing the company to take on the challenges of supply chain, technology management and digital transformation.

SABENA TECHNICS APPOINTS A NEW CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER



Hervé Grandjean will transition from the role of chief commercial officer to chief executive officer of Sabena Technics effective January 1, 2025. He will succeed Philippe Rochet, who has been instrumental in the company's growth since 2019.

Hervé Grandjean brings a wealth of operational and strategic expertise to his new role. His background includes key management positions within the French defense procurement agency and serving as an industrial advisor to the French Minister of Defense. Grandjean previously held role in Sabena Technics makes him an ideal candidate to guide the company to its next chapter.

Speaking on his appointment, Grandjean emphasized the booming sectors of civil and military aeronautics and his commitment to supporting both areas. He expressed pride in taking on the responsibilities of leading a group that has expanded significantly and operates across multiple continents.

As Sabena Technics moves forward under Grandjean's leadership, the company is poised to enhance its maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) capabilities. This focus on MRO is critical as the aviation industry continues to evolve, and demands for high-quality maintenance services grow.

MIRUS EXPANDS INTO ASIA WITH NEW REGIONAL SALES MANAGER



Mirus Aircraft Seating has further expanded into Asia with the appointment of Puva Silvarajoo as regional sales manager for Asia Pacific. The appointment comes as part of Mirus' increased activities supporting Asian airlines with their airline seating solutions. The airline seating manufacturer has ambitious expansion plans for the region, with Silvarajoo's appointment being the natural next step toward building its market share in Asia.

Based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Silvarajoo joined the Mirus Aircraft Seating sales team in October, strengthening the growth of its sales team which manages and drives the burgeoning demand for its range of seats within the region. She brings with her a wealth of experience in the aviation space, having worked with a number of market-leading organisations, with her responsibilities including dealing with complex commercial, sales, business development, partnerships, joint venture setups, and flight simulators. This breadth of experience gives her a unique understanding of the market conditions

in Asia and what needs to be done to achieve Mirus' ambitious business goals. Silvarajoo said: "It's a truly exciting time for me, and I am looking forward to propelling Mirus' growth in the Asia Pacific region. Mirus has established a great reputation for providing highly competitive, innovative, class-leading seating products with an exceptional level of service and has a huge potential in the aircraft seating market, especially in an upward trajectory region such as Asia Pacific. I believe we will be growing rapidly in a short space of time. I'm proud to be a part of the Mirus journey"

Marcus Williams, Global Sales and Marketing Director at Mirus Aircraft Seating, said: "As we continue to develop our global presence in the aircraft seating industry, I am delighted to welcome Puva to Mirus. Puva joins us in a prevalent growth phase, and we look forward to her contribution to help deliver our vision and drive Mirus forward. Her skillsets, experiences and values reflect our philosophy here at Mirus, and we are honoured she has become part of our team."

MENZIES BOLSTERS LEADERSHIP TEAM IN AFRICA



Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, has made a series of high-level appointments in Central and East Africa to support the company's strategic growth plans across the region.

The internal appointments include Nouamane Zahouani, who has been promoted to Vice President Operations for Central and East Africa. He resumes responsibilities for across Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. Prior to his promotion, Nouamane was General Manager for Ground Handling & Cargo, covering both Kenya and Uganda.

In Kenya, Mohamed Tambi has been appointed General Manager, having most recently served as General Manager for Mozambique, while Mary Efata becomes General Manager for Uganda. Mary comes equipped with significant finance experience, having led Menzies' finance team in Uganda for almost seven years.

Cisse Abdoulaye, Head of Africa, Menzies Aviation, said: "We're very proud to unveil our new Central and East Africa leadership team, which is well-placed to drive forward our ambitious growth plans in the region. Nouamane, Mohamed and Mary's considerable leadership experience and expertise will no doubt prove invaluable as we continue to deliver world-class aviation services at more than 40 locations in Africa. We look forward to working with the team and congratulate all three on their well-deserved promotions."

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Speaking on his appointment, Grandjean emphasized the booming sectors of civil and military aeronautics and his commitment to supporting both areas. He expressed pride in taking on the responsibilities of leading a group that has expanded significantly and operates across multiple continents.

BOEING ELECTS TIM BUCKLEY TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Boeing Company Board of Directors announced that it has elected Tim Buckley as its newest member, effective January 1, 2025. Buckley will serve on the Finance and Governance & Public Policy committees.

Buckley, 55, previously served as Chair and CEO of The Vanguard Group, where he successfully led one of the largest investment management firms in the world, with nearly \$10 trillion in assets under management.

"Tim is a renowned, trusted leader who brings the voice of the investor and a track record of business success to our Board," said Boeing Board Chair Steve Mollenkopf. "Tim's familiarity with the broad investor community, expertise managing complex business operations and ability to positively lead through change will bring additional important perspective to our Board."

During Buckley's tenure as CEO, Vanguard's assets under management grew 80 percent, driven by the firm's focus on offering products and developing digital services that improve clients' long-term success. Prior to serving as Vanguard's CEO, Buckley held multiple roles of increasing responsibility throughout his 33-year career at the firm, including as Chief Investment Officer and Chief Information Officer.

The 12th member of the board, Buckley will be the tenth new director added since 2019, as part of the board's refreshment efforts. These directors collectively bring significant experience in aerospace, safety, engineering, manufacturing, cyber, artificial intelligence, software, risk oversight, audit, supply chain management, sustainability and finance.

Two Safran Executive Committee appointments

Stéphane Cueille is appointed CEO of Safran Aircraft Engines effective during the first few months of 2025. He will take over from Jean-Paul Alary, who has decided to pursue his career outside the Group. Stéphane Cueille will join Safran Aircraft Engines on January 1, 2025 and will take on his new role after the notice period of Jean Paul Alary. Bruno Bellanger is appointed CEO of Safran Electrical & Power and joins the Group Executive Committee effective January 1, 2025. He takes over from Stéphane Cueille.

Stéphane Cueille started his career in Snecma in 1998 to work on ceramic matrix composites (CMC). He joined the French defense procurement agency DGA in 2001, taking various management positions in the aircraft propulsion and Missiles-Space sectors. In 2008, he returned to Snecma, and was in particular repair general manager in Snecma's Military Engine division, then director of the turbine blade Center of Excellence. In May 2013 he was appointed Managing Director of Aircelle Ltd, the UK subsidiary of Aircelle (Safran Nacelles) based in Burnley. In January 2015 he was named head of the Group's Research & Technology (R&T) center, and then in 2016 was appointed Senior Executive Vice President R&T and Innovation, and became a member of the Safran Executive Committee. In 2021 he was appointed CEO of Safran Electrical and Power.



Stéphane Cueille, 52, graduated from the École Polytechnique (1991) and holds a post-graduate degree in solid state physics and a PhD in statistical physics (1998).

Bruno Bellanger started his career in Airbus as an air-ground communications systems engineer, and Scaliant as Project Manager. He joined Safran in 2004 as manager of the Safran Electronics & Defense agency in Toulouse, dedicated to Airbus A380 support. In 2005 he took responsibility for the software development of the A380 and A400M product lines, and in 2007, became Head



of the Aircraft Information Systems program. In 2008, he was entrusted with managing the GADIRS Program (navigation system of the A400M) and, in November 2011, was appointed Program VP of the Avionics Division. In March 2016 Bruno became General Manager of Large Commercial Engines within Safran Aircraft Engines. He was then appointed Safran Helicopter Engines Executive Vice-President, Programs in October 2017. On July 1st, 2022, Bruno is appointed General Manager of Power Division and member of the Management Committee of Safran Electrical & Power.

CAE announces CEO succession plan

CAE announced that after 20 years at CAE, including 15 as President and Chief Executive Officer, and after spearheading the making of CAE as a global leader in training for civil aviation and defence and security forces, Marc Parent will be leaving the company at next year's Annual General Meeting in August 2025, as part of an ongoing succession plan. Until this time, Mr. Parent will continue to lead CAE in his role as CEO and as a member of the Board of Directors, advance CAE's strategic objectives and ensure an effective transition.

"Under Marc's leadership, CAE has become a global leader in training for civil aviation and defence and security forces, through which we have furthered our mission to make the world a safer place" said Alan N. MacGibbon, Chair of the Board of Directors." During his tenure, CAE's annual revenue has nearly doubled to \$4.3 billion from \$2.2 billion. This was driven in large part by the transformation he led from being primarily an industrial products company to becoming the

world leader in aviation training solutions, with over two-thirds of annual revenue coming from recurring services. These accomplishments cement his legacy as a high calibre leader in the aerospace industry and create a solid foundation for the future."

"Marc's lasting impact on CAE and global aerospace is unanimously recognized by the Board," said Mr. MacGibbon. "As we continue our succession process for the next CEO of CAE, we are fortunate to benefit from the considerable leadership depth he has built across the organization, placing us in an excellent position for sustainable growth."

Added Mr. Parent, "It has been the privilege of a lifetime to lead this company over the last 15 years. Having been engaged in succession planning discussions for some time, the Board and I are fully aligned on the process and transition to CAE's next CEO. Over the decades, I have been able to work together with an extraordinary team, reshaping the aerospace industry by creating something truly

unique, and prepared thousands of people in critical roles for the moments that matter. I am proud of the numerous awards and overall recognition that CAE has received, of the solid relationships we developed, and I am grateful for everyone who contributed to making our company what it is today."

"CAE's innovative technology and outstanding people now set the standard for training and safety worldwide. When I conclude this unique journey next year, it will be with the knowledge that given our unparalleled training and software solutions, the strong secular growth trends in Civil and Defence, and our robust order backlog, the future is bright for CAE."

Consistent with its ongoing and rigorous succession planning process, the Board of Directors has retained a leading executive search firm to conduct a comprehensive global search, which will include evaluating internal and external candidates, to identify a new CEO to lead the Company into the future. The Human Resources Committee of the Board will oversee the search process with support and assistance from Mr. Parent.

Garmin's revolutionary Runway Occupancy Awareness technology honored with prestigious Laureate Award



Garmin announced that its Runway Occupancy Awareness (ROA) technology received a Laureate Award in the Business Aviation category from Aviation Week Network. Utilizing the Surface Indications and Alert (SURF-IA) technology and ADS-B traffic monitoring, ROA is the first certified solution designed to help pilots navigate complex airports and avoid potential runway incursions caused by nearby airborne aircraft, aircraft on the ground and ground vehicles. This year's Laureate Awards Ceremony will take place on March 6, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

"We are honored to be recognized by Aviation Week Network with this prestigious Laureate Award for Runway Occupancy Awareness. Garmin's commitment to innovation and safety is the driving force to continually create revolutionary technologies like ROA that can reduce the risk of runway incursions and help provide confidence for pilots navigating busy and complex airports."
—Carl Wolf, Garmin Vice President Aviation Sales, Marketing & Programs

ROA technology analyzes aircraft GPS and ADS-B traffic information relevant to the airport's runways and taxiways to assess and alert the crew of a possible runway incursion or collision. ROA provides visual crew-alerting system (CAS) caution and warning annunciations on the pilot's primary flight display (PFD) and highlights the runway yellow or red, depending on the level of threat, using Garmin's Synthetic Vision Technology (SVT™). It also provides similar caution and warning annunciations on the SafeTaxi® map displayed simultaneously on the multifunction window.

Both visual and aural alerts are provided to the flight crew based on the potential hazard, ranging from no immediate collision hazard to a warning level alert where a collision risk could occur within 15 seconds. Indications and alerts to the flight crew include: any traffic landing, taking off, stopped, or taxiing on the aircraft's runway; traffic on approach to the aircraft's runway or runway that crosses the aircraft's runway; as well as any traffic on the runway at which the aircraft is holding.

The initial FAA certification was received by Textron Aviation on the G1000® NXi-equipped Cessna Caravan, followed by Garmin's certification for ROA in their G5000® STC covering the Cessna Citation Excel, XLS, XLS+ and XLS Gen2. ROA is initially available on select Garmin Integrated Flight Decks ranging from G1000 NXi to G5000 equipped aircraft serving the broad general and business aviation markets.

BOMBARDIER'S NEW BRAND EVOLUTION WINS TWO RED DOT AWARDS FOR BRAND DESIGN EXCELLENCE



Bombardier is proud to announce that its new brand evolution has been recognized with the internationally established "Red Dot: Best of the Best" award for Brands and Communication Design in the 2024 Red Dot Award. This sought-after recognition celebrates the exceptional design and creativity of Bombardier's newly introduced brand evolution. Additionally, Bombardier has received a "Red Dot" prize for the excellence of its logo redesign, further highlighting the company's commitment to design sophistication.

The new brand evolution, unveiled earlier this year, pays tribute to the company's unique approach to its customers and stakeholders, and mirrors Bombardier's culture and talented employees. The initiative was deployed to represent Bombardier's evolution as a company with a sole focus on designing, building and servicing the world's best business jets, while reasserting its bold innovative spirit, entrepreneurial roots and deeply entrenched family values. At the centre of Bombardier's new visual expression, the redesigned logo features the silhouette of an aircraft breaking the sound barrier—an ode to the company's continued ambition and a symbol of its unwavering commitment to delivering unrivaled craftsmanship and care.

"The Bombardier brand is iconic and renowned for its heritage and industry-defining engineering, and evolving its brand identity was an incredible opportunity and a humbling journey," said Ève Laurier, Vice President, Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs, Bombardier. "Red Dot's esteemed distinctions reaffirm that Bombardier truly belongs with the world's leading inspirational brands."

The Red Dot Award is one of the most prestigious design awards worldwide and honours quality, creative achievement, and vision. Winning the "Red Dot: Best of the Best" award places Bombardier among the top inspiring brands of our time. The recognition for the logo redesign underscores the meticulous attention to detail and the strategic thinking that went into creating a visual identity that resonates with Bombardier's diverse clientele: leaders who shape the world.

This year's Red Dot winners were celebrated during an award ceremony on November 1st in Berlin, Germany.

GULFSTREAM G700 EXCEEDS 65 CITY-PAIR SPEED RECORDS



Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced the ultralarge-cabin Gulfstream G700 recently exceeded 65 city-pair speed records.

The latest record-breaking flights include a trip from Savannah to Honolulu using a blend of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and traveling 4,090 nautical miles/7,574 kilometers in 8 hours and 52 mins at an average speed of Mach 0.90. The aircraft also set a speed record traveling 6,507 nm/12,051 km from Los Angeles to Sydney in just 14 hours and 26 minutes.

"Gulfstream continues to see remarkable interest in the G700 around the world, and we are pleased to take it directly to our customers to showcase the extensive capabilities this industry-leading aircraft has to offer," said Mark Burns, president, Gulfstream. "The G700 is unmatched in performing these record-setting flights and illustrates its unique combination of speed, range and cabin size."

The latest records are pending approval by the U.S. National Aeronautic Association and the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale in Switzerland for recognition as world records.

Gulfstream G500 and G600 program makes 300th delivery



Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced the 300th customer delivery in the Gulfstream G500 and Gulfstream G600 fleet, a signal of continued worldwide demand.

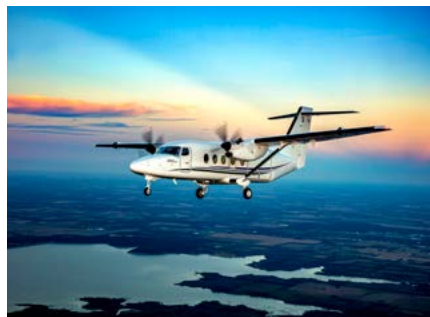
Both award-winning aircraft feature the Gulfstream Symmetry Flight Deck, with safety-enhancing technology including the industry's first active control sidesticks and most extensive use of touch-screen technology, along with Phase-of-Flight intelligence. These aircraft were purposefully designed to increase manufacturing efficiencies by establishing commonalities throughout Gulfstream's next-generation fleet, advances which led to incorporating the same award-winning flight deck on the Gulfstream G700, Gulfstream G800 and Gulfstream G400. "Delivering 300 aircraft is a clear indication of strong interest in the G500 and G600 around the world," said Mark Burns, president, Gulfstream. "Thanks to investments from our parent company, General Dynamics, these aircraft continue to achieve new milestones as customer demand remains steadfast. The advanced efficiencies established by this program have provided us with the flexibility to expand our production line, supporting the success of our next-generation fleet well into the future."

This announcement follows other recent accomplishments for the G500 and G600 fleet. In June, the G500 and G600 each surpassed 100,000 flight hours, a reflection of strong customer demand. Also within the past year, both aircraft received U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification for steep-approach operations, opening access to even more airports, including some of the world's most challenging.

CESSNA SKYCOURIER EXPANDS GLOBAL REACH WITH TWO AIRCRAFT ORDER FROM AIR MARSHALL ISLANDS

Textron Aviation, a Textron Inc. company announced a two-aircraft purchase agreement with AIR Marshall Islands Inc. (AMI) for its twin-engine, large-utility turboprop, the Cessna SkyCourier. The two aircraft - both passenger variants - will be used to support travel throughout the communities within the Marshall Islands.

"The Cessna SkyCourier is an excellent choice to support the mission of AIR Marshall Islands. With its low operating costs and maximum cabin flexibility, the SkyCourier is a real game-changer in regional connectivity," said Lannie O'Bannion, senior vice president, Global Sales and Flight Operations, Textron Aviation. "This order is an excellent example



of the SkyCourier's unmatched capabilities for a variety of mission profiles, and also highlights Textron Aviation's commitment to delivering innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of the aviation industry."

AIR Marshall Islands is a commercially operated airline owned by the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). It is based in Majuro, the capital city of the country, which is located in the South Pacific. "AIR Marshall Islands is thrilled to add the Cessna SkyCourier to our fleet," said Captain Albon Jelke, general manager & CEO of AIR Marshall Islands, Inc. "This exciting development is a major milestone in our efforts to modernize our aircraft, allowing us to provide more reliable and efficient flights across the Marshall Islands. Our new SkyCouriers are perfectly designed to reach the remote atolls and islands, ensuring that essential air services are accessible to both our local communities and visitors."

LILIUM LAUNCHES M&A PROCESS WITH KPMG, TARGETS PROGRAM CONTINUATION TOWARDS FIRST FLIGHT AND CERTIFICATION

Lilium N.V. (Nasdaq: LILM), a leading electric aircraft manufacturer and pioneer in Regional Air Mobility (RAM), announces that it has appointed KPMG to conduct an open, transparent and fair M&A process. First investor briefings will start soon.

This followed the local court of Weilheim's approval of the insolvency filing of Lilium's German subsidiaries and the court's granting of Lilium's application for self-administration.

Preliminary insolvency proceedings under self-administration are court-ordered restructuring proceedings aimed at preserving the business. The management remains in charge and leads the business through the proceedings, supported by restructuring experts.

The court has appointed to the German subsidiaries' Boards of Management with immediate effect two restructuring-experienced lawyers, Prof. Dr. Gerrit Hölzle and Dr. Thorsten Bieg as Chief Insolvency Officers (CIOs). Both have already successfully advised a large number of companies in crisis situations. Most recently, they worked for Servion and The Social Chain AG, among others. They will now oversee the reorganization of Lilium's German subsidiaries.

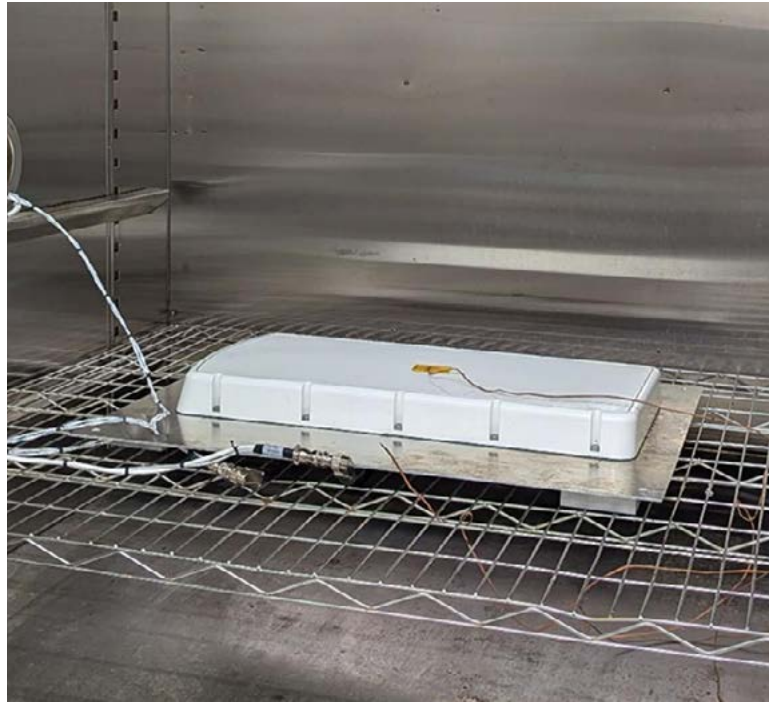
The Local Court of Weilheim has also appointed attorney Mr. Ivo-Meinert Willrodt, Managing Partner at PLUTA Rechtsanwalts GmbH, as the provisional custodian. The restructuring expert is an attorney and specialist lawyer for insolvency and restructuring law and has already acted as trustee for the solar car start-up Sono Motors and the drone manufacturer EMT, among others. His role is to protect the interests of the creditors in the proceedings.

Lilium CEO Klaus Roewe welcomed the appointments: "With the support of our appointed custodian and the restructuring experts, we at Lilium remain fully focused on re-emerging following restructuring, with fresh investment to support the all-electric Lilium Jet's path to certification and entry into service."

Work at Lilium's subsidiaries continues, with the more than 1,000 employees engaged in progressing towards the next significant program milestone, first manned flight, having been informed on the details of continued employee payment. The business has also informed affected suppliers, outlining expectations and procedural steps. The first two Lilium Jets are currently on the final assembly line, with the first aircraft having recently completed the initial low-voltage power-on milestone and due to advance shortly into the ground testing phase. The fuselage and wings of the third aircraft are currently in assembly at aerostructures suppliers Aciturri and Aernnova. End of October, Lilium engineers moved a fully assembled, conforming Lilium Jet airframe into the static test rig for structural testing, in a significant advance for the program. The structural strength test is an essential part of the testing plan for first manned flight and type certification.

The business' current order pipeline consists of firm orders, reservations, options, and memoranda of understanding for more than 780 Lilium Jets to operators in the U.S., South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Gogo Galileo HDX Antenna Passes FAA-Mandated DO-160 Qualification Testing



Gogo Business Aviation announced that its Gogo Galileo HDX electronically steerable antenna (ESA), designed to provide access to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite networks for all sizes of business aircraft, has passed FAA-mandated DO-160 qualification testing.

"Passing DO-160 keeps us on track to receive the first-article Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) and commercially launch Gogo Galileo later this year," said Jeremy Tyler, vice president of airborne product engineering for Gogo.

DO-160 testing ensures the Gogo Galileo HDX antenna is safe for use in the harsh environmental conditions encountered in flight, including temperature volatility, intense vibration, radio wave penetration, lightning strike, moisture penetration and flight aerodynamics, among others.

Gogo developed the HDX, capable of peak speeds approaching 60 Mbps, in partnership with Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar company (NASDAQ: SATS). In the second quarter of 2025, Gogo plans to deliver Gogo Galileo HDX for larger aircraft, capable of peak speeds approaching 200 Mbps.

Gogo's dealers are receiving unprecedented demand for Gogo Galileo HDX and have contracted to complete 27 STCs covering a total addressable market of more than 18,000 aircraft globally.

Gogo Galileo will connect to the enterprise-grade Eutelsat OneWeb LEO satellite network which is designed for mobility to deliver consistent performance with low variability across all routes around the Globe.

Gogo is accepting purchase orders for the HDX, which is designed to be a faster and lower-cost upgrade to any AVANCE system (AVANCE L3, L5, LX5, SCS) than installing a new competitive ESA LEO system.

HISTORY-MAKING BEECHCRAFT T-6C TEXAN II SALE SUPPORTS THE U.S.-VIETNAM COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



Textron Aviation Defense announced the arrival of five Beechcraft T-6C Texan II Integrated Training System (ITS) aircraft in support of the Vietnam Air Defense Air Force (ADAF) pilot training program at Phan Thiet Airbase. The historic delivery of the first of 12 T-6C Texan II ITS aircraft highlights the on-time fulfillment of the inaugural Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program established between the U.S. Air Force (USAF) and the ADAF. Contracted in August 2022, the full fleet of 12 T-6C aircraft is anticipated to be delivered by mid-2025.

"It's an honor to support the United States and its Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Vietnam as together they focus on a prosperous, open, resilient, and peaceful Indo-Pacific Region," said Travis Tyler, President and CEO, Textron Aviation Defense LLC. "We also welcome the Vietnam Air Defense Air Force as the 14th nation to place its confidence in the T-6 Texan II and we celebrate the arrival of the T-6C at Phan Thiet Airbase."

The initial USAF FMS contract award features three T-6C ITS aircraft, site survey, ground support equipment, two spare engines, spare parts, personal life support equipment, external fuel tanks and pylons, aircraft ferry, program support and country specific technical orders. Subsequent contract awards increased the ADAF fleet of T-6C aircraft to twelve.

BOMBARDIER'S GLOBAL 7500 BUSINESS JET SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS, CONTINUES RECORD-SETTING PACE WITH 75 SPEED RECORDS



Bombardier announced that its industry-leading Global 7500 business jet has soared to new record-setting heights, adding to its already impressive speed record performances with more than 75 records in the books – a truly incredible accomplishment. (1) The new records include Miami to São Paulo, Tokyo to Los Angeles, Tokyo to San Jose, Jeddah to London and Los Angeles to Auckland. These accomplishments build on earlier records, including an 8,225 nautical mile flight in October 2019 from Sydney, Australia to Detroit, Michigan, the longest flight ever recorded in business aviation.

"These blazing new speed records continue to show that the Global 7500 is the proven, undisputed leader in its category and the business aircraft with amazing performance, bringing our customers to far-flung destinations quickly and reliably," said Jean-Christophe Gallagher, Executive Vice President, Aircraft Sales and Bombardier Defense. "What's even more impressive about these records is they are flown as part of routine aircraft movements, including some missions that have passengers onboard. We have on more than one occasion been thrilled to have customers and prospects be aboard for the record setting city pairs."

The Global 7500 features a top speed of Mach 0.925 and a baseline range of 7,700 nautical miles (14,260 km), making it the ultimate record-setting time machine. The impressive performance attributes of the aircraft were on full display with some of the new records, including Tokyo to Hong Kong in just 3 hours and 40 minutes; New Delhi to Tokyo in just 7 hours; and Los Angeles to Auckland in 11 hours and 55 minutes.

The aircraft's unique Smooth Flex Wing is like an in-air shock absorber, designed with a sophisticated slats and flap system that generates exceptional lift on takeoff and approach, maximizing aerodynamic efficiency and boosting performance while improving safety and offering the industry's smoothest ride. It also reduces fuel burn, lowers emissions and produces excellent short-field and high-speed performance – the type of journey its discerning customers expect.

Etihad Cargo Expands Partnership with Ministry of Industry to Enhance In-Country Value Program

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has extended its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), offering preferential air cargo rates to In-Country Value (ICV)-certified companies. This initiative comes as part of Etihad Cargo's commitment to promoting local products, strengthening the UAE's industrial sector and enhancing its competitiveness in international markets.

Providing discounted air cargo rates across Etihad Cargo's fleet, the extended MoU was signed by Stanislas Brun, Vice President Cargo at Etihad Cargo, and Salama Al Awadi, Director of National In-Country Value Programme (ICV) at MoIAT, in the presence of His Excellency Omar Al Suwaidi, Undersecretary of MoIAT. The signing ceremony took place on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC), held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).

Under the extended MoU, Etihad Cargo will continue to offer a 25 per cent discount on air cargo tariffs to ICV-certified companies. As a result, more UAE-based companies will be able to scale their operations across the UAE and access more international markets. Building



on the original agreement signed in 2021, the partnership highlights Etihad Cargo's significant role in driving the UAE's ambitious efforts to boost in-country value and empower local manufacturers.

Promoting Competitiveness

HE Al Suwaidi said: "The extended MoU is aligned with the Ministry's National Strategy for Industry and Advanced Technology (Operation 300bn), aimed at diversifying the national economy and enhancing the UAE's industrial sector competitiveness. The National ICV Programme serves as a key pillar in empowering this sector and boosting the resilience and sustainability of supply chains. Moreover, extending the agreement will enhance the export capabilities of local companies.

"Leading national companies, such as Etihad Airways, always strive to support the UAE's drive towards sustainable industrial and economic development. Etihad Airways is a strategic partner of MoIAT and was one of the first companies to join the National ICV Program in 2021. It also prioritises local suppliers and industrial companies in its procurement business.

"The UAE has set a clear vision to elevate the national business environment and foster a competitive economy. Therefore, the MoU underscores the important role of national entities in supporting local products and steering larger demand towards local procurement," HE Al Suwaidi added.

Brun said: "Etihad Cargo remains committed to fostering a supportive environment for local manufacturers and companies. It delivers bespoke logistics solutions that align with the UAE's In-Country Value goals. This collaboration offers the UAE's industrial and service companies the opportunity to expand into more international markets. Therefore, it aligns with Etihad Cargo's commitment to advancing the targets of Operation 300bn along with Abu Dhabi's vision of economic diversification and long-term sustainability."

SAAB 340 CARGO CONVERSION APPROVED BY TRANSPORT CANADA

Jetstream's longstanding partner, Sweden-based Täby Air Maintenance (TAM), has received approval from Transport Canada for its Saab 340 Cargo Conversion supplemental type certificate (STC), which was previously authorized by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Pär Gulle, managing director of TAM, expressed, "We are happy that the STC is now approved by Transport Canada, which makes the conversion available for Canadian operators."

The continued success of the STC is in part due to the use of lightweight materials,



such as carbon fiber, which helps maintain the aircraft's low basic weight while maximizing cargo capacity. The conversion also features a fully equipped Class E cargo compartment, eliminating the need for a smoke curtain and incorporating a smoke detection panel and LED lighting.

Nearly 40 Saab 340 aircraft, including both Saab 340A and 340B passenger versions, have been converted into freighters under TAM's STC. Many of these are owned by Jetstream and operated by our worldwide airline customers. These converted aircraft can carry a maximum payload of 4,264 kg / 9,400 lbs.

ETIHAD CARGO INTRODUCES EXTENDED JOURNEY TIMES FOR PETS AND SUPPORT FOR SNUB-NOSED BREEDS

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has introduced significant updates to its IATA CEIV-certified LiveAnimals product, enhancing services to extend journey times and implement specialised provisions for brachycephalic (snub-nosed) breeds. These changes, effective from 1st November 2024, reflect Etihad Cargo's commitment to animal welfare, aligning with international standards to provide pet owners with flexible, high-standard travel options.



The maximum transportation time for cats and dogs has been extended from 17 hours to 24 hours, applicable from acceptance at origin to the scheduled time of arrival (STA) at the final destination, in line with IATA and European Union Commission international regulations. This extension ensures that pets can undertake longer journeys safely and comfortably.

Etihad Cargo has also implemented a seasonal policy to permit the transport of brachycephalic cats and dogs from 1st November to 1st March. Known for respiratory sensitivities, these breeds require specialised care during air travel, and the winter period provides safer travel conditions. All brachycephalic breeds will need additional checks, documentation, and approval from Etihad Cargo's Live Animals experts to ensure they are fit to fly safely.

Commenting on the enhancements, Thomas Schürmann, Head of Cargo Operations and Delivery, said: "With these enhancements, Etihad Cargo is raising the standard of pet transport by extending the LiveAnimals offering for pets requiring longer journey times and by catering specifically to brachycephalic breeds during winter months. Etihad Cargo is committed to the highest levels of animal welfare, which has driven these improvements to meet the needs of pet owners and shippers globally."

Etihad Cargo offers a comprehensive portfolio of specialised products tailored to meet diverse customer needs, including its IATA CEIV-certified LiveAnimals product for live animal shipments, temperature-controlled solutions for pharmaceuticals, and secure handling for high-value cargo. With an expanding global network and innovative logistics solutions, Etihad Cargo provides safe, reliable, and efficient air freight services across key markets worldwide.

FedEx Expands Air Network with Launch of Five New Flights Enabling Global Market Access for South India

Federal Express Corporation, the world's largest express transportation company, has introduced a strategic expansion that enhances South India's access to critical imports from the Asia-Pacific region and boosts exports to Europe and the USA. This new flight service optimizes logistics and supply chains, strengthening South India's role in global trade, reinforcing FedEx's commitment to meeting customer demand, and unlocking India's potential within the global supply chain.

"India is one of the most exciting economic growth stories in the world today, and as such represents a critical growth market for FedEx," said Richard W. Smith, Chief Operating Officer, International, and Chief Executive Officer, Airline, FedEx, "I'm excited about the opportunities here in this dynamic and fast-changing region, and am proud to strengthen our commitment to India by connecting local businesses to the world."

"South India plays an important role in India's growth story, home to some of the country's leading manufacturers in electronics, automotive and healthcare," said Kami Viswanathan, President of Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Africa, FedEx. "This new flight service is a strategic move by FedEx to meet the region's growing demand, fulfills time-critical needs, and connects seamlessly to global markets, advancing India's position as a global manufacturing and export hub."

The new flight service connects Guangzhou directly to Bengaluru, reducing many transit times in the region by one business day. This addition strengthens FedEx operations in Bengaluru, which now includes 22 weekly flights to and from the city. This flight ensures faster access to critical imports such as lithium-ion batteries and components, which are vital for sectors like automotive and electronics. Additionally, it expands export capacity to Europe and the U.S., empowering businesses in healthcare, engineering, automotive, and e-commerce to meet global demand with reliable and efficient logistics.

Maersk transforms a warehouse at its Chennai CFS into an all-women-operated facility

Maersk (Maersk) announced the transformation of one of its warehouses at its Container Freight Station (CFS) in Ponneri, Chennai, into a women-operated facility, coinciding with the station's 15th-anniversary celebrations. This strategic move will see one complete shift operated entirely by women employees, marking a significant step forward in Maersk's commitment to diversity and inclusion. It aligns firmly with India's ambition to create equal employment opportunities for women, even in sectors that have been traditionally male-dominated.

The 125,000-square-foot warehouse facility will now employ women across all operational functions, including loading/unloading, picking, surveying, security, housekeeping, administration,

and forklift operations. This initiative will increase women's representation at the CFS from 3% to 13% of the total workforce, with women comprising 21% of the workforce in the transformed warehouse.

This transformation isn't just about changing our operations; it's about challenging the status quo and setting new standards in the logistics industry. Following the remarkable success of our first women-operated warehouse in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, we are confident that this initiative will not only enhance operational excellence but also create meaningful employment opportunities for women in Chennai's logistics sector. Christopher Cook, Managing Director, Maersk South Asia

The initiative builds on Maersk's experience from its Dadri facility, which was the first of its kind, entirely operated by women facility

and demonstrated improved productivity and operational efficiency. Maersk has implemented comprehensive training programs covering customs procedures, material handling, and professional and personal safety to ensure success. The company has also focused on developing specific competencies required for CFS operations, making it possible for women to excel in traditionally male-dominated roles.

This transformation comes at a significant moment as Maersk celebrates its century-long presence in India. The company's commitment to Tamil Nadu extends beyond business operations, with its Global Service Centre employing over 3,000 professionals and partners with institutions like AMET University to train the next generation of seafarers.

TEXEL AIR OPERATES FIRST EXTENDED 737-800BCF EDTO 120 FLIGHT

The flight was operated on a 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighter. Texel operated the first of regular EDTO 120 flights between Melbourne and Perth as flight TFX12 on behalf of Team Global Express (TGE).

The flight follows Texel Air's recent certification approval from the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAANZ) for EDTO 120 flights. The approval enables Texel Air to fly routes up to 120 minutes from the nearest suitable airport, up from previous limits of 75 minutes without the approval and was granted after Texel Air demonstrated its ability to meet rigorous training and other requirements.

EDTO flights in New Zealand follow the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) approval of the 737-800BCF for Extended-range Twin-engine Operations (ETOPS) up to 180 minutes earlier this year. In the future, Texel Air intends to progress its 737-800BCF EDTO approval out to the maximum of 180 minutes, which will provide the greatest routing flexibility and planning efficiency. This first ETOPS approved 737-800BCF opens new routes that were previously out of range, enabling more efficient flight paths for operators. This is crucially important over the Tasman Sea between New Zealand and



Australia as well as routes between Perth and Melbourne.

"ETOPS and EDTO capability is really important to the business, it was one of the reasons we chose the Boeing 737-800BCF," said John Chisholm, Chairman of Chisholm Enterprises, the parent of Bahrain-based Texel Air and its affiliate, Texel Air Ltd (Australasia). "To fly across the continent of Australia, we need ETOPS and EDTO capability. To fly across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand to develop business, we need ETOPS and EDTO capability." Texel Air chairman and founder, John Chisholm, says "Texel Air is providing New Zealand and Australia more cargo capacity that's on time, and will continue to invest to bring new technologies to the Australasia cargo market." "We are making significant investments in aircraft and technology to enhance connectivity, speed, and

efficiency so exporters and importers can rely on our air cargo operations. The recent addition of EDTO 120 operations further strengthens our reach and reliability giving the ability to fly further from alternate airports on more direct routings."

"This is important because express mail and perishable cargo must depart on time to make overnight delivery deadlines and provide the best shelf life for perishable items. Weather events can close alternative airports used in flight plans with EDTO 120 this widens our list of alternates and allows us to fly more direct routes giving our customers efficiency and reliability."

Invercargill-born entrepreneur, John Chisholm, has more than four decades experience working in the freight logistics and aviation sectors. Maintaining close links with Bahrain, he founded Texel Air Bahrain in 2013 and Texel Air Australasia in 2022. "We're giving our customers solutions to improve their freight services. We have a 98% on time performance rating, meaning our customers can rely on us." We're focused on enabling faster, more reliable, and fuel-efficient cargo operations across the Tasman and EDTO 120 is specifically important to those routes," said Chisholm.

airBaltic Cargo partners with cargo.one to accelerate and enhance its digital sales

airBaltic Cargo, the cargo division of the Latvian national airline, has joined forces with cargo.one to soon offer its services upon the air freight industry's go-to procurement platform. airBaltic Cargo is partnering with cargo.one as part of plans to expand its market presence globally and boost revenues. cargo.one will offer airBaltic Cargo customers the most convenient and user-friendly booking method, and will enable the airline to market its services to a footprint of freight forwarders across 134 countries.

Headquartered in Riga, Latvia, airBaltic Cargo offers freight forwarders modern and flexible belly capacity on more than 100 routes throughout Baltics, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and the Caucasus. Leveraging its main hub in Riga and additional bases in Tallinn, Vilnius, Tampere, and seasonally Gran Canaria, airBaltic Cargo flies into many shorter runway destinations that other airlines often do not. airBaltic Cargo also boasts one of the youngest and most efficient fleets in the world, consisting of 49 Airbus A220-300 aircraft, and planned to expand to 100 aircraft by 2030.

The partnership coincides with airBaltic Cargo's exciting program of expansion, having recently invested in The Baltic Cargo Hub - soon to be the largest dedicated air cargo handling center in the Baltics, and will further enhance airBaltic Cargo's import, export and transit capabilities at RIX Riga Airport. cargo.one will soon deliver thousands of forwarders a step-change in access to airBaltic Cargo capacity for its entire network - with the ability to discover, quote, book and track its capacity in



seconds. The addition of airBaltic Cargo is the latest example of cargo.one's uniquely strong depth and diversity of global supply options.

Iļja Seliverstovs, VP Cargo at airBaltic, commented, "Digital sales is a vital driver of our cargo growth plans. It makes every sense to leverage cargo.one to expand our market reach and sales, and ensure airBaltic Cargo services remain front of mind with thousands of forwarders using the platform daily. Working alongside cargo.one, we will ensure that every customer receives the best possible end-to-end experience."

Moritz Claussen, Founder and Co-CEO, cargo.one, added, "We are thrilled to enable airBaltic Cargo to take its digital sales

strategy to the next level, and our collaboration will capitalize upon its strengths in relevant markets. Forwarders rely upon cargo.one's comprehensive global market view to discover, quote and book their air shipments, and the addition of airBaltic Cargo capacities will provide a strong option for many."

Accelerating its digital distribution with cargo.one allows airBaltic Cargo to better scale sales across a truly global footprint, build its brand presence within thousands of forwarding branches, lower its cost of sale, and boost sales efficiency and market responsiveness. cargo.one is the industry leader for optimizing the digital distribution progress of all sizes of airline.

AVIANCA CARGO UNVEILS NEW BRAND IDENTITY AFTER TRANSFORMATIONAL YEARS

Avianca's rebranding was announced by management on 13NOV24, on the fringe of TIACA's Air Cargo Forum in Miami. The objective of all measures presented is to reinforce the airline's dedication to its customers, partners, employees and the communities served by the carrier. Currently, it operates 220 cargo flights weekly, serves 75 destinations, and utilizes the lower deck transport capacity of over 1,400 passenger flights.

One of the six best cargo airlines : The new brand positioning is a culmination of efforts that have enhanced operational efficiency and streamlined connectivity, emphasized management.

"Our transformation has now positioned us as one of the six best cargo airlines in the world," stated Diogo Elias, Senior Vice-President of Avianca Cargo, while presenting the new brand identity to shippers and forwarding agents.

Señor Elias went on to say: "We've enhanced our service levels, upgraded our fleet and revamped our product offerings, all while ensuring a more consistent and efficient operation. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to meet every requirement and solution our customers seek, enabling them to grow their businesses."



First encouraging results : The new concept that focuses on customer needs and long-term partnerships is already showing initial positive operational results. With the closing of Q3 2024, Avianca Cargo increased its network load factor by over 5% aligned year-over-year. In addition to the fleet renewal, external factors also contributed to this, such as the recovery of Latin America's cargo import market.

Regarding sustainability efforts, Avianca Cargo emphasizes that a real-time platform was launched which allows clients to monitor, track, and offset their shipments' carbon emissions, and support environmental projects in Latin America. This is done in collaboration with the climate technology company, CHOOOSE. Simultaneously, Avianca Cargo optimized two major warehouses to reduce

its carbon footprint, implementing energy-efficient cold rooms in Medellín and in Miami, with zero-Ozone-Depletion Potential (ODP), to cut greenhouse gas emissions further.

Four more A330P2F : Its fleet expansion initiative is also in line with its environmental activities. Avianca Cargo grew its fleet by four A330-300/200 P2F aircraft, boosting capacity and fuel efficiency. The first freighter joined the airline's Mexican commercial partner, AeroUnion, in JUL24, with two more arriving in 2025, and the final one in 2026. These will offer enhanced payload and flexibility on medium-range routes.

Finally, Avianca Cargo improves its cargo flows by collaborating with software platform, CargoWise, which executes complex logistics transactions and manages freight flows from origin to destination. This is supplemented by an offer to freight forwarders: Through the Airblox platform, Avianca Cargo gives freight agents instant access to cargo capacities for electronic block space agreements (eBSA) on 280+ flights over a two-month period. It is worth mentioning that it is the first cargo carrier in the Americas to have obtained IATA CEIV certifications in four different categories: Pharma, Fresh, Live and Lithium Batteries.

Texel Air operates first extended 737-800BCF EDTO 120 flight

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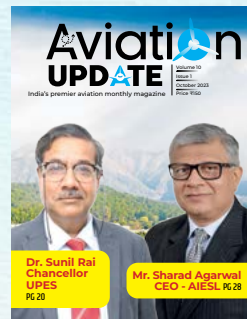
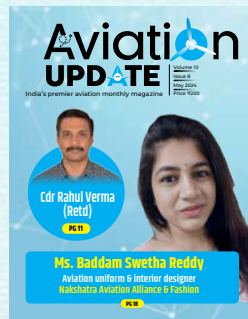
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