

Aviation UPDATE

India's premier aviation monthly magazine

Vol 12 | Issue 9 | June 2026 | Price ₹300



Pg.
22

Jahnavi Dangeti

Analogue Astronaut, Advanced Scuba Diver



Dr. M. Suresh Kumar

Professor & Head, Aerospace/
Aeronautical/Avionics Engineering

Pg.
30



SPONSORS		
PLATINUM PARTNER	LANYARD PARTNER	GOLD PARTNER
GOLD PARTNER	SILVER PARTNERS	

Few Glimpse Of Previous Edition!



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT

30+ Senior Level Speakers

300+ Delegates

Live Demonstrations

Highly Impactful Agenda

1 to 1 Meetings with Leaderships

Interactive Roundtable Discussion

50% CIO's / CISO Attendance

Fire Side Chats Attendance

Networking Lounge for Meetings

FOR SPONSORSHIP , BRANDINGS & MARKETING ALLIANCE

Anjani Singh
Email:anjani.singh@nexgenconferences.com
Mobile: +91 098182 71445

Nidhi Taneja
Email:nidhi.taneja@nexgenconferences.com
Mobile: +91 098111 97966

FIND INSIDE <<<

Aviation UPDATE

India's premier aviation
monthly magazine



» Pg 6

Cathay Group
Orders Two More
Airbus A350F
Freighters



» Pg 28

ITP Aero Begins
Development of New
Hyderabad Aerospace
Facility



» Pg 9

Saudia Becomes First
Middle East and Africa
Operator of the Airbus
A321XLR



» Pg 34

Bird Aviation
Signs Three-Year
MRO Deal with KM
Malta Airlines



» Pg 12

Saab and CAE Expand
Strategic Partnership in
Support of Canada's
AEW&C Programme



» Pg 36

Japan Airlines Selects GE
Aerospace for Avionics
Systems Support of
Boeing 787 Fleet



» Pg 15

GE Aerospace Awarded
T700 Engine Support
Contract for UK AH-64E
Fleet



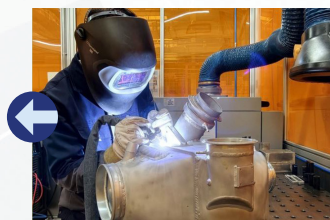
» Pg 39

NetJets Takes Delivery
of First Three Cessna
Citation Ascend as Fleet
Launch Customer



» Pg 19

Liebherr
Aerospace Enhances
MRO Service Capability
in China



» Pg 41

Textron Aviation Opens
New Melbourne Service
Facility at Essendon Fields
Airport, Expanding Support
for APAC Customers



Aviation UPDATE

India's premier aviation
monthly magazine

VOL. 12 | ISSUE 9 | JUNE 2026

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: B. KARTIKEYA

EDITORIAL

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

Special Editor: Naheda Imtiyaz

Correspondent: B. Martin

Creative Head: Swati Vipul Sharma (Design Garage)

Photographer: Krishanth

MARKETING

Marketing Manager: Rohith Reddy,
marketing@futureaviation.in

SUBSCRIPTION

Asst. Manager, Subscription:

C.R.S SARMA, India & Global, +91 9440331463

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Sr. Manager: Karunandhi

Asst. Manager: Md. Wajid Ali

Editorial & Advertising Offices

AVIATION UPDATE

E 403, Madhavaram Serenity, Karmanghat,
Hyderabad-500 079.

SUBSCRIPTION/ CIRCULATION

Annual Subscription: 3600 INR – 12 Issues

Letter to editor kartikeya@futureaviation.in

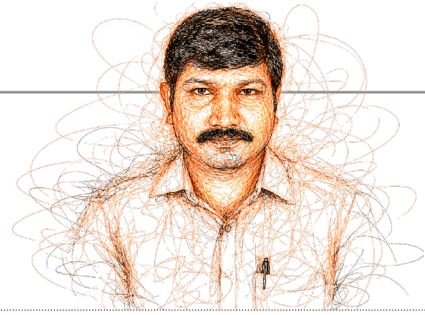
For Advertising details contact: Marketing@futureaviation.in

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

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

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

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



B. KARTIKEYA

Aviation's Next Horizon: Innovation, Sustainability and Human Aspiration

The aviation and aerospace industry stands at a defining moment, where innovation, sustainability, and human ambition are converging to shape the future of global mobility. As we bring you the June 2026 edition of Aviation Update, we witness an industry embracing transformative technologies while inspiring the next generation of explorers and engineers.

Leading this issue is our exclusive interview with Jahnvi Dangeti, an analogue astronaut, advanced scuba diver, and one of India's most inspiring young space enthusiasts. Her remarkable journey reflects the growing opportunities in commercial spaceflight and highlights the determination required to pursue a career beyond Earth's atmosphere. Her experiences serve as a powerful reminder that today's dreams can become tomorrow's missions.

We are equally pleased to feature Dr. M. Suresh Kumar, Professor and Head of Aerospace, Aeronautical and Avionics Engineering. In our conversation, he discusses the evolving role of academia in supporting aerospace innovation, strengthening industry partnerships, and preparing skilled professionals for emerging opportunities in aviation, defence, and space sectors. His insights underscore the importance of education in driving technological advancement.

Across the industry, commercial aviation continues to demonstrate resilience and optimism. Significant aircraft orders from AirAsia, Cathay Cargo, EgyptAir, and Saudia reflect strong demand for modern, fuel-efficient fleets. Aircraft such as the Airbus A220, A321XLR, and A350F are enabling airlines to expand networks while advancing sustainability objectives.

Advanced Air Mobility is also gaining momentum. Electra's hybrid-electric aircraft demonstration and Wisk Aero's autonomous flight testing indicate that regional transportation could soon become more accessible, efficient, and environmentally responsible.

Defence aviation remains a catalyst for innovation. Collaborations involving Saab, Airbus Helicopters, Embraer, and GE Aerospace, along with major investments in autonomous systems by companies such as Skydio and Elbit Systems, demonstrate how emerging technologies are reshaping military capabilities and strengthening national security.

As aviation enters a new era defined by cleaner propulsion, intelligent systems, and renewed interest in space exploration, the industry continues to push boundaries and inspire progress. At Aviation Update, we remain committed to bringing our readers the stories, technologies, and personalities shaping the skies of tomorrow.

Happy Reading!

Kartikeya B.

Electra Completes First Urban Flight of Hybrid-Electric Ultra Short Aircraft in Downtown Charleston, Signaling a New Era of Regional Air Travel

Electra, the global leader in ultra-short hybrid-electric aviation, announced the successful completion of the first urban demonstration of its Ultra Short airplane at the Columbus Street Terminal, offering a real-world look at how regional air travel can move beyond airports to become faster, simpler, and far more accessible.

Hosted by SC Ports during the CAPA Airline Leader Summit Americas, the flight highlights how Electra's hybrid-electric propulsion and blown-lift technology enable takeoffs and landings in 150 feet or less, opening up entirely new places for air services to operate, called Ultra Short Access Points, like parking lots, rooftops, fields, and barges. While Electra's EL2 technology demonstrator completed the flight, Electra's flagship EL9 nine-passenger aircraft will ultimately serve as a regional shuttle to fill the regional mobility gap.

"This demonstration is about showing what's possible in the real world for urban/suburban airspace access," said Marc Allen, CEO of Electra. "When you can offer air services close to where people live, work and play, that opens the door to transformative options for regional mobility. It is new way to travel that's more direct, flexible, and much easier to use."

This new approach is called Direct



Aviation—a model that targets the more than 35 million daily trips that fall between driving and flying on routes where travelers can save hours by going direct without the usual friction of commercial air travel. It's designed for a wide range of travelers, from business professionals looking to save hours in a day, to families trying to make the most of a weekend getaway, or anyone who wants to stay connected to loved ones without turning a short trip into an all-day journey.

The Charleston demonstration builds on Electra's recent release of the first-ever Direct Aviation Market Outlook, a nationwide analysis of U.S. travel patterns that quantifies the scale of regional mobility demand and outlines

how Direct Aviation will reshape it. The report uncovers a massive opportunity: tens of millions of trips happen every day at distances that are too long to drive efficiently but poorly served by traditional aviation. These are exactly the kinds of trips where Direct Aviation will cut hours off door-to-door travel times.

Among routes with at least 1,000 travelers per day, the analysis identifies:

- » 1,851 routes with more than one hour of potential time savings
- » 540 routes with more than two hours of potential time savings
- » 227 routes with more than three hours of potential time savings

Earlier this year, Electra was selected as an inaugural participant in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Advanced Air Mobility pilot operations program (the "eIPP"), which is accelerating the safe deployment of Advanced Air Mobility aircraft. As part of that effort, Electra is working with public and private partners on groundbreaking demonstrations including connecting urban and regional destinations in Florida and linking metropolitan centers in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The company also supported the submission from the State of Louisiana.

AIRASIA PLACES LANDMARK ORDER FOR 150 A220S

Malaysia's AirAsia has placed an order for 150 latest generation A220-300 aircraft. The purchase agreement is the largest single firm order placed for the A220 and propels the programme beyond the 1,000 firm order milestone, underscoring the aircraft's global market appeal.

The contract was announced at a ceremony at the Airbus facility in Mirabel attended by Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, Chief Executive Officer of Capital A and Advisor to AirAsia Group and Lars Wagner, Chief Executive Officer Commercial Aircraft at Airbus. The event took place in the presence of the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada and the Honourable Christine Frechette, Premier of Quebec.

The purchase agreement makes AirAsia a new customer for the A220. The airline also becomes

the launch customer for the aircraft's new cabin configuration of 160 seats. The increase in capacity, adding 10 seats, is made possible by the addition of an extra overwing exit on each side of the aircraft. The A220 complements AirAsia's existing Airbus fleet and will play a key role in advancing the Group's network and growth. The aircraft will service destinations across ASEAN and into Central Asia, freeing up larger aircraft to



fly longer routes.

"We have built AirAsia by making bold decisions at the right moment, not the easiest moment. This order reflects our long-term discipline and the scale of our ambitions. The A220 unlocks new markets and routes and brings us closer to building the world's first true low-cost network carrier," said Tony Fernandes, CEO of Capital A and Advisor to Air Asia Group. "Our partnership with Airbus spans more than two decades and has been central to everything we have achieved. Today is another milestone in that journey, and there are many more to come."

"The A220 will provide an optimal platform for AirAsia, combining low operating costs with the range that will enable the carrier to open new routes across Asia and beyond," said Lars Wagner, CEO Commercial Aircraft at Airbus. "Airbus and AirAsia teams have been working tirelessly to reach this landmark agreement, which is fully aligned with the airline's new network strategy."

Cathay Group Orders Two More Airbus A350F Freighters



Hong Kong's Cathay Group has placed a firm order with Airbus for two additional Airbus A350F freighters. This will bring the airline's total order to eight of the new-generation cargo aircraft. The A350F will be operated by the airline's cargo division, Cathay Cargo, bringing new levels of efficiency across its extensive network.

"We are pleased to further strengthen our fleet with these additional A350F freighters that will provide greater connectivity at our home hub and more choices for our customers. This strategic, future-ready investment reflects our resolute confidence in our long-term growth prospects and supports Cathay Cargo's goal of being the world's best air cargo carrier," said Ronald Lam, Chief Executive of the Cathay Group.

"Cathay's continued endorsement of the A350F is another powerful signal that the A350F brings a new generation of freighter capacity and efficiency.

The A350F will fit seamlessly into the airline's existing Airbus fleet with unrivalled operational and technical commonality, while accelerating the airline's decarbonisation journey. We could not be more excited to grow this partnership," said Benoit de Saint-Exupéry, Airbus EVP Sales of the Commercial Aircraft

business. Designed to be the world's most advanced cargo aircraft, the A350F meets the evolving demands of the global air freight market. Thanks to a range capability of up to 8,700 kilometres with a payload of up to 111 tonnes, it will allow operators to deploy it on international long-haul routes.

Made from over 70% advanced materials, the A350F is 46 tonnes lighter than competitor aircraft. Powered by the latest Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-97 engines, the aircraft will bring a reduction in fuel consumption and carbon emissions of up to 20% when compared to previous generation aircraft with a similar payload-range capability. It is the only new freighter fully meeting ICAO's 2027 CO₂ emission standards. The A350F is able to operate with up to 50% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) at entry-to-service, with the aim for up to 100% capability by 2030, as with all Airbus aircraft.

As part of the world's most modern widebody aircraft family, the A350F also offers a high level of commonality with A350 passenger aircraft, bringing added benefits to carriers already flying models from the family.

At the end of April 2026, the A350F freighter had registered 101 firm orders from 14 customers worldwide.

EgyptAir Takes Delivery of 1st Boeing 737 MAX Jet

Boeing and EgyptAir announced the Egyptian national airline took delivery of its first 737 MAX. The 737-8 is the first of 18 airplanes leased from SMBC Aviation Capital to be delivered and represents the first 737 MAX in Egypt. "The delivery of our first Boeing 737 MAX marks a significant milestone in our fleet modernization strategy. By integrating the 737-8 into our operations, EgyptAir Holding is committed to providing our passengers with a superior travel experience while achieving greater operational efficiency," said Captain Ahmed Adel, chairman and CEO of EgyptAir Holding Company. "This aircraft's advanced technology and reduced environmental footprint align perfectly with our vision for sustainable growth and our dedication to maintaining a young, state-of-the-art fleet that connects Egypt to the world."

The 737-8 complements EgyptAir's fleet of 30 Next-Generation 737 jets with operational commonality and enhanced efficiency, reducing fuel use and emissions by 20% compared to the airplanes it replaces. As part of its fleet renewal program, EgyptAir will deploy the new aircraft on short- and medium-haul routes to destinations such as Paris, Brussels, Istanbul and Vienna. "We are delighted to support EgyptAir as it welcomes its first 737-8 and advances its fleet modernization strategy," said Barry Flannery, chief commercial officer at SMBC Aviation Capital. "This delivery underscores our long-standing partnership with Boeing and our commitment to providing EgyptAir with efficient, next-generation aircraft that enhance operational performance and deliver a better passenger experience."

Passengers aboard EgyptAir's 737 MAX jets will experience a new level of comfort with the Boeing Sky Interior, which features advanced LED lighting, larger windows and spacious overhead bins. "The delivery of EgyptAir's first 737 MAX marks an important step toward the airline's modernization goals and kicks off a new era for Egypt," said Anbessie Yitbarek, Boeing vice president of Commercial Sales and Marketing for Africa. "The 737 MAX offers the efficiency, range and passenger comfort airlines need as they grow and enhance their operations. With this delivery, we build on 60 years of partnership with EgyptAir and welcome them as a 737 MAX operator."



AIRBUS SIGNS AGREEMENTS WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS AT HEART OF CANADA'S DEFENCE INDUSTRY

Airbus has signed separate cooperation agreements with CAE Inc., L3Harris Technologies, and RTX's Pratt & Whitney Canada to support future Canadian defence opportunities and industrial collaboration. Signed at CANSEC, the agreements establish individual frameworks for collaboration to explore opportunities across key capability areas.

Aligning with three leading aerospace companies brings together Canadian expertise in propulsion, reconnaissance and simulation, with a focus on delivering rotary-wing solutions tailored to Canada's evolving defence requirements. CAE is a leader in mission and operational support providing training and simulation solutions to global defence and security customers. L3Harris Technologies provide WESCAM MXTM-Series electro-optical/infrared sensor systems for advanced imaging capability. Pratt & Whitney Canada is a global leader in the design, manufacture, supply and services of helicopter engines, including the H175 and H175M, supported by a world-class global service network. "CAE brings market-leading technologies, advanced training and mission



support expertise, and deep customer insight to develop state-of-the-art solutions that deliver value for defence and security customers in Canada and worldwide," said France Hébert, Vice President and General Manager, CAE Defense & Security, Canada and International. "Our capabilities in digital immersion and simulation manufacturing form the foundation for innovative, cost-effective training solutions tailored to the evolving needs of helicopter operators."

"This agreement marks an important opportunity to further position Canada as a leader in advanced technologies and integrations," said Donald Cummings, General Manager, WESCAM, L3Harris Technologies. "Through the WESCAM MX-Series, L3Harris is proud to support Canada's defence objectives while investing in the growth of the country's industrial base. We remain focused on

delivering innovative, field-proven imaging capabilities that ensure mission success for our partners and end-users."

"This MoU reflects the long-standing relationship between Pratt & Whitney Canada and Airbus Helicopters, and our shared focus on future rotary-wing capabilities," said Scott McElvaine, Vice President of Sales & Marketing and Business Development for Pratt & Whitney Canada. "Together, we are exploring opportunities that strengthen Canada's aerospace industry through innovation, advanced technologies and long-term industrial capability, while supporting efforts to build domestic capabilities and co-develop advanced systems."

"Strong, capable alliances are essential to delivering a meaningful, sovereign defence capability," said Dwayne Charette, President of Airbus Helicopters in Canada. "These agreements reflect a shared commitment to supporting Canada's future mission needs while strengthening the country's aerospace and defence ecosystem. We are proud to work alongside respected Canadian industry leaders as we continue to build long-term capability and resilience here at home."

BIMAN BANGLADESH AIRLINES ORDERS 14 BOEING 787 DREAMLINER AND 737 MAX JETS

Boeing and Biman Bangladesh Airlines announce the national carrier has placed its largest-ever order, selecting 14 787 Dreamliner and 737 MAX airplanes to expand and modernize its fleet.

The new order includes:

- » Eight 787-10s, Biman's first order of the largest 787 variant, to serve high-demand flights to the Middle East
- » Two 787-9s to support long-haul service to Europe and North America
- » Four 737-8s, the airline's first 737 MAX order, to efficiently connect Bangladesh with destinations across the Middle East, India and Southeast Asia

"The new fuel-efficient, technologically advanced aircraft will modernize Biman's



fleet, sharpen operational performance, and extend its international route network — strengthening Bangladesh's position in the global aviation market," said Kaizer Sohel Ahmed, Managing Director and CEO of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Biman currently operates a fleet of 14 Boeing airplanes – 787-9s, 787-8s, 777s and Next-Generation 737s – on its long-haul and

short-haul international networks. The airline will boost passenger and cargo capacity while improving fuel efficiency with the 787-10, which offers the lowest cost per seat of any widebody airplane.

The 737-8 will support Biman's single-aisle fleet renewal and help the carrier meet growing regional demand. The 737 MAX and 787 families deliver 20-25% fuel-use improvement compared to the airplanes they replace.

"We are proud to build on our partnership with Biman with this order and support their strategy to modernize their fleet, expand their network and enhance the passenger experience," said Paul Righi, Boeing vice president of Commercial Sales and Marketing, Eurasia, India and South Asia. "The 787-10 delivers unmatched efficiency and seamless commonality with Biman's existing 787s, while the 737-8 is the ideal bridge from their 737 fleet with its versatility, fuel savings and crew commonality."

ALASKA AIRLINES SIGNS FOR BOEING VIRTUAL AIRPLANE TRAINING PLATFORM

Boeing announced that Alaska Airlines has signed a formal license agreement for Boeing's Virtual Airplane (VA) during the World Aviation Training Summit (WATS) held in Orlando, Florida. Alaska Airlines has been a key development partner throughout the creation and development of Virtual Airplane, providing valuable feedback that helped shape the innovative training platform.

Virtual Airplane is a device-agnostic, modular training solution that enables pilots to practice high-fidelity, authentic procedures within the Procedures Trainer app, anytime, anywhere. The solution supports realistic, repeatable practice while also offering a free-play Flight Management System (FMS) for authentic data entry and exploration, so operators can standardize training, reduce simulator familiarization time, and accelerate pilot readiness.



"Alaska Airlines' commitment to innovation and safety has been instrumental in the development of Virtual Airplane," said Chris Broom, Vice President of Commercial Training Solutions at Boeing. "We are proud to see this partnership evolve as they move from beta testing to full adoption, leveraging Virtual Airplane to enhance pilot training and

operational readiness."

Jeff Severns, Managing Director of Flight Operations Training for Alaska Airlines, added, "Our collaboration with Boeing on Virtual Airplane has allowed us to provide our pilots with flexible, realistic training tools that complement traditional simulator sessions. We look forward to fully integrating this technology into our ground school curriculum to further improve training effectiveness and pilot proficiency."

Virtual Airplane is a modular suite of training tools. Procedures Trainer is the first module, available now for Boeing 737 MAX training on computers and tablet devices, with plans to expand to additional Boeing models in the near future. This agreement reinforces Boeing's commitment to delivering innovative, scalable training solutions that meet the evolving needs of the aviation industry.

IAI Marks Major Milestone as Airbus A330-300 Passenger-to-Freighter Conversion Comes Off Jacks

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), a global leader in aircraft passenger-to-freighter (P2F) conversions, announced today that it reached a milestone in expanding its passenger-to-freighter conversion capabilities for the Airbus A330-300 program. With the aircraft now off jacks, the program has completed its primary structural work and made significant progress toward conversion completion and certification. The program is now entering the ground and flight test phase, with the first flight of the converted aircraft scheduled to take place in the upcoming weeks and certification expected by the end of the year.

The Company is one of a select few worldwide with proven capability to perform advanced conversions for aircraft from both Boeing and Airbus, including complex widebody platforms. As global demand for freighter aircraft continues to rise, IAI is expanding its worldwide network of conversion facilities, in order to deliver flexible, high-value solutions to airlines,



leasing companies and cargo operators worldwide.

Boaz Levy, President and CEO of IAI: "This achievement marks another step in executing IAI's long-term vision to expand its role in the global air cargo market. By continuously advancing our technological and industrial capabilities, we are positioned to deliver scalable and reliable solutions that align with our customers' evolving operational needs, while reinforcing our leadership in the conversion arena."

Yaacov Berkovitz, EVP & GM, IAI's Aviation Group: "This milestone reflects IAI's ability

to transform decades of experience and advanced engineering expertise into long-term value for our customers. Our A330-300 passenger-to-freighter conversion has been purpose-built to meet evolving market demand, delivering a highly competitive value proposition and strong market appeal. As one of the few companies worldwide with the capability to execute comprehensive and highly complex conversions across both narrowbody and widebody aircraft, IAI offers customers greater fleet flexibility, long-term confidence and resilient investment value across market cycles."



AIR CHINA CARGO INCREASES A350F FREIGHTER ORDER TO 10 AIRCRAFT

Air China Cargo Co., Ltd. (hereafter referred to as "Air China Cargo") has signed a purchase agreement with Airbus for four additional A350F freighters, taking its total order for the type to 10 aircraft. Air China Cargo previously ordered six A350F freighters in November 2025.

"This additional order, following our initial A350F order last year, is a crucial strategic decision for the company to further optimise our fleet structure and expand transport capacity. It will allow us to better match and meet the demands of the international air cargo market, laying a solid foundation for the company's long-term stable development," said Wang Hongyan, Vice President of Air China Cargo.

"We are very pleased with Air China Cargo's decision to increase its order for the A350F freighter. It reflects Air China Cargo's full confidence in Airbus' products and reaffirms



the A350F's leading position as the next-generation freighter," said Benoît de Saint-Exupéry, Airbus EVP Sales of the Commercial Aircraft business.

Air China Cargo began introducing Airbus freighters at the end of 2023, and currently operates a fleet of eight Airbus A330-200P2F aircraft. In the near future, the A350F freighter will join Air China Cargo's fleet and will complement the A330-200P2F freighters, maximising their advantages on long-haul and medium-to-long-haul routes.

Designed to be the world's most advanced cargo aircraft, the A350F meets the evolving

demands of the global air freight market. Thanks to a range capability of up to 8,700 kilometres with a payload of up to 111 tonnes, it will allow operators to deploy it on international long-haul routes. Made from over 70% advanced materials, the A350F is 46 tonnes lighter than competitor aircraft.

Powered by the latest Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-97 engines, the aircraft will bring a reduction in fuel consumption and carbon emissions of up to 20% when compared to previous generation aircraft with a similar payload-range capability. It is the only freighter fully meeting ICAO's 2027 CO₂ emission standards. The A350F is able to operate with up to 50% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) at entry-to-service, with the aim for up to 100% capability by 2030, as with all Airbus aircraft.

At the end of April 2026, the A350F had registered 101 orders from 14 customers.

SAUDIA BECOMES FIRST MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA OPERATOR OF THE AIRBUS A321XLR

Saudia, the national flag carrier of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has taken delivery of its first A321XLR, marking a significant milestone as the first airline in the Middle East and Africa to operate Airbus' newest extra-long-range single-aisle aircraft.

The aircraft, powered by CFM International LEAP-1A engines, is the first of 15 A321XLRs on order by the airline. This delivery is a cornerstone of Saudia's comprehensive fleet modernisation program, directly supporting the expansion of its international network in alignment with Saudi Vision 2030. By increasing connectivity and capacity, the A321XLR will support the Kingdom's ambition to attract over 150 million visitors annually by the end of the decade.

This delivery reinforces a partnership between Airbus and Saudia that spans more



than 40 years, beginning with the carrier's first A300 delivery in 1984. Today, Airbus aircraft remain central to Saudia's operations as it scales its fleet development and network growth.

Saudia currently serves more than 100

destinations across four continents, with the A321XLR supporting further expansion into new international markets. With a range of up to 4,700 nautical miles, the A321XLR enables Saudia to expand its international destinations with a single-aisle aircraft. These routes would have traditionally been served by larger widebody aircraft, while maintaining a premium guest experience.

The aircraft features a highly premium, low-density configuration with 24 full flat Business Class seats providing direct aisle access, alongside 120 comfortable Economy Class seats. The aircraft features the Airbus Airspace Cabin, bringing a widebody experience to a single-aisle jet. Key features include extra-large overhead bins, advanced lighting systems and one of the quietest cabins in its class.

Berjaya Air Takes Delivery of World's 1st Aircraft in ATR HighLine Configuration



The world's first ATR 72-600 featuring the ATR HighLine "All-Business Class" configuration touched down in Kuala Lumpur, marking a major milestone for regional aviation. ATR's new cabin concept received certification from both EASA and the Malaysian authorities earlier this month, confirming its readiness for commercial operations worldwide.

The delivery represents a dual first for Berjaya Air; the airline's inaugural ATR 72-600 and the launch platform for ATR's new premium cabin collection. It also heralds a new era in regional travel, combining semi-private flying comfort with the proven efficiency of turboprop operations.

The aircraft features a fully bespoke, all-business class cabin, accommodating 26 seats in a spacious and unique 1-by-1 layout, ensuring every guest benefits from direct aisle access and direct view to multiple windows. The handcrafted ETEREA seats by Geven – the widest ever installed on the ATR platform – offer generous living space and a refined personal side console with integrated stowage.

One of the cabin's most distinctive elements is the executive-style ceiling, where overhead bins have been replaced by sleek valance panels. This design opens up the cabin, floods the interior

with natural light, and creates a volume comparable to that of the world's largest private aircraft – all on board the most fuel-efficient regional aircraft.

Berjaya Air will begin operating the aircraft in the coming days, launching its first flight on a new route between Subang and Koh Samui. It will then roll out its "affordable luxury" experience on its newly expanded regional network, with direct connections throughout Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, and a focus on serving Berjaya Group's portfolio of hotels and resorts. Travellers will benefit from a seamless experience that offer a high touch of hospitality to

island destinations such as Redang and Langkawi. The new aircraft in ATR HighLine All-Business Class configuration will also be available for charter operations across the Asia-Pacific region.

Syed Ali Shahul Hameed, Group CEO of Berjaya Property Berhald, said: "Taking delivery of the world's first ATR 72-600 in ATR HighLine configuration marks an important step in Berjaya Air's transformation journey.

This new cabin experience enables us to offer guests a seamless and refined journey to some of the region's most sought-after destinations, while maintaining our strong commitment to operational efficiency and service excellence.

Whether serving resort destinations or charter operations across the region, the ATR HighLine cabin allows us to deliver an end-to-end premium travel experience that reflects Berjaya's hospitality heritage and long-term vision."

ATR Chief Executive Officer Nathalie Tarnaud Laude added: "This milestone demonstrates how the ATR family continues to evolve to meet new market expectations. The ATR HighLine cabin collection opens new possibilities for operators seeking exceptional onboard comfort while leveraging all the efficiency and operational benefits of the aircraft."

*Together with
Berjaya Air, we are
demonstrating the inherent
versatility of the ATR platform,
capable of adapting to a
wide range of operator needs
without compromising its core
strengths..*

-Nathalie Tarnaud Laude

EGYPTAIR TAKES DELIVERY OF 1ST BOEING 737 MAX JET

Boeing and EgyptAir announced the Egyptian national airline took delivery of its first 737 MAX. The 737-8 is the first of 18 airplanes leased from SMBC Aviation Capital to be delivered and represents the first 737 MAX in Egypt.

"The delivery of our first Boeing 737 MAX marks a significant milestone in our fleet modernization strategy. By integrating the 737-8 into our operations, EgyptAir Holding is committed to providing our passengers with a superior travel experience while achieving greater operational efficiency," said Captain Ahmed Adel, chairman and CEO of EgyptAir Holding Company. "This aircraft's advanced technology and reduced environmental footprint align perfectly with our vision for sustainable growth and our dedication to maintaining a young, state-of-the-art fleet that connects Egypt to the world."

The 737-8 complements EgyptAir's fleet of 30 Next-Generation 737 jets with operational



commonality and enhanced efficiency, reducing fuel use and emissions by 20% compared to the airplanes it replaces. As part of its fleet renewal program, EgyptAir will deploy the new aircraft on short- and medium-haul routes to destinations such as Paris, Brussels, Istanbul and Vienna.

"We are delighted to support EgyptAir as it welcomes its first 737-8 and advances its fleet modernization strategy," said Barry Flannery, chief commercial officer at SMBC Aviation Capital. "This delivery underscores

our long-standing partnership with Boeing and our commitment to providing EgyptAir with efficient, next-generation aircraft that enhance operational performance and deliver a better passenger experience."

Passengers aboard EgyptAir's 737 MAX jets will experience a new level of comfort with the Boeing Sky Interior, which features advanced LED lighting, larger windows and spacious overhead bins.

"The delivery of EgyptAir's first 737 MAX marks an important step toward the airline's modernization goals and kicks off a new era for Egypt," said Anbessie Yitbarek, Boeing vice president of Commercial Sales and Marketing for Africa. "The 737 MAX offers the efficiency, range and passenger comfort airlines need as they grow and enhance their operations. With this delivery, we build on 60 years of partnership with EgyptAir and welcome them as a 737 MAX operator."

2ND GEN 6 AIRCRAFT ACCELERATES WISK'S FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM

Wisk Aero, an autonomous aviation company announced the successful first flight of its second Generation 6 aircraft. This milestone is a powerful testament to Wisk's flight test program and scale, coming shortly after the first Gen 6 aircraft started its flight test campaign in mid-December.

Conducted at Wisk's flight test facility in Hollister, CA, the flight included vertical takeoff, hover, and chirp maneuvers - an important first step in characterizing the aircraft's performance. The addition of a second active Gen 6 flight test vehicle significantly expands Wisk's capacity to collect data, validate systems, and accelerate the flight test campaign.

"Seeing the second Gen 6 aircraft take to the skies is a proud moment for Wisk," said Sebastien Vigneron, CEO of Wisk. "This pace of execution is exactly what is required to meet the rigorous safety standards of commercial



aviation. Having multiple aircraft in flight testing allows us to move faster, learn quicker, and stay on the leading edge of autonomous aviation. Every flight provides crucial data that matures our aircraft and autonomous system, bringing us one step closer to delivering a certified, autonomous air taxi service."

The dual-aircraft testing phase will focus on expanding the flight envelope, including transitions from hover to wing-borne flight, while continuing to refine the control laws and system performance. Wisk's Gen 6 aircraft is designed to meet or exceed current commercial aviation safety standards. The aircraft is all-electric and autonomous, with human oversight from a ground-based operator - a model Wisk believes is necessary for safety, scalability, and affordability.

This increase in flight test capacity directly supports Wisk's path to commercialization, along with the U.S. Department of Transportation's selection of Wisk's partner, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), for the Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Integration Pilot Program (eIPP). Wisk will use its autonomous systems and aircraft to drive the program's operational execution, conducting real-world flight operations in the U.S. National Airspace.

In addition to its work in Texas, Wisk continues to collaborate closely with the FAA and NASA to cement U.S. leadership in AAM.

SAAB AND CAE EXPAND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN SUPPORT OF CANADA'S AEW&C PROGRAMME

Saab has signed a teaming agreement with CAE to jointly pursue Canada's future Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) programme based on Saab's GlobalEye platform.

The teaming agreement for Canada is a continuation of the partnership established by the Global Cooperation Agreement between Saab and CAE announced in November 2025. It reflects the companies' shared ambition to deepen their collaboration and broaden the scope of cooperation across training and simulation.

Through this agreement, Saab further strengthens its offering for Canada's AEW&C programme by integrating CAE's advanced expertise in training. This collaboration will deliver fully integrated and scalable training and simulation solutions designed to enhance operational readiness and effectiveness for the Canadian Armed Forces.

"GlobalEye delivers cutting-edge multi-domain surveillance, offering long-range detection and advanced situational awareness across air, maritime, and land domains. We value the opportunity to further strengthen our partnership with CAE and to collaborate on the Canadian programme, which will also serve as



a stepping stone for future opportunities," said Micael Johansson, President and CEO at Saab.

"CAE's world-class defence expertise will be critical to enabling a high-performance AEW&C capability for Canada," said Matt Bromberg, President and Chief Executive Officer, CAE. "Building on our longstanding collaboration and trust with Saab, this agreement reflects our shared commitment

to delivering innovative, integrated solutions that strengthen operational performance and support Canada's defence priorities." The agreement underscores Saab's commitment to strengthening cooperation with the Canadian industrial base. By working closely with CAE and leveraging Canadian expertise, Saab aims to support the development of sovereign

L3HARRIS STRENGTHENS GLOBAL SOLID ROCKET MOTOR SUPPLY CHAIN WITH NEW PAC-3 PROPULSION SUPPLIER

L3Harris Technologies has issued a purchase order to Wojskowe Zakłady Elektroniczne S.A. (WZE), a Polish government defense company, to produce Attitude Control Motors (ACMs) as a certified supplier for the U.S. Army's Patriot missile (PAC-3). L3Harris, in collaboration with Lockheed Martin, has been working closely with WZE to stand up in-country missile component production for Poland's Wisla air defense system.

"L3Harris is committed to increasing capacity for critical munitions that protect our country and our allies," said Scott Alexander, President, Missile Propulsion, Missile Solutions, L3Harris. "This important milestone with WZE demonstrates key progress in diversifying our missile propulsion supply base while ensuring our global allies are equipped with critical defense technology."



The purchase order follows installation of specialized equipment at a new WZE production facility in Zielonka, Poland, and extensive U.S.-

based training at L3Harris' solid rocket motor production campus in Camden, Arkansas. WZE has also successfully completed a Production Readiness Review, Manufacturing Readiness Review and Production Line Verification, paving the way for WZE to begin low-rate initial production in the near future.

The PAC-3 missile is a mobile, high-velocity interceptor with long-range, medium to high-altitude, all-weather capabilities that uses hit-to-kill technology to intercept a variety of incoming threats, such as tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and aircraft. Each PAC-3 interceptor contains 180 ACMs. The egg-sized motors fire to refine the missile's course and ensure body-to-body impact.

L3Harris has provided propulsion for the Patriot family of missiles since inception and powers every PAC-3 variant in production.

Thales Strengthens the Operational Effectiveness and Readiness of the Hellenic Navy's Hydra Frigates



The four MEKO 200 design ships, built in Germany and Greece with Thales systems onboard, have been operational since the late 1990s. Thales will perform the Mid Life Upgrade and the following support and services locally, as localization has always been a key driver within this programme. Once the upgrade is completed, the local Thales service hub will continue working with local industry for the Hellenic Navy to maintain operational readiness.

Through the integration of these new sensors and the latest release of Combat Management System Tactics, the ships will remain highly effective: the sensors and combat management system selected for this modernization are proven and functional within various NATO fleets. The software-defined, AESA* NS100 radar, offers medium-long range superior situational awareness as well as weapon support. In combination with the STIR 1.2 EO MK2, a proven dual-frequency radar with an integrated electro-optical suite, including laser and infra-red solutions, the vessels are equipped for optimal situational awareness and high precision fire control.

The Combat Management System Tactics is the central command, control and decision-support part of Hydra's mission system. With the latest release of Tactics, the Hellenic Navy will benefit from its unique and operator-focused Human-Machine Interface and a broad range of proven capabilities, with various evolutions being operated by more than 25 navies.

Driven by the strong relationship and great confidence reaffirmed by the Hellenic Navy, Thales is committed to a swift launch of the project execution phase and will start working as soon as possible with local partners to deliver the upgraded capabilities.

SKYDIO COMMITS \$3.5 BN TO EXPAND U.S. MANUFACTURING AND SECURE AMERICAN DRONE LEADERSHIP

2,000+

New Skydio jobs expected



Skydio's commitment is an investment in American drone dominance, powered by rapidly growing demand for autonomous flying robots that serve America's critical industries.

Skydio, the largest U.S.-based drone manufacturer and the world leader in flying robots, today announced plans to invest \$3.5 billion in the United States over the next five years to expand its domestic manufacturing, accelerate R&D, and strengthen American supply chains. The investment is expected to create over 2,000 new Skydio jobs, support the creation of more than 3,000 additional roles within the U.S. supply chain, and direct more than \$1 billion to domestic suppliers.

Skydio already manufactures more dual-use drones than any company outside of China. The company has shipped more than 60,000 flying robots to more than 3,800 customers, including more than 1,200 public safety agencies throughout the country, every branch of the U.S. military, and 29 allied nations, as well as more than 450 utility and energy companies.

A key component of the investment is SkyForge, a new company program designed to ensure the future of flight is built in America. In addition to the billion-dollar investment in U.S. suppliers, Skydio plans to open a new U.S. manufacturing facility five times larger than its current space. The company has outgrown four American manufacturing facilities in eight years;



\$1 Billion

Directed to domestic suppliers, supporting the creation of an estimated 3,000+ additional roles within the U.S. supply chain

this will be its fifth expansion to meet extraordinary demand. Skydio's investment in world-class suppliers will help expand - and in some cases initiate - domestic manufacturing of crucial parts and components. The company will invite select suppliers to co-locate production capacity with Skydio, giving suppliers access to production space and Skydio's engineering talent to help incubate a growing industry.

In the span of little more than a decade, drones evolved from toys to tools to critical infrastructure for the industries that form the backbone of this country.

Skydio leads this new era of drones as infrastructure on the strength of its AI and autonomy innovation: In public safety, for example, our Skydio DFR gives agencies aerial awareness that allows drones to arrive on scene first 71% of the time, resolving nearly a quarter of calls without sending a patrol unit. When lives and livelihoods are on the line, Skydio's systems are in the field, every day, protecting both.

With this commitment, Skydio is making clear that the United States will lead in flying robotics autonomy, manufacturing, and scale. The investment will reinforce domestic electronics and component manufacturing and strengthen secure supply chains vital to national resilience. At the same time, Skydio will continue to scale domestic production capacity to meet the growing demand across public safety, national security, and utilities.

Embraer and Hellenic Aerospace Industry Advance Strategic Cooperation to Develop MRO Capabilities to Support the C-390 Millennium in Greece

Embraer has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI), to strengthen their strategic cooperation in aerospace and defense.

The agreement, signed by Fabio Caparica, Vice President of Contracts at Embraer Defense & Security, and Mr. Alexandros Diakopoulos, Executive Chairman of Hellenic Aerospace Industry, is designed to equip the Hellenic Air Force (HAF) with the operational and support autonomy needed to manage its future C-390 aircraft fleet while advancing the capabilities of the domestic industry.

"Signing this MoU with Embraer means more to us than a business agreement. It reflects our conviction that HAI can and should be the natural choice for world-class aerospace companies seeking a reliable partner in Europe. Developing C-390 maintenance and support capabilities in Greece does not only serve the operational needs of the Hellenic Air Force – it also builds an industrial foundation of lasting, long-term value for our country. It is precisely this combination of operational autonomy and industrial development that defines HAI's strategic direction," said Mr. Alexandros Diakopoulos, Executive Chairman of Hellenic Aerospace Industry.

"Hellenic Aerospace Industry is a company we know well and with whom we have



cooperated for several decades. Over the years, we have come to value the expertise of its employees and the quality of the work they deliver. Under these conditions, HAI naturally stands out as the ideal partner for us in Greece," said Fabio Caparica, Vice President of Contracts at Embraer Defense & Security.

"This strategic agreement with Hellenic Aerospace Industry paves the way for future discussions on expanding in-country maintenance expertise, supporting enhanced MRO capabilities and autonomy for the Hellenic Air Force (HAF). We are committed to strengthening this partnership by sharing our services and support expertise to help develop local capabilities and establish a solid foundation for long-term, sustainable cooperation. This agreement will also enable

Embraer to further strengthen its presence in Greece and reinforce its long-standing relationship with the country," said Douglas Lobo, Vice President Customer Support & Aftermarket Sales, Embraer Services & Support.

The MoU reinforces Embraer's long-term strategy to further strengthen and expand its presence in the European market, supporting the company's growth and contributing to the advancement of the aerospace and defense sector across the continent.

The C-390 Millennium represents the next generation of military airlift with multi-mission capability and interoperability built by design. It redefines the standards of versatility, reliability, and operational efficiency, while consistently demonstrating its advanced military airlift capabilities.

ELBIT SYSTEMS AWARDED APPROXIMATELY \$1.4 BN CONTRACT FOR EXTENSIVE MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS FOR A EUROPEAN CUSTOMER

Elbit Systems Ltd. announced that it has been awarded a contract valued at approximately \$1.4 billion by a European customer for extensive military modernization programs. The contract will be performed over a period of five years.

The modernized programs will provide improved maneuverability and survivability, spanning the entire battle domain. The state-of-the-art solutions to be delivered include a variety of uncrewed autonomous solutions, advanced networked land electronic warfare (EW), precision-guided munitions (artillery and air-to-ground), coupled with electro-optical



designating and reconnaissance systems, all networked by software-defined radios (SDR). These solutions will improve the nation's operational effectiveness towards becoming an advanced and modern army.

Bezhael (Butzi) Machlis, President and CEO

of Elbit Systems: "This contract reflects the breadth and attractiveness of Elbit Systems' defense portfolio, as well as our ability to deliver both highly capable, best in class systems and comprehensive, integrated solutions tailored to evolving operational needs.

Our proven experience working with numerous armed forces worldwide, together with our strong in house development capabilities and leading edge technological expertise, continue to drive growing demand for our solutions and position us as a trusted partner for long term military modernization programs."

STRATOLAUNCH CONDUCTS HYPERSONIC TEST FLIGHT WITH MISSILE DEFENSE



Stratolaunch continues flight operations with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) using Stratolaunch's Boeing 747-400 carrier aircraft, Spirit of Mojave, and the Talon-A3 hypersonic aircraft.

On March 6, 2026, Stratolaunch successfully executed MDA's Flight Test Experiment Other-04 (FEX)-04 flight test mission from Mojave Air and Space Port supporting ongoing hypersonic flight testing. Stratolaunch used the Spirit of Mojave aircraft to transport the Talon-A3 vehicle to the planned release conditions, which enabled the aircraft to begin its flight profile at higher altitudes.

"Hypersonic testing requires precision, speed and reliable access to flight. Each mission expands the nation's ability to test and advance critical technologies, and we are proud to support our government partners as they accelerate innovation in high-speed flight." -Dr. Zachary Krevor Stratolaunch President and CEO

Within its fleet, Stratolaunch operates the world's largest and fastest aircraft, which includes the Spirit of Mojave, a modified Boeing 747-400 designed for air-launch missions and high-speed flight research. The aircraft enables flexible global flight operations and rapid mission turnaround from conventional runways.

The Talon-A fleet of aircraft serves as reusable hypersonic test platforms designed to collect data in high-speed flight environments. These vehicles provide a national capability to support government and industry efforts to advance hypersonic technologies.

GE Aerospace Awarded T700 Engine Support Contract for UK AH-64E Fleet



GE Aerospace has been awarded a three-year contract from Boeing Defence UK Ltd to extend support for the T700-GE-T701D engines powering the British Army's Apache AH-64E fleet.

Under the Performance Based Logistics (PBL) agreement, GE Aerospace will provide an on-site Field Service Representative (FSR) at Wattisham Flying Station in Suffolk, UK, and deliver logistics management, technical support, and material, as well as repair and maintenance of engines and line-replaceable units (LRUs) through StandardAero in Gosport, UK.

"We are proud to continue our longstanding

relationship with Boeing Defence and support the British Army," said Paul Ferraro, vice president and general manager, Defense Engines & Services, GE Aerospace. "This agreement strengthens regional support and services for the UK Apache fleet, helping ensure readiness and availability."

With more than 25,000 engines produced and over 100 million flight hours accumulated over four decades, the T700 family powers platforms across 50 countries, serving more than 130 customers for transport, medical evacuation, air rescue, special operations, and maritime patrol missions.

YFQ-42A RETURNS TO FLIGHT TESTING

The YFQ-42A Collaborative Combat Aircraft, built by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) for the U.S. Air Force, has returned to flight testing following a round of safety reviews and software enhancements for the new uncrewed fighter jet.

The return follows a strategic pause in flight testing stemming from an April 6 mishap shortly after takeoff. Other aspects of the YFQ-42A program, including ground testing and other Technology Maturation and Risk Reduction (TMRR) activities, continued without interruption.

No one was injured in the incident, though the aircraft was a total loss. A thorough safety review isolated the cause to an autopilot miscalculation for the weight and center of gravity of the aircraft, prompting a software remediation. The Air Force and GA-ASI conducted a joint review following the mishap. Following a stringent evaluation, technical authorities endorsed the software changes and YFQ-42A has returned to the air.

"We're excited to have YFQ-42A flying



again," said GA-ASI President David R. Alexander. "It's been said that you learn more from your setbacks than your successes. We are applying what we've learned to our growing fleet of CCAs, as we continue building the most dependable and cost-efficient unmanned fighters in the world." The YFQ-42A is a purpose-built CCA platform developed as part of ongoing investment in next-generation semi-autonomous combat aircraft. The aircraft's modular design enables rapid integration of mission systems and mission autonomy software. GA-ASI's software architecture, demonstrated through multiple

live flight tests on multiple airframes, provides the foundation for human-machine teaming in complex combat scenarios.

GA-ASI was selected by the U.S. Air Force in April 2024 to build production-representative flight test articles for the CCA program. The YFQ-42A successfully conducted its maiden flight in August 2025, validating a "genus/species" concept for rapid, modular, and low-cost uncrewed fighter aircraft development. This approach enables a common core aircraft design that can be rapidly adapted for different mission sets and service requirements.

LM Delivers First Integrated Combat System Enabled Baseline, Advancing Rapid, Scalable Capability for the US Navy

Lockheed Martin has successfully delivered the first Integrated Combat System (ICS)-enabled baseline to the U.S. Navy. ICS-enabled baselines combine heritage combat system capability with modern infrastructure, driving rapid proliferation of capability through a singular development effort at scale. Working with the Navy and industry partners, this marks the start of a six-month operating cadence for updates and certifications that will be fielded across the fleet, a significant step toward the Navy's vision of fleetwide commonality.

The six-month cadence keeps the ICS adaptable and continuously refreshed with cutting edge capabilities, ensuring the surface fleet stays at the forefront of naval warfare. "The first ICS-enabled baseline delivery highlights Lockheed Martin's commitment to and partnership with the U.S. Navy to accelerate the transition to a common, fully integrated combat architecture in a continuously evolving warfighting environment," said Chandra Marshall, vice president of Multi-Domain Combat Systems at Lockheed Martin. "Each baseline upgrade delivered and integrated into



the ICS further reinforces and expands the already proven Aegis integrated air and missile defense capability."

Highlights and Impact: The Aegis BL9.C3.0 Package: This is the first baseline compiled from the Forge development environment. It introduces the re-architected display component, Tactical PaaS (Platform as a Service), which establishes the foundation for containerized software, and a suite of new operational capabilities.

Accelerated Capability Fielding: Each follow-

on delivery will incrementally integrate new capabilities, sensors, effectors, and software. Driving towards a single ICS-enabled baseline cuts cost and ensures that every surface combatant can field the latest combat capabilities on a predictable schedule.

Delivering baseline BL9.C3.0 highlights Lockheed Martin's partnership with the U.S. Navy, our commitment to deliver force-level capability, and accelerate the transition to a common, fully integrated combat architecture.

GE AEROSPACE SECURES OFFICIAL ORDER TO POWER US NAVY'S EXPLORER-CLASS OCEAN SURVEILLANCE SHIPS



GE Aerospace's Marine Engines & Systems has secured an official order from Austal USA to supply propulsion power for the U.S. Navy's new Explorer-class ocean surveillance ships, T-AGOS. The purchase agreement covers one LM2500+G4 marine gas turbine engine in a composite enclosure with associated generator by Brush for the lead ship, USNS Don Walsh (T-AGOS 25), currently under construction at Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama. "This official order represents a significant milestone for both the T-AGOS 25 program and GE Aerospace's continued partnership with the U.S. Navy," said Mark Musheno, VP of Sales and Marketing Marine Engines and Systems at GE Aerospace. "We're honored to provide proven, reliable propulsion technology for the Navy's next generation of ocean surveillance ships. The LM2500's power density, reliability, and fuel efficiency make it an ideal choice for the integrated electric propulsion system that gives these ships the operational flexibility their mission demands."

Integrated Electric Propulsion with Proven Gas Turbine Power: The T-AGOS 25 design employs an Integrated Electric Propulsion (IEP) system featuring four electric motors powered by three diesel generators and one GE LM2500 gas turbine. This hybrid configuration provides operational flexibility, allowing the ship to optimize power generation for various mission profiles—from extended low-speed towing operations (5 knots for 9,000 nautical miles) to rapid transit at sprint speeds when required.

Next-Generation Ocean Surveillance Capability : The Explorer-class represents a significant leap forward in ocean surveillance capabilities, featuring larger, faster vessels designed to support the Navy's anti-submarine warfare operations and the Integrated Undersea Surveillance System (IUSS). At 359 feet long and with a displacement of 9,099 tons, these ships will be the largest and fastest T-AGOS vessels ever operated by the U.S. Navy, capable of sprinting up to 22 knots.

Revolutionary Composite Enclosure Technology : The LM2500 aboard USNS Don Walsh will be encased in GE Aerospace's revolutionary lightweight composite enclosure, first introduced to the U.S. Navy fleet on USS Santa Barbara (LCS 32) in March 2023. Fully certified by the U.S. Navy with MIL-S-901D Grade A shock qualification, the composite enclosure delivers transformative operational advantages critical for acoustic surveillance missions:

- 50% weight reduction: 2,500 kg (5,500 lbs) lighter than steel predecessors, providing ship designers critical flexibility for increased payload, fuel capacity, or mission systems.
- 60% quieter operation: Dramatically reduced engine room noise compared to original steel enclosures—essential for acoustic surveillance missions.
- Cooler engine room temperatures: Reduced wall temperatures by 25°F to 50°F, with less heat rejected into the engine room and improving crew comfort.
- Enhanced durability: Corrosion-resistant single-piece carbon fiber construction requires less maintenance.
- Ease of engine removal/reinstallation: The gas turbines can be removed and reinstalled through the intake path.
- Better access to the engine: Enhanced crew access to engine inlet and lightweight main door for easy handling; engines can be removed and reinstalled through the inlet path.

Airbus Partners With Mistral AI to Strengthen the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Sovereign Aerospace Applications



Airbus has signed a partnership agreement with Mistral AI, a European leader in artificial intelligence (AI). This collaboration supports Airbus's ambition to place cutting-edge, ethical and trustworthy AI at the core of Airbus operations and processes, from initial design to on-board capabilities.

This partnership will expand the use of artificial intelligence across Airbus' commercial aircraft, helicopter, defence and space activities, while adhering to strict security and sovereignty requirements, including for critical, highly confidential and military aerospace applications.

"This partnership paves the way for the deployment of high-impact, high-value use cases of trusted and responsible AI in aerospace," said Catherine Jestin, Executive Vice President Digital at Airbus. "Thanks to the high-performance models and made-to-measure support of Mistral AI experts, we are building the foundations necessary to power our current and future products and services, enabling us to serve our customers better."

"We are proud to partner with Airbus and contribute to its critical industrial operations. Together, we will deploy Mistral's fully integrated AI stack to accelerate innovation, contribute to improve flight safety, and deliver greater value for customers", said Timothée Lacroix, co-founder and Chief Technology Officer at Mistral AI.

Under the agreement, Airbus will acquire licences for the full Mistral AI product suite, enabling the deployment of models on-premises, in trusted clouds or wherever it makes sense for Airbus and its customers. The partnership also guarantees Airbus access to Mistral AI's leading researchers and influence over the AI product roadmap, enabling the development of bespoke solutions for complex aerospace challenges.

Airbus and Mistral AI have identified several potential areas for collaboration, some of which have already begun:

Industrial operations: streamlining complex workflows, particularly in the automation of technical documents production for commercial aircraft and helicopters.

Engineering and design: accelerating innovation and design cycles through AI-driven simulations, such as aircraft part optimisation, or providing ad-hoc support to engineers during development, test and certification phases.

Next-generation products: exploring deployment of AI models on board spacecraft and aircraft (edge AI), for applications such as automatic object recognition, which could contribute to enhancing situational awareness and flight safety.

GA-ASI and U.S. Air Force Demonstrate Advanced Manned-Unmanned Teaming With MQ-20 Avenger and F-35 in Joint Autonomy Exercise

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI), the F-35 Joint Program Office, 309th Software Engineering Group, 461st Flight Test Squadron, 370th Flight Test Squadron, Lockheed Martin, and Autonodyne recently collaborated on a flight test that demonstrated advanced Manned-Unmanned Teaming. The test paired an F-35 Lightning II fighter jet with a GA-ASI Collaborative Combat Aircraft surrogate (MQ-20 Avenger®), highlighting the future of collaborative air combat missions.

The MQ-20 was equipped with GA-ASI's TacACE® (Tactical Autonomy Ecosystem) software, which is based on the latest government reference autonomy software architecture. The demonstration further proved the CCA surrogate and F-35's ability to use a tactical proliferated low Earth orbit data link to accomplish seamless coordination.

The demonstration utilized Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS) communications between an airborne MQ-20 and an F-35 on the ground, enabling the F-35 pilot to send tactical autonomy commands via a tablet



in the cockpit. These commands were relayed to the MQ-20's TacACE, leveraging skills based on the Autonomy Government Reference Architecture (A-GRA), enabling rapid integration.

GA-ASI continues developing and testing the most capable and mission-ready Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) in the world.

"This significant warfighter integration milestone is the beginning of operational readiness for the Collaborative Combat Aircraft and demonstrates the near-term opportunities for force integration,"

said Michael Atwood, vice president of Advanced Programs. "Events like these drive home GA-ASI's continued commitment to adoption of next-generation data links, mission autonomy, and unmanned air combat operations."

Manned-Unmanned Teaming — the pairing of human-flown warplanes with large numbers of highly autonomous wingmen — is the future of airpower. The recent F-35 and MQ-20 demonstration validated the hardware, software, networks, and other systems needed for this new chapter in combat. The MQ-20 successfully exchanged critical autonomous responses with the F-35, and the F-35 was able to send autonomy commands to the MQ-20 via a Bashi Pilot Vehicle Interface, directing the MQ-20 to execute tactical maneuvers, adjust waypoints, and pass ADS-B track data to the F-35.

GA-ASI's MQ-20 Avenger unmanned jet has served as a surrogate CCA for more than five years, both before and since the arrival of GA-ASI's purpose-built XQ-67A Off-Board Sensing Station and YFQ-42A jets.

Expansion of Bundeswehr Logistics: Rheinmetall to Supply More Than 2,000 Military Transport Vehicles Worth EUR 1.015 Bn Gross

The Bundeswehr has commissioned Rheinmetall to supply more than 2,000 military transport vehicles. These are unprotected logistic vehicles in 4x4 (3.5 t), 6x6 (5 t) and 8x8 (15 t) variants. The order is worth €1.015 billion gross. The major order is part of the framework contract concluded in 2024 for a total of up to 6,500 vehicles and will be booked in the second quarter of 2026. Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles GmbH (RMMV) will begin delivering the vehicles in the first half of 2026. The vast majority of the vehicles are due to be delivered before the end 2026.

The order comprises approximately 1,000 8x8 vehicles and around 1,000 4x4 and 6x6 vehicles. With its large numbers and versatility, the unprotected logistic vehicle family (UTF = German abbreviation for Ungeschuetzte Transportfahrzeuge) forms the logistical backbone of the Bundeswehr. Rheinmetall thus remains a key partner for the Bundeswehr's mobility and makes a significant contribution to strengthening operational readiness in the context of national and alliance defence. The outstanding joint UTF project between Rheinmetall and the Federal Office of Bundeswehr



Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw) ensures the rapid supply of equipment and replenishment to the armed forces. "Thanks to the extensive standardisation of the HX vehicle family, the Bundeswehr benefits from considerable synergies in training, operation and maintenance. Our unprotected and protected vehicles are in service worldwide and have proven their reliability under the harshest climatic conditions," said Christoph Müller, CEO

and Chairman of the Board of RMMV. The vehicles are based on RMMV's technologically advanced HX family. This range was developed specifically to meet military requirements and is characterised by its exceptional off-road capability and robustness. As 'military off-the-shelf' vehicles, they combine tried-and-tested mass-production technology with specific military modifications, making them the ideal means of transport for modern armed forces.

LIEBHERR AEROSPACE ENHANCES MRO SERVICE CAPABILITY IN CHINA



Liebherr Aerospace has expanded its MRO operations in Shanghai, reinforcing its footprint in China and addressing increasing regional demand for advanced maintenance services. As part of the expansion, the company has set up a dedicated 800-square-metre MRO area for the testing and re-coring of heat transfer equipment.

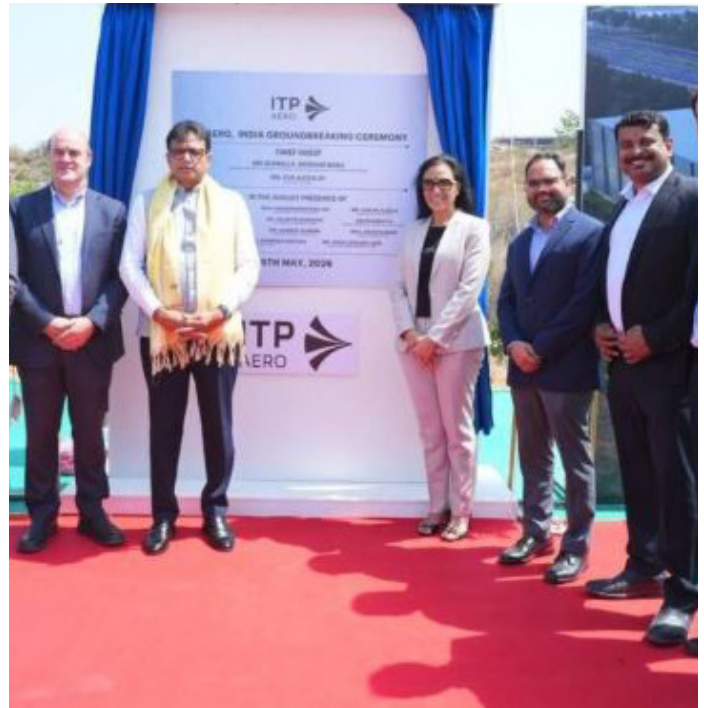
As part of its commitment to sustainable maintenance solutions, Liebherr has industrialised a REACH-compliant TCS (Trivalent Chromium System) and PACS (Post Application Conversion Sealer) coating process for heat transfer equipment, following extensive validation at its original equipment manufacturing facility in Toulouse, France.

With the introduction of these REACH-compliant processes, Liebherr has become the first company in China to offer this service for heat transfer equipment to airline customers. The solution provides a safe and future-ready approach that complies with global aviation standards, reduces regulatory risks, and is trusted worldwide. It helps safeguard people, ensure supply stability, and support seamless international operations. Thanks to this fully integrated in-house maintenance capability, all future maintenance work can now be carried out on site.

TCS improves corrosion resistance and paint adhesion, while PACS seals and strengthens the protective layer to ensure long-term durability. Together, the two processes deliver performance comparable to conventional coatings without the associated environmental impact.

The coating process complies with REACH – the European Union's Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals – which was introduced to enhance the protection of human health and the environment from chemical-related risks. Compliance with the regulation requires the replacement of traditional chromium-based treatments with more environmentally responsible alternatives.

ITP AERO BEGINS DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HYDERABAD AEROSPACE FACILITY



ITP Aero has marked the expansion of its Hyderabad operations with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new facility in Hyderabad, India. The development will further strengthen the company's presence in the country and reflects its continued long-term investment in the region.

Having operated in Hyderabad for 15 years, ITP Aero has established strong engineering and industrial capabilities, developed a skilled local workforce, and built close partnerships within the regional aerospace sector.

The new Hyderabad facility, scheduled to become fully operational in 2027, will manufacture components for commercial aviation engines, including fabricated and machined parts, supporting rising demand across the civil aerospace sector. The site represents the next stage of ITP Aero's expansion in India and will strengthen its role within the global aviation supply chain.

The development is expected to create more than 350 skilled jobs over the next five years, in addition to the company's existing 250 manufacturing roles in the region. As part of its continued growth in India, ITP Aero has also appointed Sandeep Sharma as Managing Director India, bringing more than two decades of aerospace industry experience.

Carlos Alzola, Managing Director of ITP Aero Group, commented: "Hyderabad has been part of our industrial journey for 15 years. We have seen this site grow and evolve alongside our business. This expansion is a source of pride, reflecting what we have achieved together and our confidence in the region's people and manufacturing capabilities. It also reinforces our long-term commitment to supporting the continued growth of commercial aviation worldwide, made possible by the consistent support of the Government of Telangana throughout this journey."

The expansion comes amid continued global growth for ITP Aero, which reported revenues of €1.88 billion in 2025, up 17 percent, while EBITDA increased 28 percent to €379 million. The company has also committed €1.2 billion towards research and development and capital expenditure across its global operations by 2030.

AJW Middle East Appoints Christoffer Creutz as Chief Commercial Officer

AJW Middle East has appointed Christoffer Creutz as Chief Commercial Officer (CCO), strengthening its commercial leadership as the business continues to expand across the region.

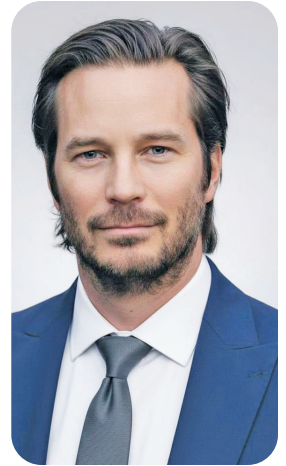
Creutz joins the company at a pivotal stage in its growth. AJW Middle East leverages established vendor supply chain partnerships and extensive access to global inventory to deliver cost savings and operational efficiency for customers throughout the Middle East. The appointment supports the company's continued expansion in spare parts trading, asset leasing, teardown management, and inventory optimisation services.

With more than 25 years of experience in senior aviation leadership roles, Creutz brings extensive expertise across MRO, parts trading, and asset management. He began his

career with Lufthansa Technik, gaining an early foundation in large-scale aftermarket support, before joining Inflight The Jet Centre as Managing Director. During his tenure, the business was one of Europe's largest independent authorised Embraer service centres, where he led its line, base, and component maintenance operations.

Creutz later founded and successfully exited his own aviation venture before moving into senior commercial and CEO-level positions within international MRO and asset management businesses. His responsibilities have included P&L leadership across the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas.

His track record combines broad cross-sector aviation experience with entrepreneurial agility and a proven ability to drive revenue growth, operational transformation, and international market expansion.



Airbus Appoints Eric Kirstetter as Executive Vice President for Strategy



Airbus has appointed Eric Kirstetter as Executive Vice President for Strategy, effective May 18. He succeeds Matthieu Louvot, who has recently been appointed CEO of Airbus Helicopters. Joining from global strategy consultancy Roland Berger, Kirstetter will report to Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury in his new role.

Guillaume Faury, Airbus CEO, stated: "Eric is joining Airbus at a critical juncture for the Company, as we work to secure a trajectory of sustained growth, bold innovation, and positive societal impact.

His experience across a variety of industry sectors, including aerospace and defence, will be key to help us turn global geopolitical and technological changes into strategic opportunities and to implement our long-term roadmap.

I look forward to the collaboration with Eric and wish him every success in the role.

"Holding a degree in Mechanical Engineering from ISAE-Supméca and a Master's in International Industrial Management from HEC Paris, Kirstetter spent 17 years at the international management consultancy Arthur D. Little before joining Roland Berger's Paris office in 2017. He brings extensive experience in growth strategy and transformation, gained through a broad range of successful projects across the automotive, aerospace, and defence sectors.

He has supported leading clients in Asia, Europe, and the United States in making strategic decisions, delivering transformations, executing M&A transactions, and scaling innovation.

ST Engineering Appoints Jeffrey Lam as Deputy Chief Executive Officer

ST Engineering has announced that Jeffrey Lam will assume the role of Group Deputy Chief Executive Officer, effective June 1, 2026. He will step down from his current positions as Group Chief Operating Officer (Operations Excellence) and President of Commercial Aerospace. In his new capacity, Lam will continue reporting to Vincent Chong, Group President and Chief Executive Officer, and will retain his seat on the Group Executive Committee. Lam brings more than two decades of leadership experience across the aerospace sector and has played a pivotal role in advancing the division's operational performance, customer partnerships, and growth initiatives. His deep industry expertise and strong track record in driving execution position him well to lead the business through its next phase of development and global expansion. ST Engineering continues to grow its global footprint, supported by a strong order book and disciplined strategy execution. As

the Group expands, the wider scope of its businesses calls for sharper Group-level focus to improve alignment and unlock synergies across the organisation.

As Deputy CEO, Lam will support the Group CEO in driving key enterprise priorities, realising Group-wide synergies, and enhancing organisational excellence. He will also oversee the Commercial Aerospace business at the management level.

Vincent Chong, Group President and Chief Executive Officer, stated: "This appointment strengthens our leadership bench at the Group level. With his strong track record in business management and leadership, Jeffrey brings the experience and perspectives to advance our strategic priorities and strengthen our organisational capabilities across the Group." Concurrently, the Group will appoint Kevin Chow, currently Head of Aerostructures and Systems at Commercial Aerospace, to succeed Lam as President of Commercial Aerospace.



Thales Appoints Jérémie Papin as Senior Executive Vice-President, Finance and Information Systems

Thales has appointed Jérémie Papin as Senior Executive Vice-President, Finance and Information Systems, effective from July 1, 2026. He will succeed Pascal Bouchiat, who is set to retire after serving in the role.

Papin will join the Thales Executive Committee and report directly to Chairman and Chief Executive Patrice Caine.

Papin joins from Nissan Motor Co., where he served as Chief Financial Officer and Executive Officer, overseeing finance, management control, mergers and acquisitions, tax, treasury, investor relations, and information systems. He was also appointed to Nissan Americas'

THALES

Management Committee in 2021, having previously held the position of CFO for the region since 2018.

Before joining Nissan, Papin held a number of senior roles within Renault and the Renault-Nissan Alliance, focusing on business development, planning, and strategy.

He began his career in investment banking in 1999 as a financial analyst covering the European automotive sector at Deutsche Bank before moving to Lehman Brothers and Nomura.



Leonardo Appoints Lorenzo Mariani as Chief Executive Officer



Leonardo has appointed Lorenzo Mariani as Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, effective from May 7, 2026.

Mariani brings extensive leadership experience across the aerospace, defence, and security sectors, with a strong international background and a track record of managing businesses across the full industrial lifecycle — from research and development through to production and commercialisation.

Prior to his appointment, Mariani served as Executive Group Director of Sales & Business Development at MBDA from April 2025, while also holding the position of Managing Director of MBDA Italia. As a member of MBDA's Executive Committee, he played a key role in strengthening the company's position within a rapidly changing global defence environment. His work focused particularly on enhancing production capacity, improving operational efficiency, and increasing competitiveness in increasingly complex international markets.

Mariani also has significant previous experience within Leonardo, where he held a number of senior leadership roles of increasing responsibility. He ultimately became Co-General Manager and Director of Business Operations, contributing to the management and development of the group's operational activities during a period of transformation and growth.

His appointment comes at a time of heightened demand across the global defence sector, with companies facing increasing pressure to expand industrial capacity, strengthen supply chains, and accelerate technological innovation. Mariani's combined experience in operations, strategy, and international business development is expected to support Leonardo's continued growth across its aerospace, defence, and security activities.

Leonardo is one of Europe's largest defence and aerospace groups, with operations spanning military aircraft, electronics, helicopters, cyber security, and space systems.

AJW Group Strengthens European Business Development Team

AJW Group has appointed Mark McConnell as its European Business Development Manager. He will work alongside Alexander Paul to strengthen the company's presence across Europe.

Bringing nearly 40 years of customer-facing experience and a strong engineering background, McConnell joins from a senior business development role at an international aviation solutions provider. His appointment reflects AJW Group's continued

investment in its commercial capabilities and customer engagement across the region.

The expanded team will focus on strengthening relationships with existing customers, identifying new business opportunities, and enhancing the group's service offering across the European aviation market. The move underscores AJW Group's commitment to delivering tailored support to operators, lessors, and MRO providers throughout the region.



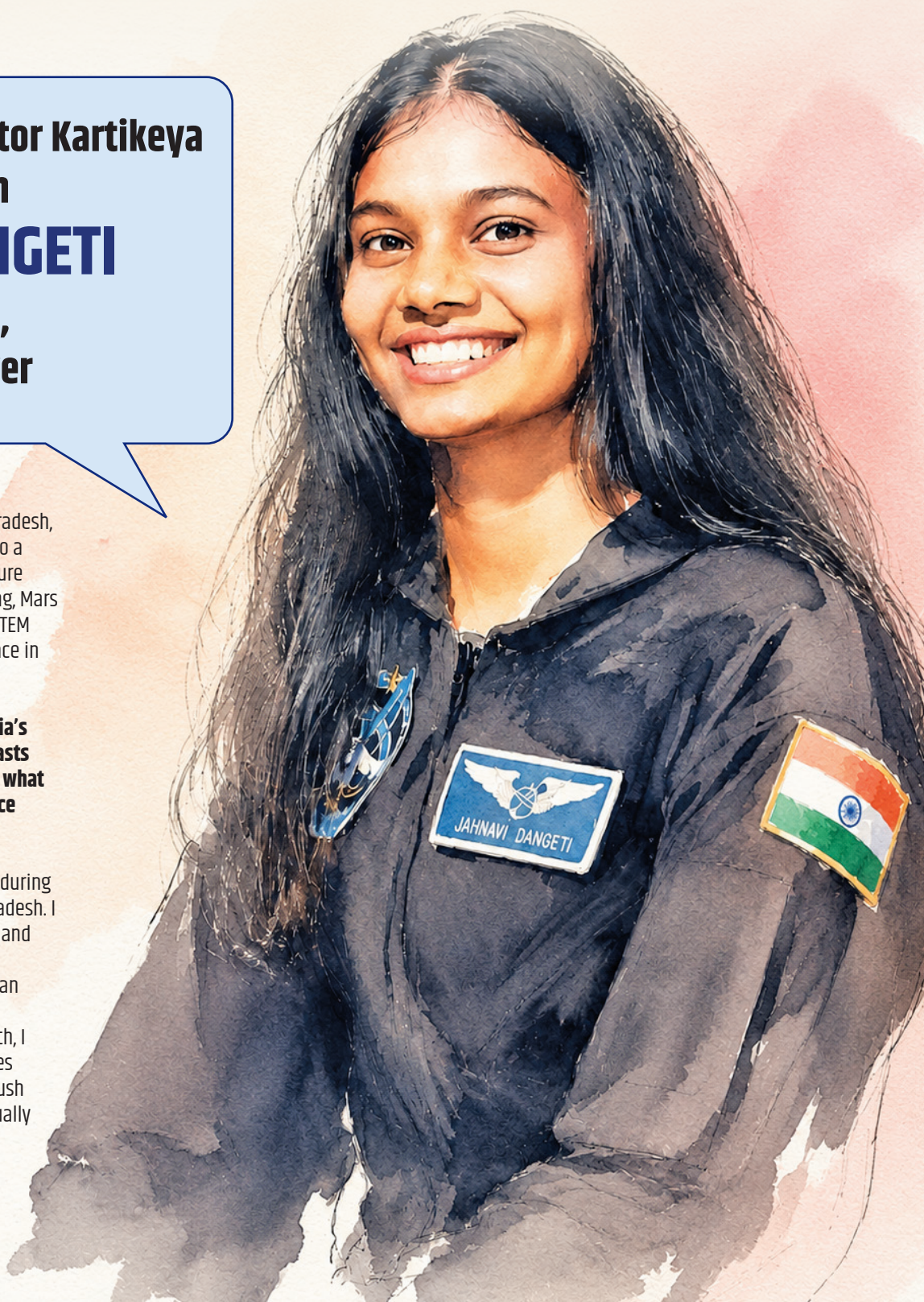
“DREAMING BEYOND BOUNDARIES: A YOUNG SPACE ENTHUSIAST’S VISION FOR EXPLORATION”

Aviation Update Editor Kartikeya
in conversation with
JAHNAVI DANGETI
Analogue Astronaut,
Advanced Scuba Diver

Growing up in a small town in Andhra Pradesh, she transformed childhood curiosity into a mission to contribute to humanity's future beyond Earth. Through astronaut training, Mars analog missions, aviation studies, and STEM advocacy, she is steadily carving her place in the evolving global space ecosystem.

Q You have emerged as one of India's promising young space enthusiasts and astronaut trainees. Looking back, what inspired you to pursue a career in space exploration?

A My fascination with space began during childhood in Palakollu, Andhra Pradesh. I was always curious about the night sky and inspired by stories of exploration and discovery. As I learned more about human spaceflight, planetary science, and the possibility of humans living beyond Earth, I realized that space exploration combines science, innovation, and the desire to push humanity forward. That curiosity eventually turned into a passion and a mission to contribute to the future of space exploration while inspiring more





The challenges did not stop my journey—they helped me become more resilient, more careful in my decisions, and more determined to build a meaningful career in space exploration.

young people from India to dream beyond conventional boundaries.

Q From participating in international space programs to undergoing astronaut training, how would you describe your journey so far, and which experiences have been the most defining?

A My journey has been one of taking one step at a time toward a dream that once felt incredibly distant. Growing up in a small town in Andhra Pradesh, far away from launch pads, rockets, and major space centers, I never imagined that my childhood curiosity would one day lead me to participate in international space programs and astronaut training opportunities. What started with bedtime stories and endless questions about the stars gradually turned into a passion and eventually a career path.

Every mission, training program, and research experience has been incredibly rewarding in its own way. From astronaut

training and scientific research to serving as Crew Scientist during a Mars analog mission at the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS), each experience has helped me grow personally and professionally.

Rather than one defining moment, I see my journey as a collection of milestones that have brought me closer to my goal while teaching me resilience, adaptability, and the importance of never giving up on a dream.

Q You have successfully completed several intensive training modules and simulations. Which particular experience challenged you the most, and what lessons did it teach you about yourself?

A Every mission and training experience comes with its own unique set of challenges, and each has pushed me beyond my comfort zone in different ways. However, one of the most challenging experiences was my Mars analog mission at the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) in Utah.

The mission required adapting to an isolated environment, operating under mission constraints, and working in extreme environmental conditions that closely resemble some of the challenges future astronauts may face. Learning to adapt quickly while maintaining focus on scientific objectives was not always easy. The experience taught me the importance of resilience, flexibility, and teamwork. It also showed me that growth often happens when we are placed in unfamiliar situations and challenged to perform under demanding conditions. Most importantly, it reinforced my confidence in my ability to adapt, persevere, and continue moving forward despite difficulties.

Q Human spaceflight demands exceptional physical fitness, technical expertise, and mental resilience. How have these experiences shaped your outlook toward future opportunities in the space sector?

A These experiences have shown me that success in the space sector goes far beyond technical knowledge. Physical preparedness, mental strength, continuous learning, and the ability to collaborate with diverse teams are equally important. Through astronaut training, analog missions, and aviation studies, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of human spaceflight. They have strengthened my commitment to contributing to future missions, scientific research, and technologies that support sustainable human presence beyond Earth.

Q As a young Indian making strides in a highly competitive field, what have been some of the biggest obstacles you faced, and how did you overcome them?

A One of the biggest challenges I have faced is learning how to navigate an industry where opportunities can sometimes appear very different from reality. Early in my journey, I believed that every opportunity that sounded promising would automatically help me move closer to my goals. Over time, I learned that it is equally important to carefully evaluate who you work with, what organizations you associate yourself with, and whether their values align with your own.

Like many young people pursuing ambitious careers, I have experienced disappointments, setbacks, and situations where expectations did not match reality. Those experiences taught me the importance of due diligence, asking the right questions, and making informed decisions rather than simply chasing opportunities because they sound exciting.

Beyond that, financial constraints, limited access to specialized training opportunities, and coming from a small town with little direct exposure to the space industry were also significant challenges. However, I focused on continuously building my skills, seeking credible opportunities, learning from mentors, and remaining persistent despite setbacks.

Looking back, every obstacle taught me something valuable. The challenges did not stop my journey; they helped me become more resilient, more careful in my decisions, and more determined to build a meaningful career in space exploration and aviation.

Q India's space ecosystem is evolving rapidly with increasing private sector participation. How do you envision your role within this growing ecosystem in the coming years?

If a young girl from a small town can find opportunities in astronaut training, scientific research, and international space programs, then countless other students can achieve remarkable things as well.

A India is currently witnessing one of the most exciting periods in its space history. With the emergence of private space companies, startups, research institutions, and increased international collaboration, there are more opportunities than ever before for young professionals to contribute to the sector. I believe this transformation will play a crucial role in making space more accessible, innovative, and globally competitive.

In the coming years, I see my role at the intersection of human spaceflight, scientific research, aviation, and STEM education. Through my experiences in astronaut training, Mars analog missions, and space-related research, I hope to contribute to studies that advance our understanding of how humans can safely live and work in extreme environments, whether in space or on other planetary bodies.

As a student pilot, I am also deeply interested in the connection between aviation and spaceflight. Aviation has historically served as a foundation for many advancements in human space exploration, and I hope to continue building expertise in both fields. This combination of aviation knowledge and space training can help me





contribute to future human spaceflight initiatives and emerging commercial space opportunities.

Beyond research and training, I am passionate about inspiring the next generation. Coming from a small town, I understand how difficult it can be for students to imagine themselves in careers related to space. I hope to continue working with schools, universities, and young professionals to demonstrate that these opportunities are achievable regardless of one's background.

Ultimately, I would like to serve as a bridge between research, industry, education, and public engagement. Whether through scientific contributions, international collaborations, astronaut training, or STEM outreach, my goal is to help strengthen India's role in the global space community while encouraging more young people to participate in shaping the future of exploration.

Q You have become an inspiration to many students, particularly young women interested in STEM disciplines. What message would you like to share with those aspiring to build careers in space science and technology?

A The message I would like to share is simple: never underestimate the power of your curiosity and never let your circumstances define the limits of your dreams.

My goal is to help strengthen India's role in the global space community while encouraging more young people to participate in shaping the future of exploration.

I come from a small town where a career in space exploration seemed incredibly distant. Growing up, I did not have direct access to the space industry, astronaut mentors, or large research facilities. What I did have was a curiosity about the universe and a willingness to keep learning. Looking back, I realize that many of the opportunities I have today began with a simple decision to take the first step, even when the path ahead was unclear.

For students interested in space science and technology, it is important to understand that the space sector needs people from many different backgrounds. Engineers, scientists, pilots, researchers, doctors, biologists, communicators, entrepreneurs, and educators all play vital roles in advancing space exploration. There is no single path to becoming part of this industry.

I also want young women to know that they belong in STEM. There may be moments when you are the only woman in a classroom,

a laboratory, or a training program. There may be people who doubt your abilities or question your ambitions. Do not allow those opinions to define your potential. Your capabilities are determined by your dedication, hard work, and willingness to keep moving forward.

Another important lesson I have learned is that failure is not the opposite of success it is often part of the journey toward success. Not every application will be accepted, not every opportunity will work out as planned, and not every challenge will be easy to overcome. What matters is your ability to learn, adapt, and continue pursuing your goals despite setbacks.

Most importantly, dream boldly. Many of the achievements that once seemed impossible in my life began as dreams that felt far beyond my reach. If a young girl from a small town can find opportunities in astronaut training, scientific research, and international space programs, then countless other students can achieve remarkable things as well. The future of space exploration will be built by people who dare to ask questions, challenge boundaries, and believe in possibilities that do not yet exist.

Q In your opinion, what qualities and skills are most essential for aspiring astronauts and future space professionals?

A When people think about astronauts or space professionals, they often focus on technical expertise, and while that is certainly important, I believe success in this field requires a much broader combination of qualities and skills.

First and foremost, curiosity is essential. Nearly every advancement in science and exploration begins with a question. The desire to understand how things work, challenge existing knowledge, and seek new discoveries is what drives progress in the space sector. Curiosity has been one of the biggest forces guiding my own journey.

Equally important is resilience. Careers in space exploration are rarely straightforward. There will be setbacks, failed experiments, rejected applications, unexpected challenges,

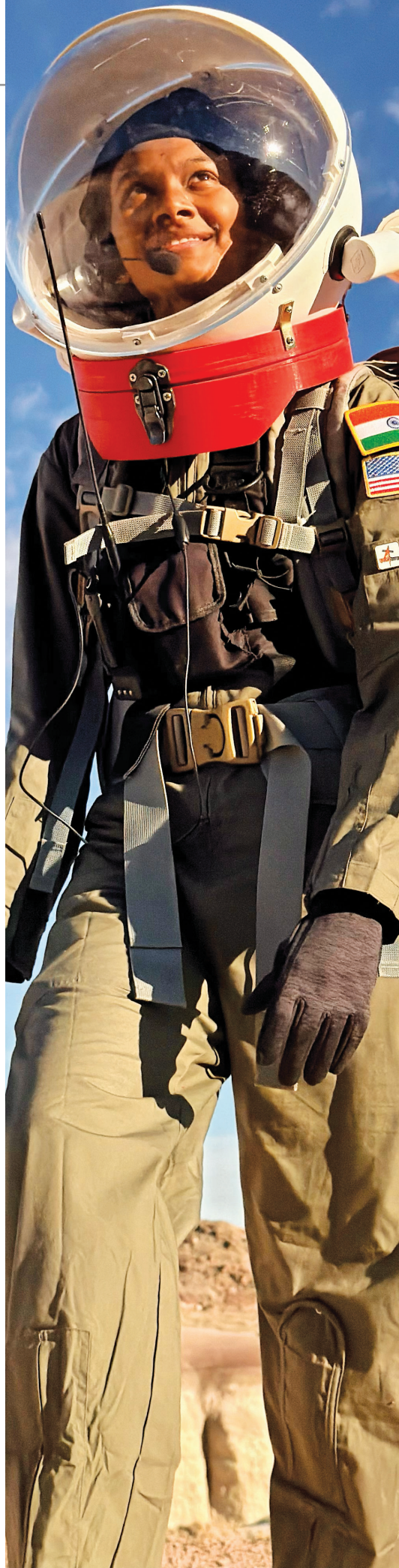
and moments of uncertainty. The ability to learn from those experiences and continue moving forward is what often separates those who succeed from those who give up. Throughout my own journey, I have learned that perseverance is just as important as talent.

Adaptability is another critical quality. Whether during astronaut training, scientific research, analog missions, or future space missions, conditions can change rapidly. Space professionals must be able to remain calm, think critically, and adjust to new situations while continuing to perform effectively. During my Mars analog mission experiences, I witnessed firsthand how important adaptability can be when working in demanding and unfamiliar environments.

Teamwork and communication are equally valuable. Space exploration is one of the most collaborative endeavors undertaken by humanity. No mission succeeds because of a single individual. Scientists, engineers, pilots, medical professionals, mission controllers, and researchers must work together toward a common goal. The ability to communicate clearly, respect different perspectives, and function effectively within a team is essential.

Of course, technical competence remains a fundamental requirement. A strong foundation in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, aviation, or related disciplines provides the knowledge needed to solve complex problems. However, technical knowledge alone is not enough. Future space professionals must also be lifelong learners who continuously adapt to new technologies and emerging challenges.

Finally, I believe having a sense of purpose is incredibly important. Space exploration is a field that demands patience, dedication, and long-term commitment. When challenges arise, it is often your purpose your reason for pursuing the journey that keeps you moving forward. For me, that purpose comes from a desire to contribute to humanity's future in space and inspire others to pursue their own ambitious



dreams.

Q Space exploration is often described as a journey fueled by curiosity and perseverance. What keeps you motivated to continue pursuing your dreams despite uncertainties and challenges?

A What keeps me motivated is the dream I have carried for many years to someday travel to space and contribute to humanity's future beyond Earth. It has not been an easy journey. Like any long-term goal, there have been moments of uncertainty, setbacks, and challenges that made me question the path ahead.

During those moments, I always remind myself why I started. I think back to the young girl who was fascinated by space, inspired by stories of exploration, and determined to learn more about the universe. Remembering that purpose helps me stay focused and continue moving forward. I am also inspired by the scientists, engineers, astronauts, and explorers who faced countless obstacles before achieving their goals. Their perseverance reminds me that meaningful achievements rarely come easily. As long as that dream remains alive, I will continue working toward it one step at a time.

Q Looking ahead, what are your long-term aspirations in the fields of human spaceflight, scientific research, and space exploration?

A My long-term aspiration is to contribute meaningfully to human spaceflight and scientific research while supporting technologies that enable sustainable exploration beyond Earth. I hope to continue participating in advanced astronaut training, conduct research related to future space habitats and human performance in extreme environments, and contribute to missions that expand our understanding of space. At the same time, I want to remain actively involved in STEM outreach and help create opportunities for future generations of explorers. Ultimately, I would like to be part of humanity's journey toward becoming a multi-planetary species.



SIAEC OPENS NEW BASE MAINTENANCE MALAYSIA FACILITY IN SUBANG



SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC) officially opened Base Maintenance Malaysia (BMM) on May 22, its wholly owned base maintenance facility at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, Subang.

BMM forms part of SIAEC's regional base maintenance network, adding capacity to support its existing hangar operations in Singapore and the Philippines. The facility will provide maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services for both wide-body and narrow-body aircraft, including current- and

next-generation fleets operating across Asia-Pacific and beyond. The two-hangar facility can accommodate up to six aircraft undergoing concurrent checks, strengthening SIAEC's operational resilience while offering customers greater flexibility in meeting their MRO requirements. The launch of BMM also underscores SIAEC's confidence in Malaysia as a key aerospace hub. Malaysia offers a strong aviation heritage, strategic geographic position, established infrastructure, and an expanding

pool of skilled aerospace talent. Subang, in particular, continues to play an important role in the country's aviation and aerospace ecosystem. BMM secured the necessary regulatory approvals for the first of its two hangars and completed its first Airbus A350 aircraft check in November 2025. The successful completion of aircraft checks for Singapore Airlines marked significant milestones in demonstrating the facility's operational readiness and technical capabilities.

FDH AERO OPENS NEW BENGALURU HUB TO STRENGTHEN INDIA PRESENCE

FDH Aero, a global provider of aerospace and defence supply chain solutions, has officially opened a new sales office in Bengaluru, India, strengthening its presence in one of the world's fastest-growing aviation and defence markets.

The opening was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 13, alongside a traditional pooja ceremony in line with local customs. The new office brings together FDH's Hardware and Electronics divisions under one roof, creating a regional hub designed to provide integrated supply chain solutions for customers across India and the wider region.

Supported by local teams with extensive market expertise, in-country inventory, and dedicated customer service, the facility reflects FDH Aero's continued investment in the Indian aerospace and defence sector.



Matthew Lacki, President of FDH Hardware, stated: "Strong commercial aerospace demand, increasing defence investment, and 'Made in India' initiatives are driving significant growth across India's aerospace and defence industry. Our new Bengaluru office positions us to better support Tier 1 customers and manufacturers while enabling local sourcing strategies that improve cost efficiency, availability, and overall supply chain performance."

FDH Aero has also appointed two in-country leaders to head the operation, with Adhavan Kamalanathan leading FDH Electronics and Victor Bharath heading FDH Hardware. Together, the pair bring decades of experience across aerospace, electronics, and engineering, supporting global OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers throughout the region.

Liebherr Aerospace Enhances MRO Service Capability in China

Liebherr Aerospace has expanded its MRO operations in Shanghai, reinforcing its footprint in China and addressing increasing regional demand for advanced maintenance services. As part of the expansion, the company has set up a dedicated 800-square-metre MRO area for the testing and re-coring of heat transfer equipment.

As part of its commitment to sustainable maintenance solutions, Liebherr has industrialised a REACH-compliant TCS (Trivalent Chromium System) and PACS (Post Application Conversion Sealer) coating process for heat transfer equipment, following extensive validation at its original equipment manufacturing facility in Toulouse, France.

With the introduction of these REACH-compliant processes, Liebherr has become the first company in China to offer this service for



heat transfer equipment to airline customers. The solution provides a safe and future-ready approach that complies with global aviation standards, reduces regulatory risks, and is trusted worldwide. It helps safeguard people, ensure supply stability, and support seamless international operations. Thanks to this fully integrated in-house maintenance capability, all future maintenance work can now be

carried out on site.

TCS improves corrosion resistance and paint adhesion, while PACS seals and strengthens the protective layer to ensure long-term durability. Together, the two processes deliver performance comparable to conventional coatings without the associated environmental impact.

The coating process complies with REACH – the European Union’s Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals – which was introduced to enhance the protection of human health and the environment from chemical-related risks. Compliance with the regulation requires the replacement of traditional chromium-based treatments with more environmentally responsible alternatives.

ITP AERO BEGINS DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HYDERABAD AEROSPACE FACILITY

ITP Aero has marked the expansion of its Hyderabad operations with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new facility in Hyderabad, India. The development will further strengthen the company’s presence in the country and reflects its continued long-term investment in the region.

Having operated in Hyderabad for 15 years, ITP Aero has established strong engineering and industrial capabilities, developed a skilled local workforce, and built close partnerships within the regional aerospace sector.

The new Hyderabad facility, scheduled to become fully operational in 2027, will manufacture components for commercial aviation engines, including fabricated and machined parts, supporting rising demand across the civil aerospace sector. The site represents the next stage of ITP Aero’s expansion in India and will strengthen its role within the global aviation supply chain.

The development is expected to create more than 350 skilled jobs over the next five years, in addition to the company’s existing 250 manufacturing roles in the region. As part



of its continued growth in India, ITP Aero has also appointed Sandeep Sharma as Managing Director India, bringing more than two decades of aerospace industry experience.

Carlos Alzola, Managing Director of ITP Aero Group, commented: “Hyderabad has been part of our industrial journey for 15 years. We have seen this site grow and evolve alongside our business. This expansion is a source of pride, reflecting what we have achieved together and our confidence in the region’s people and manufacturing capabilities. It also reinforces

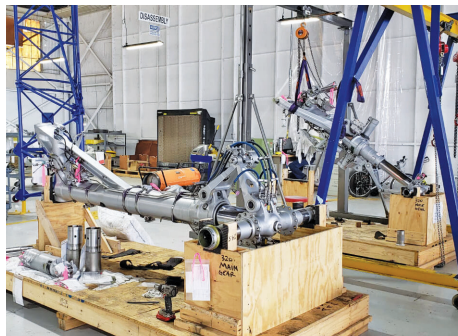
our long-term commitment to supporting the continued growth of commercial aviation worldwide, made possible by the consistent support of the Government of Telangana throughout this journey.” The expansion comes amid continued global growth for ITP Aero, which reported revenues of €1.88 billion in 2025, up 17 percent, while EBITDA increased 28 percent to €379 million. The company has also committed €1.2 billion towards research and development and capital expenditure across its global operations by 2030.



Ascent Aviation Services Expands Wide-Body MRO Capabilities

Ascent Aviation Services used MRO Americas 2026 in Orlando to showcase a series of strategic developments, underlining its ambitions for continued growth in the MRO sector. Central to its presence at the event was the unveiling of two new wide-body hangars, representing a significant expansion of its infrastructure and operational capacity.

These newly introduced facilities are designed to support next-generation aircraft and address rising global demand for heavy maintenance services. The investment substantially strengthens Ascent's wide-body capabilities, positioning the company to better serve both commercial and cargo operators worldwide. The expansion reflects broader market trends, particularly the increasing need for high-capacity, efficient maintenance



solutions as fleets grow and modernise. According to the company, the development is not only about scaling operations but also about enhancing efficiency and maintaining high service standards across its network.

Alongside infrastructure growth, the event

also marked an important transition within Ascent's leadership team. Long-serving Chief Commercial Officer Scott Butler is stepping aside after playing a key role in shaping the company's commercial strategy and fostering long-term customer relationships. His tenure is widely seen as instrumental in establishing Ascent's current market position.

Building on this foundation, the company has appointed Scott Diaz as Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Diaz is expected to drive forward a renewed focus on market expansion, customer engagement, and strategic development initiatives. His appointment signals a forward-looking approach as Ascent seeks to capitalise on emerging opportunities in the aviation maintenance sector.

Taken together, these developments highlight Ascent's commitment to investing in both its physical infrastructure and leadership capabilities, reinforcing its position as a competitive and evolving player in the global MRO market.

LUFTHANSA TECHNIK AND AIRBUS COLLABORATE ON AEROSHARK WING & TAILPLANE DEVELOPMENT

Lufthansa Technik and Airbus have entered a technical collaboration to develop and certify the application of AeroSHARK riblet technology on the wings and stabilizers of the Airbus A330ceo. The cooperation aims to achieve the first-ever commercial certification of riblet technology on an Airbus A330 wing and tailplane, marking a significant milestone in the expansion of drag-reducing technologies for commercial aviation.

Building on the ongoing STC certification of AeroSHARK for the Airbus A330ceo fuselage and engine nacelles, Lufthansa Technik is now extending the technology to the aircraft wings and horizontal and vertical stabilizers with the support of Airbus. The project focuses on the technical feasibility and certification of AeroSHARK on the aforementioned surfaces of the A330ceo. Following successful validation and approval by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the solution is intended to be commercialized. Lufthansa Technik will hold the STC and lead the certification activities. Lufthansa Technik's Engineering will be responsible for the overall certification concept and execution and will be supported by Airbus' Engineering through the provision of key aircraft type data and safety assessments.

From a technical perspective, the certification



program will comprehensively assess the impact of riblet application on flight dynamics, lightning strike protection, structural loads, maintenance aspects and all relevant aircraft systems, including flight control, autopilot and navigation systems.

The wing and tailplane application is intended to complement AeroSHARK coverage on the fuselage and engine nacelles, which is being developed separately by Lufthansa Technik and BASF Coatings. When applied to all relevant aerodynamic surfaces, fuel savings for a fully modified A330ceo are expected to exceed two percent on typical long-haul missions, offering airlines a meaningful reduction in operating costs and CO2 emissions.

Airbus' participation reflects the manufacturer's engagement in supporting innovative decarbonization solutions across its in-service fleet and enabling new technologies through close

technical cooperation. By extending AeroSHARK to additional aerodynamic surfaces, Lufthansa Technik aims to unlock the full potential of riblet technology and contribute to more efficient long-haul operations for one of the world's most widely used wide-body aircraft.

"With the support of Airbus, we are developing a product solution that could contribute to the industry's decarbonisation goals," said Henning Linnekogel, Senior Director OEM Partner Management at Lufthansa Technik. "Combining our modification and certification expertise with Airbus' in-depth aircraft knowledge allows us to pave the way for a completely new application of riblet technology on the A330ceo."

"AeroSHARK has already demonstrated how powerful biomimetic surface technology can be in reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions in commercial aviation", explained Andrew Muirhead, Vice President OEM and Special Engineering Services at Lufthansa Technik. "As our goal is to support as many airlines as possible in achieving their sustainability targets, we are continuously evolving AeroSHARK - by certifying it for additional aircraft types such as the A330ceo and by expanding its application to even larger and more aerodynamically relevant surfaces."

"THE NEXT FRONTIER: PREPARING ENGINEERS FOR INDIA'S SPACE DECADE"



Interview with
Dr. M. Suresh Kumar
Professor & Head, Aerospace/
Aeronautical/Avionics
Engineering

Q India's space sector is expanding rapidly. What opportunities do you see emerging for students pursuing aerospace and aeronautical engineering today?

A India's aerospace and space sectors are currently undergoing a transformative phase. The successful missions of ISRO, the opening of the space sector to private participation, and the rise of aerospace startups have created unprecedented opportunities for students. Today, aerospace graduates can pursue careers in satellite design, launch vehicle development, unmanned aerial systems, aircraft manufacturing, defense technologies, space research, and advanced avionics.

Beyond traditional organizations like ISRO, DRDO, and HAL, students now have opportunities in emerging private space companies, drone startups, and international aerospace firms. Additionally, fields such as space tourism, satellite communication, remote sensing, and planetary exploration are expected to generate significant employment and research opportunities in the coming years. For aspiring



engineers, this is one of the most exciting periods to enter the aerospace industry.

Q Your research spans avionics, RADAR, and navigation systems. Which technological advancement do you believe will have the greatest impact on the future of aerospace engineering?

A Among the many technological advancements shaping aerospace engineering, Artificial Intelligence and autonomous systems stand out as the most transformative. AI-powered systems can process vast amounts of flight data in real time, improve navigation accuracy, optimize fuel efficiency, and enhance safety through predictive maintenance.

In addition, next-generation avionics integrated with advanced sensors, machine learning algorithms, and intelligent decision-making capabilities will significantly improve aircraft and spacecraft performance. Emerging technologies such as autonomous drones, urban air mobility solutions, and AI-assisted

mission planning are already redefining the aerospace landscape.

Furthermore, advancements in quantum navigation, advanced RADAR technologies, and satellite-based communication systems will play a critical role in enabling safer and more efficient aerospace operations. These innovations will shape the future of both aviation and space exploration.

Q How is academia evolving to meet the needs of the aerospace and defense industries, particularly in the age of AI and space technology?

A The role of academia has evolved significantly over the last decade. Educational institutions are moving beyond conventional classroom teaching and focusing more on experiential learning, interdisciplinary research, and industry collaboration. Today's aerospace curriculum incorporates emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, robotics, autonomous systems, drone technologies, and space systems engineering.

Universities are also establishing innovation centers, research laboratories, and incubation hubs where students can work on real-world engineering challenges. Collaborations with aerospace companies and research organizations enable students to gain hands-on experience through internships, industry projects, and research initiatives.

The objective is to produce graduates who are not only technically competent but also capable of adapting to rapidly evolving technologies. Industry-oriented education ensures that students are prepared to contribute effectively from the very beginning of their professional careers.

Q What skills and competencies should engineering students focus on if they aspire to work with organizations such as ISRO, DRDO, or leading aerospace companies?

A Success in aerospace engineering requires a combination of strong technical knowledge and professional skills.



Students should develop a solid foundation in mathematics, physics, aerodynamics, propulsion, control systems, and structural analysis. These fundamentals form the backbone of aerospace engineering.

In addition, proficiency in programming, simulation tools, computer-aided design software, and data analysis has become increasingly important. Students should actively participate in technical projects, competitions, internships, and research activities to gain practical exposure.

Equally important are soft skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking. Aerospace projects are often highly collaborative and multidisciplinary, requiring engineers to work effectively across teams. A mindset of continuous learning and curiosity is essential, as technology in this field evolves rapidly.

Q As an educator and researcher with multiple patents and publications, how do you balance innovation, teaching,

and mentorship?

A I view teaching, research, and mentorship as interconnected aspects of the same mission—advancing knowledge and inspiring future innovators. Research allows me to stay connected with emerging technologies and industry developments, which enriches my classroom discussions and helps students understand real-world applications of engineering concepts.

At the same time, mentoring students often provides fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. Young minds bring creativity and enthusiasm that can lead to meaningful research outcomes. By involving students in research projects, publications, and innovation activities, I can contribute to their professional growth while also advancing scientific knowledge.

Balancing these responsibilities requires effective time management, collaboration, and a genuine passion for learning. Ultimately, seeing students succeed and contribute to

society is one of the most rewarding aspects of an academic career.

Q What are some of the most exciting research areas currently shaping aerospace and space engineering?

A Aerospace engineering is experiencing remarkable advancements across multiple domains. Reusable launch vehicles are reducing the cost of space access and making space exploration more sustainable. Satellite technology continues to evolve, enabling improved communication, navigation, climate monitoring, and disaster management.

Research in autonomous drones and unmanned aerial vehicles is creating opportunities in logistics, agriculture, surveillance, and defense. Advanced propulsion systems, including electric and hybrid propulsion, are helping to make aviation more environmentally sustainable.

Other exciting areas include space robotics,

planetary exploration technologies, hypersonic vehicles, smart materials, and artificial intelligence-driven aerospace systems. These innovations have the potential to redefine how humans travel, communicate, and explore beyond Earth.

Q With private companies increasingly entering the space sector, how do you foresee collaboration between academia, industry, and government agencies shaping the future of space exploration?

A The future of space exploration will depend heavily on strong collaboration among academia, industry, and government organizations. Each stakeholder brings unique strengths to the ecosystem. Universities contribute research, innovation, and a skilled talent pool. Industry partners provide technological expertise, investment, and practical implementation capabilities. Government agencies offer strategic direction, infrastructure, and regulatory support.

Such collaborations accelerate technology development and reduce the time required to transform research into practical applications. Students benefit from exposure to real-world challenges, while industries gain access to innovative solutions and skilled professionals.

India's growing space ecosystem presents an excellent opportunity to build a collaborative model that fosters innovation, entrepreneurship, and global competitiveness. This partnership-driven approach will be crucial in achieving ambitious goals in space exploration and aerospace technology.

Q What advice would you give to young innovators who want to contribute to India's ambition of becoming a global leader in aerospace and space technology?

A My advice to young innovators is simple: remain curious, stay committed, and never be afraid to dream big. Every major scientific achievement began with a question and the determination to find an answer. Students should focus on building strong technical foundations while developing creativity, problem-solving skills, and resilience.

They should actively seek opportunities



Today's students are entering aerospace engineering at one of the most exciting periods in history. Those who remain curious, embrace emerging technologies, and continuously innovate will help shape India's journey as a leading space-faring nation.

to participate in research projects, technical competitions, innovation challenges, and internships. Learning should extend beyond textbooks through experimentation, collaboration, and practical application.

Most importantly, young innovators should view failures not as setbacks but as valuable learning experiences. The aerospace industry demands perseverance, precision, and patience. Those who remain focused on continuous improvement will be well-positioned to contribute to India's scientific and technological advancement.

Q Looking ahead to the next decade, what do you believe will be India's most significant achievement in aerospace

or space exploration?

A Over the next decade, I believe India will make significant strides in human spaceflight, deep-space exploration, advanced satellite technologies, and commercial space missions. Missions under the Gaganyaan program are expected to strengthen India's human spaceflight capabilities, while future lunar and planetary missions will expand our scientific understanding of the universe.

India is also likely to emerge as a major global provider of satellite services, launch capabilities, and space-based solutions. The increasing participation of private companies will further accelerate innovation and create new opportunities for economic growth.

What makes me particularly optimistic is the combination of scientific talent, technological expertise, and national ambition. Together, these factors position India to become one of the world's leading aerospace and space-faring nations.

Q If you could introduce one breakthrough technology into aerospace engineering tomorrow, what would it be and why?

A If given the opportunity, I would introduce highly advanced autonomous aerospace systems powered by Artificial Intelligence. Such systems could transform every aspect of aerospace operations, from aircraft management and air traffic control to deep-space exploration and autonomous planetary missions.

AI-driven systems would enhance safety by identifying potential issues before they become critical, optimize operational efficiency, and reduce human workload during complex missions. In space exploration, autonomous systems could operate in environments where human intervention is difficult or impossible.

As aerospace missions become increasingly complex, intelligent autonomous technologies will be essential for achieving greater reliability, efficiency, and exploration capability. I believe this breakthrough would have a profound impact on the future of aviation and space exploration worldwide.

EMBRAER AND HAI ADVANCE STRATEGIC COOPERATION TO DEVELOP MRO CAPABILITIES

Embraer has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI), to strengthen their strategic cooperation in aerospace and defense.

The agreement, signed today by Fabio Caparica, Vice President of Contracts at Embraer Defense & Security, and Mr. Alexandros Diakopoulos, Executive Chairman of Hellenic Aerospace Industry, is designed to equip the Hellenic Air Force (HAF) with the operational and support autonomy needed to manage its future C-390 aircraft fleet while advancing the capabilities of the domestic industry. "Signing this MoU with Embraer means more to us than a business agreement. It reflects our conviction that HAI can and should be the natural choice for world-class aerospace companies seeking a reliable partner in Europe. Developing C-390 maintenance and support capabilities in Greece does not only serve the operational needs of the Hellenic Air Force – it also builds an industrial foundation of lasting, long-term value for our country. It is precisely this combination of operational autonomy and industrial development that defines HAI's strategic direction," said Mr. Alexandros Diakopoulos, Executive Chairman of Hellenic Aerospace Industry.

"Hellenic Aerospace Industry is a company we know well and with whom we have



cooperated for several decades. Over the years, we have come to value the expertise of its employees and the quality of the work they deliver. Under these conditions, HAI naturally stands out as the ideal partner for us in Greece," said Fabio Caparica, Vice President of Contracts at Embraer Defense & Security.

"This strategic agreement with Hellenic Aerospace Industry paves the way for future discussions on expanding in-country maintenance expertise, supporting enhanced MRO capabilities and autonomy for the Hellenic Air Force (HAF). We are committed to strengthening this partnership by sharing our services and support expertise to help develop local capabilities and establish a solid foundation for long-term, sustainable cooperation. This agreement will also enable

Embraer to further strengthen its presence in Greece and reinforce its long-standing relationship with the country," said Douglas Lobo, Vice President Customer Support & Aftermarket Sales, Embraer Services & Support. The MoU reinforces Embraer's long-term strategy to further strengthen and expand its presence in the European market, supporting the company's growth and contributing to the advancement of the aerospace and defense sector across the continent. The C-390 Millennium represents the next generation of military airlift with multi-mission capability and interoperability built by design. It redefines the standards of versatility, reliability, and operational efficiency, while consistently demonstrating its advanced military airlift capabilities.

Bird Aviation Signs Three-Year MRO Deal with KM Malta Airlines

Bird Aviation has signed a three-year agreement with KM Malta Airlines to provide heavy maintenance services, strengthening the existing relationship between the two companies.

Under the deal, Bird Aviation will support the airline's fleet with a range of base maintenance activities, including C-checks and other scheduled work, carried out at its facilities in Larnaca, Cyprus. The agreement extends cooperation into a longer-term framework at a time when reliability, planning, and close technical collaboration remain critical across the aviation sector.

Frederic Pralus, Chief Executive Officer of Bird Aviation, stated: "This agreement reflects



the trust that has been built through our cooperation with KM Malta Airlines. In a period where predictability and close coordination matter more than ever, having partners you can rely on makes a real difference. Our team remains focused on delivering the level of support and consistency that operators expect

from us."

David Curmi, Executive Chairman of KM Malta Airlines, added: "Securing dependable maintenance support is an important part of maintaining operational stability. Our collaboration with Bird Aviation has shown the value of working with a partner that understands both the technical and operational aspects of our requirements. This agreement allows us to plan ahead with confidence."

The agreement further reinforces Bird Aviation's position as a trusted maintenance provider in the region, while supporting KM Malta Airlines in maintaining fleet performance and availability.

NGC Boosts E-2D Advanced Hawkeye Maintenance, Training with Augmented & Virtual Reality

Northrop Grumman is using augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) tools to improve training, maintenance and sustainment of the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft. As the most tasked aircraft in the U.S. military's inventory, the E-2D is an airborne command center, using its advanced 360-degree radar to provide unparalleled situational awareness for joint and coalition missions.

X-Ray Vision

AR, AI and machine learning are equipping E-2D maintainers with a better understanding of the aircraft's performance, usage patterns and maintenance needs with X-ray vision. The model-based sustainment team for digital transformation developed Armor, a tool that combines AR with predictive and fleet analytics. This capability gives maintainers a better understanding of the aircraft's performance, usage patterns and maintenance needs. Armor offers animated, step-by-step instructions through visual aids accessible via tablet or AR goggles. Maintainers can virtually explore the inside of the aircraft, pinpointing trouble spots with precision.

"Armor can reduce training and labor time, keeping the aircraft operational in hours instead of weeks," said Kenney Crooks, Northrop Grumman fellow, product support.

Virtual Reality Training

VR training immerses maintenance teams in a 360-degree digital environment. The enhanced training is highly efficient, allowing trainees to interact with components that are hard to access or would be too costly to transport to multiple locations.

Early results show VR training improves task performance and reduces repair times by up to 75%. Trainees report higher confidence after completing the VR scenario, translating into better performance in real-world repairs.

Cleared for Takeoff: E-2D LITE

The E-2D engineering team in Melbourne, Florida joined forces with the data analytics



team in Redondo Beach, California, to create the Learning Intelligence Tools Ecosystem (LITE), a machine learning tool that transforms maintenance efficiency.

The tool helps maintainers quickly identify the root cause of maintenance issues, significantly improving mission readiness. LITE reduced maintenance rework in the radar pressurization and cooling system by 67%, saving weeks of testing and getting the aircraft back to the fleet faster.

Sharing Innovations Across the Enterprise

Northrop Grumman is investing across its 30 million square feet of manufacturing space to develop and implement innovations that directly benefit mission readiness and reduce downtime. Training, sustainment and maintenance enhancements for E-2D are also used to enhance operations for platforms like the F-35 Lightning II, B-2 Spirit and other strike platforms. Over 1,000 AR solutions have been deployed across Northrop Grumman's programs, supporting everything from visual work instructions to facility layout planning, accelerating maintenance schedules and keeping platforms in the fight. Northrop Grumman teams are setting the stage for a new era of operational excellence.

MBDA to Implement MICA Missiles MRO Capabilities in India



MBDA has signed an agreement with the Indian Air Force for the development of a local capability for the Maintenance, Repair and Mid-Life Overhaul (MRO) of MICA Missiles.

The MRO facility will be set up, operated and maintained by the Indian Air Force, with MBDA supplying the industrial machinery and tools required, data packages, as well as training and technical support. Developing these facilities locally will foster long-term capability building, secure technical expertise for years to come, and develop India's strategic autonomy, reflecting the core principles of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the ambitious campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020. This facility will help India's domestic defense sustainment effort, improving turnaround times, with capacity to support MICA missiles throughout the duration of their time in service, significantly enhancing the operational capability and readiness of the Indian Armed Forces.

India and MBDA share a long history of partnership in equipping the Indian Air Force going back to the early days of air-to-air missiles. Throughout its history, the Indian Air Force has relied on MBDA's missile systems to provide the latest air combat performance across a number of different aircraft types. MBDA today has two focuses: providing the highest performing missile technologies to the Indian Armed Forces, and secondly supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat as part of MBDA's longstanding partnership strategy with India. With a strong reputation as a reliable partner that has supported the Indian Air Force for over 50 years, European missile firm MBDA understands the importance of operational capability and sovereignty to the IAF. For these reasons, the company has strongly committed to Make in India, to deliver both industrial sovereignty and the best military equipment to India.

JAPAN AIRLINES SELECTS GE AEROSPACE FOR AVIONICS SYSTEMS SUPPORT OF BOEING 787 FLEET

Japan Airlines signed a 10-year maintenance and overhaul agreement with GE Aerospace (NYSE:GE) to cover avionics systems support of its Boeing 787 fleet. The agreement was signed at GE Aerospace's facility in Brisbane, Australia.

Under this agreement, GE Aerospace's facility in Brisbane will provide repair and stock support services for avionics systems on the Boeing 787 fleet operated by Japan Airlines and its subsidiaries. Program management and material support will be managed by the GE Aerospace in Singapore, further leveraging the company's regional capabilities to support Japan Airlines' operations.

GE Aerospace is the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the Boeing 787's Common Core System and related avionics systems covered under the agreement.

"Through this collaboration with GE Aerospace, we are committed to enhancing



component quality and, above all, ensuring the continued safety of our flight operations.

We look forward to further strengthening our partnership with GE Aerospace as we explore new opportunities for growth and innovation in the future" said Yuta Kawaguchi, Executive Officer, Vice President, Material & Component Services, JAL Engineering. "As the OEM of various Boeing 787's avionics systems, GE Aerospace brings deep technical expertise

and integrated support capabilities that will help us maintain high standards of safety, quality and service for our customers."

"Adding a new chapter of activity to strengthen our long-standing relationship with Japan Airlines is a moment to celebrate, and this agreement is significant for several reasons," said Matt Burns, General Manager of Avionics for GE Aerospace. "It is our first avionics systems customer support agreement signed with a Japanese customer. This showcases our unique regional capabilities to deliver reliable, seamless avionics repair, stock services, and program management to customers operating in the world's fastest-growing aviation market."

Japan Airlines is one of the world's leading international airlines, with a fleet of 117 wide-body aircraft, including 53 Boeing 787s, powered by GE Aerospace's GEnx-1B engines.

TEXTRON AVIATION OPENS NEW MELBOURNE SERVICE FACILITY

Textron Aviation Inc., a Textron Inc. company announced its new service facility at Essendon Fields Airport in Melbourne is now open for customers, expanding factory-direct support for Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker customers across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. The purpose-built facility strengthens Textron Aviation's global service network and reflects the company's long-term commitment to expanding capacity and enhancing customer support throughout aircraft ownership.

"We've supported customers in Australia for decades, and we continue to invest where our customers tell us they need more capacity and faster access to factory direct expertise," said Brian Rohloff, senior vice president, Global Customer Support, Textron Aviation. "The Essendon Fields facility is a significant investment in a highly important region, strengthening our service network and expanding service capability, parts access and technical support across Australia and the Asia Pacific region."

The new facility more than doubles the footprint of Textron Aviation's previous Essendon Fields operation to more than 35,000 square feet (3,343 square meters)



and is designed to support the more than 1,400 Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker aircraft operating across the Asia-Pacific region. Developed based on customer feedback, the location features expanded space for servicing aircraft to help reduce downtime, an on-site Textron Aviation parts stockroom to improve parts availability and a more comfortable customer lounge for use while aircraft are being serviced.

The Essendon Fields service center complements Textron Aviation's broader investment strategy to strengthen regional support across Australia, alongside recent facility expansions and upgrades in Perth. Located at one of Australia's most established aviation hubs, the new facility also reflects

close collaboration with Essendon Fields Airport to support the continued growth of business aviation and aircraft maintenance in the region.

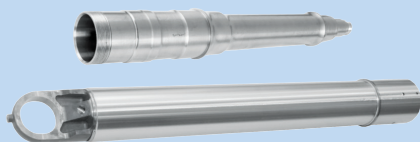
"Our investment in the new Textron Aviation service center underscores Essendon Fields' commitment to building Australia's most capable and connected business aviation precinct," said Brandan Pihan, CEO, Essendon Fields.

"As the closest airport to the Melbourne CBD, Essendon Fields is the most convenient choice for business aviation customers. Textron Aviation's long-term commitment ensures the retention of skilled jobs and service capability at Essendon. It also advances our Airport Master Plan by consolidating operations on the main airfield, improving safety and efficiency, and responds to strong demand for new hangar space."

Textron Aviation will host a formal grand opening event for the Essendon Fields service facility in August, inviting members of the media, customers and community leaders to officially mark the opening of the site. Additional details will be shared closer to the celebration.



Bharat Forge Signs Landing Gear Forgings Agreement with Embraer



Bharat Forge Limited (BFL), a global provider of advanced forging and precision engineering solutions, has secured a long-term agreement with Embraer for the manufacture and supply of critical landing gear forgings. The partnership marks the first time an Indian supplier has joined Embraer's global aerospace supply chain for forged components. Under the agreement, Bharat Forge will provide high-integrity forged components for landing gear systems used across Embraer's commercial and defence aircraft programmes. The collaboration further strengthens Bharat Forge's growing presence in the global aerospace sector and reinforces its position as a trusted supplier of complex, safety-critical components.

The long-term agreement reflects a shared commitment to quality, reliability, and sustained collaboration, while highlighting Bharat Forge's capability to deliver forged products that meet rigorous international certification standards. Amit B. Kalyani, Vice Chairman and Joint Managing Director at BFL, commented: "The fact that BFL is the first Indian supplier of forged components for Embraer is a proud moment and a testament to the capabilities we have built in the aerospace business. We thank them for the trust they have reposed in BFL. We look forward to growing and adding value to our association with Embraer in the coming years. These contracts will enable us to create scale for critical structural components, complementing the scale built in the aero engine components space." The agreement marks Embraer's first partnership with an Indian company in this segment, highlighting its commitment to supporting the growth of India's aerospace industry and generating long-term value throughout the supply chain. The development also aligns with Embraer's ongoing efforts to strengthen its footprint in India through continued engagement with industry partners and government authorities.

MTU Maintenance Secures EVA Air CFM56-5B Engine Maintenance Contract



MTU Maintenance and Taiwan-based EVA Air have signed an exclusive agreement covering maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services for the airline's CFM56-5B engines, which power its fleet of 17 Airbus A321-200 aircraft.

The agreement will see all scheduled shop visits carried out at MTU Maintenance Zhuhai, the group's dedicated narrowbody engine facility. EVA Air will additionally be able to draw on spare engine support through the MTU Maintenance Lease Services engine pool during maintenance periods.

The deal represents MTU's return to the Taiwanese aviation market and reflects the company's broader ambitions to expand its regional presence through increased capacity and

enhanced technical expertise. MTU last secured a contract with a Taiwanese airline in 2016. The contract marks the first time EVA Air has selected an independent provider to exclusively manage comprehensive engine maintenance services. Previously, the airline relied on original equipment manufacturers for its engine MRO requirements.

Gert Wagner, President and CEO of MTU Maintenance Zhuhai, commented: "EVA Air is one of the biggest and most recognizable airlines in Asia-Pacific, and our entire network is ready to support them. Having surpassed the 5,000th shop-visit mark in Zhuhai in 2025, we have now set our sights on the next phase for the location: to be the best choice for narrowbody engines on the APAC market."

This contract represents yet another building block in achieving that goal." Steve Liu, Executive Vice President of Engineering & Maintenance at EVA Air, added: "EVA Air has very high expectations of our service providers. Over the course of the talks and negotiations, MTU Maintenance's extensive capabilities and technical expertise convinced us that it is the right partner to entrust our CFM56-5Bs for reliable and expert service."

EMIRATES BREAKS GROUND ON LANDMARK DUBAI SOUTH MRO HUB

Emirates has officially broken ground on its new US\$5.1 billion engineering complex at Dubai South, slated to become the most advanced aircraft MRO facility worldwide.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by senior figures including His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group; Sir Tim Clark, President of Emirates Airline; and representatives from Dubai South and China Railway Construction Corporation.

Spanning 1.1 million square metres, the facility will rank among the world's largest buildings by volume and will become the GCC's largest steel structure. The complex will feature a unique hangar system capable of simultaneously accommodating 28 wide-body aircraft, alongside two dedicated aircraft painting hangars. The development will also include a 50,000-square-metre administrative headquarters for Emirates Engineering, 15,000 square metres of training



facilities, and a dedicated gateway building controlling airside access.

Designed with sustainability in mind, the entire complex is targeting LEED Platinum certification and will incorporate rooftop solar panels and other energy-efficient technologies. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-2030, with the new hangars initially handling heavy maintenance work and overflow projects from Emirates Engineering's existing facility at Dubai International Airport.



AEROMART

HYDERABAD - INDIA

2ND EDITION

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONVENTION

for the aerospace & defence Industries

JUNE 30 - JULY 2, 2026



- ▶ B2B MEETINGS
- ▶ EXHIBITION
- ▶ CONFERENCE / WORKSHOPS
- ▶ INDUSTRIAL VISITS

 hyderabad.bciaerospace.com

ORGANISED BY

 BCI AEROSPACE

 **abe**
advanced
business
events
abebo.com

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



MAIN SPONSORS 2024

AIRBUS



 **SAFRAN**

THANK YOU TO OUR
MEDIA PARTNER:

Aviation
UPDATE

NETJETS TAKES DELIVERY OF FIRST THREE CESSNA CITATION ASCEND AS FLEET LAUNCH CUSTOMER

Textron Aviation Inc. has achieved a major milestone as the first three Cessna Citation Ascend business jets were delivered to fleet launch customer NetJets. NetJets, which operates the world's largest and most diverse private jet fleet, is the first private fleet operator to take delivery and begin operations with the Citation Ascend.

Setting new standards in performance, comfort, and operational efficiency for the midsize business jet market, the Citation Ascend builds on the longstanding relationship between Textron Aviation and NetJets by offering owners a seamless progression of advanced aircraft designed to deliver exceptional reliability, efficiency, and luxury.

Lannie O'Bannon, Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Textron Aviation, stated: "The Citation Ascend represents our continued investment in supporting NetJets customers well into the future. Building on the proven performance the Citation family is known for, the Ascend introduces new technology and comfort enhancements that matter to fleet customers.



We look forward to supporting NetJets as they take delivery of their first Ascend and continue delivering a premium, dependable experience for customers around the world."

The Ascend offers NetJets owners a blend of productivity, performance, and luxury. Key features include:

- » **Spacious, luxurious cabin:** A flat floor with generous legroom, seating for eight passengers, a full refreshment center, and a spacious baggage compartment
- » **Leading avionics:** Equipped with Garmin G5000 technology, featuring the latest software and hardware, including autothrottles for enhanced operational ease
- » **Enhanced efficiency and power:** Powered by

two Pratt & Whitney Canada PW545D engines, delivering increased thrust, improved fuel efficiency, and a four-passenger range of 1,940 nautical miles

Patrick Gallagher, President of NetJets Aviation, added: "NetJets is the world leader in private aviation known for its unwavering commitment to safety and service. The Cessna Citation Ascend is the newest way to experience that.

NetJets is pleased to be the fleet launch customer of the Citation Ascend. Building on the success of the Citation Latitude and Citation Longitude, our discerning owners have shown a preference for midsize jets, and the Citation Ascend represents the next evolution in midsize jet travel, delivering the latest in exceptional design and comfort."

The Citation Ascend achieves a maximum speed of 441 knots true airspeed and a four-passenger range of 1,940 nautical miles, complemented by a full fuel payload of 900 pounds. It also features a Honeywell RE100 [XL] Auxiliary Power Unit approved for unattended operations.

Bombardier's Global 8000 Makes South American Debut at Catarina Aviation Show in Brazil

Bombardier has announced that the world's fastest business jet, the Global 8000, will be on display at the Catarina Aviation Show in São Paulo, Brazil, from May 21-23, marking the tradeshow debut of this remarkable aircraft. Joining the Global 8000 on site will be Bombardier's uncompromising Global 6500 and the best-selling Challenger 3500, showcasing their impressive design and performance attributes for clients in the region. Bombardier's sales team will also be available to meet with customers.

The Global 8000, Global 6500, and Challenger 3500 provide customers with class-leading luxury, performance, and range ideally suited to hot, high, and short airfields. Bombardier's flagship for a new era, the Global 8000, is the fastest civilian aircraft in the skies with a top speed of Mach 0.95 and a range of 8,000 nautical miles, enabling passengers to fly faster and



farther than ever before.

Boasting the lowest cabin altitude in business aviation production at 2,691 feet while cruising at 41,000 feet, the Global 8000 minimizes the physiological stress associated with high-altitude travel, helping passengers arrive at their destinations feeling refreshed and ready to perform. With its impressive range, the aircraft can connect travellers from key city pairs, including São Paulo to Perth, São Paulo to Vancouver, and São Paulo to Dubai.

In addition to its long-range capabilities,

low cabin altitude, and exceptionally smooth ride, the aircraft remains remarkably agile, with takeoff and landing performance comparable to that of a light jet. Its advanced wing design, featuring unique leading-edge slats, enables operators to access up to 30 percent more airports than its closest rival.

Frank Vento, Vice-President of Sales for the U.S. and Latin America at Bombardier, stated: "Bombardier's Global 8000 is at the pinnacle of business aviation today, and the Global 6500 and industry-leading Challenger 3500 are proven performers. Being onsite at the Catarina Aviation Show provides Bombardier with the perfect opportunity to showcase the incredible performance and design attributes of these exceptional aircraft. Bombardier is uniquely positioned in the Brazilian market, and we are delighted to be showcasing the impressive attributes of these aircraft."

Platoon Aviation to Expand Charter Operations, Becoming Europe's Largest Cessna Citation Longitude Fleet

Textron Aviation Inc. has announced that it has entered into a multi-aircraft fleet purchase agreement with Platoon Aviation, positioning the Hamburg-based charter operator to become the largest Cessna Citation Longitude fleet owner in Europe. Platoon Aviation provides on-demand private jet travel, serving business and leisure travelers seeking long-range capability, cabin comfort, and operational reliability. Deliveries of the Citation Longitude aircraft are expected to begin in 2027.

Lannie O'Bannion, Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Textron Aviation, stated: "From performance and cabin experience to the strength of our global support network, the Citation Longitude provides charter operators with the confidence to grow their fleets and serve customers at the highest level. This agreement with Platoon Aviation



underscores the Longitude's leadership in the super-midsize segment and the trust customers place in Cessna and our team."

As the flagship of the Citation family, the Citation Longitude is designed around the needs of both pilots and passengers, delivering advanced avionics, efficient operating economics, and a refined in-flight experience. The business jet is well suited for European charter operations, offering

the range and performance to connect key business corridors nonstop, including routes such as Hamburg to Madrid and London to Athens. The aircraft features the quietest cabin in the super-midsize class, a flat-floor stand-up cabin measuring 1.83 metres, seating for up to 12 passengers, and class-leading legroom.

Deniz Weißenborn, CEO of Platoon Aviation, added: "Platoon Aviation is redefining what business aviation can look like in the next decade. The Citation Longitude fleet expansion reflects our commitment to building a future-proof, next-generation aviation platform that combines operational efficiency, sustainability, and uncompromising comfort. The aircraft position us to meet the evolving expectations of modern travelers while giving our clients greater flexibility, reliability, and connectivity across Europe and beyond."

Cessna SkyCourier Demand Drives Expansion of Textron Aviation Flight Test Operations

Textron Aviation Inc. has announced the completed expansion of its flight test hangar on the company's East Wichita Campus, increasing capacity to support growing global demand for the Cessna SkyCourier and continued development activity across its turboprop portfolio.

The 57,000-square-foot expansion adds six new hangar bays on the north side of the facility, significantly increasing capacity for flight test operations as activity continues to accelerate for the twin-engine, large utility SkyCourier. The expanded footprint will also support ongoing flight test and entry-into-service work for the Beechcraft Denali.

Lannie O'Bannion, Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Textron Aviation, stated: "As demand for the Cessna SkyCourier continues to grow across commercial, cargo, and special missions markets, it is critical that our facilities and teams are positioned to support that momentum. By investing in additional flight test capacity, we are strengthening our ability to efficiently support



development today and as demand continues to expand."

Designed for versatility, the Cessna SkyCourier serves commercial passenger, cargo, and special missions operators with multiple configurations and mission-ready performance. As the aircraft expands into defense and special missions applications, including its first military order, recent

enhancements such as an In-flight Operable Door option further extend its operational flexibility across a broad range of missions.

From an operational standpoint, the expanded facility allows flight test teams to move more efficiently between aircraft preparation, data collection, and evaluation — an important advantage as the SkyCourier supports an increasing range of missions and test requirements.

Brad White, Senior Vice President of Manufacturing Operations at Textron Aviation, added: "With more space and flexibility, our teams can run multiple test profiles in parallel and turn aircraft more efficiently. That capability is critical as the SkyCourier supports a growing range of real-world missions for operators around the globe."

The expanded facility also reflects Textron Aviation's ongoing commitment to responsible operations, incorporating energy-efficient LED lighting and high-efficiency systems designed to reduce energy consumption while supporting demanding flight test activity.

Textron Aviation Opens New Melbourne Service Facility at Essendon Fields Airport, Expanding Support for APAC Customers

Textron Aviation Inc. has announced that its new service facility at Essendon Fields Airport in Melbourne is now open for customers, expanding factory-direct support for Cessna, Beechcraft, and Hawker customers across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. The purpose-built facility strengthens Textron Aviation's global service network and reflects the company's long-term commitment to expanding capacity and enhancing customer support throughout aircraft ownership.

Brian Rohloff, Senior Vice President of Global Customer Support at Textron Aviation, stated: "We have supported customers in Australia for decades, and we continue to invest where our customers tell us they need more capacity and faster access to factory-direct expertise. The Essendon Fields facility is a significant investment in a highly important region, strengthening our service network and expanding service capability, parts access, and technical support across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region."

The new facility more than doubles the

footprint of Textron Aviation's previous Essendon Fields operation to more than 35,000 square feet (3,343 square metres) and is designed to support the more than 1,400 Cessna, Beechcraft, and Hawker aircraft operating across the Asia-Pacific region. Developed based on customer feedback, the location features expanded space for

Textron Aviation's long-term commitment ensures the retention of skilled jobs and service capability at Essendon.

It also advances our Airport Master Plan by consolidating operations on the main airfield, improving safety and efficiency, and responds to strong demand for new hangar space.

-Brandon Pihan

servicing aircraft to help reduce downtime, an on-site Textron Aviation parts stockroom to improve parts availability, and a more comfortable customer lounge for use while aircraft are being serviced.

The Essendon Fields service center complements Textron Aviation's broader investment strategy to strengthen regional support across Australia, alongside recent facility expansions and upgrades in Perth. Located at one of Australia's most established aviation hubs, the new facility also reflects close collaboration with Essendon Fields Airport to support the continued growth of business aviation and aircraft maintenance in the region.

Brandon Pihan, CEO of Essendon Fields, added: "Our investment in the new Textron Aviation service center underscores Essendon Fields' commitment to building Australia's most capable and connected business aviation precinct. As the closest airport to the Melbourne CBD, Essendon Fields is the most convenient choice for business aviation customers."



Aviation UPDATE

India's premier
aviation monthly
magazine



**For Publishing Advertisement,
Articles and Interviews, Contact**

Kartikeya
kartikeya@futureaviation.in
+91 9444499221

HOSTED BY



1 - 4 JUNE 2026

**EKO CONVENTION CENTER
VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

Strengthen Maritime Security Partnerships

ADVANCING THE FUTURE OF SEA POWER & MARITIME SECURITY

Engage with
Naval Chiefs,
Coast Guard Leaders,
Maritime Authorities &
Defence Decision-Makers

**THE STRATEGIC MARITIME DEFENCE FORUM
FOR REGIONAL NAVAL COLLABORATION**



Attendees

500+



Chiefs and
Senior Officers

100+



High-Level
Speakers

25+



Countries
Represented

40+



Scan the QR code to:

- ✓ Book a stand
- ✓ Explore sponsorship opportunities
- ✓ Access partnership opportunities
- ✓ Get Free listing in supplier directory

NIGERIANNAVYANNIVERSARY.COM

RNI No. : TNENG/2014/59266
Postal Regn No: TN / CH(c) / 505 / 15-17,
Publication Date: 1st of Every Month.
Postal Permission Date: 5th or 7th of Every Month

ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD



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

Facilities

Complete satellite
manufacturing facilities
under one roof

Launch Vehicles Facilities

Design and Manufacture
of Space and Defence
Equipment

- Contributed to 91 Satellites
and
- 71 Launch vehicles so far
- In-house environmental
test facilities
- Class 100K, 10 clean
rooms with SMT
Production lines

Products

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

- Meeting Quality & Reliability Standards for Space & Defence programs
Dr. SUBBA RAO PAVULURI, CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR,
E-mail : subbarao@ananthtech.com

Headquarters

ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD.

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

Hyderabad – 500 081

Tel: +91-40-6615 6615

Fax: +91-40-6615 6531

E-mail: subbarao@ananthtech.com

mail@ananthtech.com

Satellite Facilities

ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD.

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

Bangalore – 562129

Tel: +91-80-6616 6616

E-mail: mail@ananthtech.com

Launch Vehicles Facilities

ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD. Plot No.51(b) KINFRA Park ,
Menamkulam Sub-Dist : Kazhakuttom Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Tel: +91-471-2315913 E-mail: mail@ananthtech.com

