

Aviation UPDATE

India's premier aviation monthly magazine

Volume 12

Issue 10

JULY 2026

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SURPASSES ONE MILLION FLIGHT
HOURS**



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8000 IN AFRICA TO NIGERIA-BASED
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Arrobot
raghuvamsi deep tech

RV Rudra

(ICE Loitering Munition)



RV Lakshya

(High Speed Expendable Target)



RV Maya

(Jet Powered Bomber/ Decoy)



RV Dhristi

(Tethered Drone)



RV Astra

(Jet Powered Kamikaze UAV)

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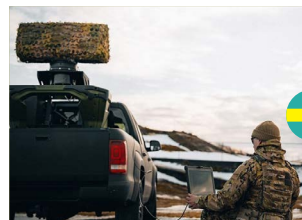


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B. KARTIKEYA

Driving the Future of Aviation Through Innovation and Collaboration

The global aviation and aerospace industry continues to move forward with remarkable momentum, driven by innovation, sustainability, digital transformation, and international collaboration. As we present the July 2026 edition of Aviation Update, we bring you the latest developments from across commercial aviation, business aviation, defence, MRO, aerospace manufacturing, advanced air mobility, and the rapidly expanding space sector.

Leading this edition is our Cover Story on the Farnborough International Airshow 2026, one of the world's premier aerospace events. More than an exhibition, Farnborough serves as a global platform where industry leaders unveil breakthrough technologies, forge strategic partnerships, and discuss the future of aerospace. From autonomous systems and next-generation defence capabilities to sustainable aviation and digital manufacturing, the event highlights the innovations shaping tomorrow's industry.

Another key feature in this issue is our coverage of AEROMART Hyderabad 2026, which successfully brought together global OEMs, Tier-1 suppliers, MSMEs, startups, and government agencies. The convention reinforced Hyderabad's position as one of India's leading aerospace and defence manufacturing hubs while strengthening the country's role in the global aerospace supply chain through business networking, technology collaboration, and supplier development.

This edition also highlights important developments in commercial aviation, with airlines expanding fleets, modernizing operations, and investing in fuel-efficient aircraft and enhanced passenger experiences. In Business Aviation, manufacturers continue to introduce advanced aircraft featuring improved performance, longer range, next-generation avionics, and luxurious cabin innovations.

Our Engines & MRO section showcases significant investments in maintenance infrastructure, engine support, component services, and digital maintenance technologies, reflecting the growing importance of reliable aftermarket support as global fleets continue to expand.

The Defence sector remains at the forefront of technological advancement, with growing investments in military aviation, unmanned systems, collaborative combat aircraft, and advanced propulsion technologies. At the same time, emerging sectors such as Urban Air Mobility, Advanced Air Mobility, electric aviation, artificial intelligence, and commercial space are opening new opportunities for innovation and industrial growth.

At Aviation Update, our commitment is to deliver credible, timely, and insightful journalism that keeps industry professionals informed about the trends and technologies transforming global aviation. We sincerely thank our readers, contributors, advertisers, and industry partners for their continued trust and support.

Happy Reading!

Kartikeya B.

SAS Orders 18 Airbus A330neo to Accelerate Growth and Fleet Modernisation



Scandinavian carrier SAS has placed a firm order with Airbus for 18 A330-900 aircraft as part of its ongoing fleet renewal strategy. The agreement was signed during a ceremony in Copenhagen by Anko van der Werff, SAS CEO and Benoît de Saint-Exupéry, Airbus EVP Sales of the Commercial Aircraft business.

The aircraft will support SAS' ongoing international network expansion, allowing the airline to increase existing high capacity routes globally and introduce new routes.

"On behalf of SAS, I am delighted to announce this order for the Airbus A330-900. Combining outstanding economics with improved environmental performance, the aircraft will play a key role in our long-term fleet strategy. It will allow us to deliver an exceptional customer experience, expand our network, and offer greater flexibility and convenience for our passengers. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with Airbus well into the future", said Anko van der Werff.

"We are immensely proud to see SAS reaffirm its trust in Airbus to drive its fleet modernisation. The A330-900 is the undisputed benchmark for efficiency and versatility in its category. By integrating these 18 A330neo, SAS will benefit from unbeatable seat-mile economics and seamless operational synergies with its existing Airbus fleet," said Benoît de Saint-Exupéry.

Powered by the latest generation Rolls-Royce Trent 7000 engines, the A330neo is designed to fly up to 8,100 nautical

miles / 15,000 kilometers non-stop and reduces fuel burn, CO2 emissions and operating cost by 25% compared to previous generation competitor aircraft. The A330neo unique Airspace cabin offers passengers and crews the latest modern in-flight products for a comfortable flying experience.

As with all Airbus aircraft, the A330 family is already able to operate with up to 50% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), with a target to reach 100% SAF capability by 2030.

At the end of May 2026, the A330 Family had won over 1,950 orders from 133 customers worldwide.

Air Peace Expands Fleet With Embraer E175 to Boost Regional Connectivity in West Africa



Embraer has delivered the first brand-new Embraer E175 airplane to Air Peace. The delivery further strengthens the partnership between Embraer and Air Peace, beyond their operations of the larger E195-E2 and the smaller ERJ145 fleet. The E175 will support Air Peace in its ambition to increase connectivity in Nigeria and the region, whilst providing more capacity flexibility to the airline.

"We are delighted to deliver this first factory-new E175 to our partners at Air Peace," said Arjan Meijer, President and CEO at Embraer Commercial Aviation. "This delivery highlights the continued demand for right-sized aircraft, with airlines seeking to expand connectivity while maintaining high levels of efficiency and service."

"The delivery of our first Embraer E175 is a major milestone in Air Peace's growth, reflecting our commitment to boosting domestic and regional travel with a modern, efficient fleet," said Dr.

Allen Onyema, Chairman and CEO of Air Peace. "As we strengthen our leadership in West and Central Africa, this aircraft will increase our operational flexibility and market reach, all while maintaining the safety, reliability, and excellent service our passengers expect. Air Peace's position as a leading airline in West Africa is further reinforced by the delivery of the E175 which will deliver exceptional fuel efficiency, lower emissions, favorable economics on thin and medium-density routes, and great passenger comfort."

Gilat Receives \$43M of Additional Sidewinder ESA Orders from Leading In-flight Connectivity Service Provider



Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. a worldwide leader in satellite networking technology, solutions, and services announced it has received additional orders of \$43 million from a major in-flight connectivity service provider for its Sidewinder electronically steered antenna (ESA) terminals. Deliveries are planned over the next 18 months in both line-fit and retrofit configurations. The awards reflect continued demand for low-profile, high-performance connectivity systems designed to meet airline requirements for superior user experience, reliability, scalability, and global coverage. They further demonstrate the growing shift by satellite operators to antennas that can fully leverage advanced multi-orbit network architectures.

"These significant orders reflect the continued evolution of IFC networks toward high-performance, scalable, multi-orbit architectures," said Mike Pigott, President of Gilat Stellar

Blu. "Sidewinder was designed for this environment, enabling service providers to deliver reliable, high-quality connectivity across diverse routes and increasingly complex network requirements."

Sidewinder ESA supports operation across multiple satellite constellations, enabling more efficient use of available capacity while maintaining stable, high-throughput connectivity for airline passengers worldwide.

Saudia and Neo Space Group Mark 1st Line-fit Activation of In-Flight Connectivity on Saudia's New Airbus A321XLR



Neo Space Group (NSG), a strategic company within PIF's Vision Portfolio and Saudi Arabia's leading commercial space services provider, and Saudia, the Kingdom's national flag carrier, today announced the first line-fit activation of NSG Skywaves® in-flight connectivity (IFC) aboard Saudia's inaugural Airbus A321XLR aircraft.

The milestone marks a significant step in the growing strategic partnership between Saudia and NSG and demonstrates how Saudi Arabia's aviation and space sectors are working together to support the Kingdom's Vision 2030 ambitions. It reflects a shared commitment to innovation, digital transformation, and enhancing the guests experience, while further positioning Saudi Arabia among the world's leading hubs for aviation and space-enabled services.

Powered by NSG Skywaves® and leveraging the SES Open Orbits™ multi-orbit network, the service combines GEO and MEO satellite capabilities to

deliver resilient, low-latency connectivity across key international flight corridors. Recent operational testing conducted by NSG's engineering and operations teams demonstrated onboard speeds up to 200 Mbps per aircraft, supporting a seamless digital experience across streaming, messaging, browsing, and other high-demand passenger applications.

The activation demonstrates the successful integration of the Airbus HBCplus line-fit solution and reflects close collaboration between NSG, Saudia, Airbus, SES, RAVE and other key industry partners to deliver a seamless connectivity experience from aircraft entry into service. It also reflects NSG's growing maturity as a global in-flight connectivity provider, demonstrating its ability to integrate satellite capacity, airborne technologies, digital platforms, and operational expertise into a seamless end-to-end connectivity solution.

Mr. Rossen Dimitrov, Chief Guest Experience Officer at Saudia, said: "Connectivity is an essential part of modern travel, and providing high-speed internet on our new A321XLR is a key element of the new Saudia experience. It enables our guests to stay connected, remain entertained, and enjoy a more engaging and seamless onboard journey. It also enables a new generation of connected onboard experiences, allowing guests to enjoy live television and real-time content in ways that were previously not possible, bringing the journey closer than ever to the world beyond the aircraft."

Tarek El Mitwalli, Executive Vice President of Aviation at Neo Space Group, commented: "This milestone reflects the convergence of aviation, space, and digital infrastructure. Activating NSG Skywaves® on Saudia's inaugural Airbus A321XLR demonstrates how sovereign space capabilities can be translated into real-world operational services that enhance airline performance and passenger connectivity alike. Together with Saudia and our broader ecosystem of partners, we are helping shape a

more connected, resilient, and digitally enabled future for aviation."

The deployment builds on NSG's broader aviation connectivity strategy, which is rapidly expanding across regional and international airline fleets through NSG Skywaves®, its next-generation IFC platform designed to support the evolving demands of connected aircraft and digital passenger experiences.

De Havilland Canada Delivers 1st Twin Otter Classic 300-G to Ethiopian Airlines



De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (De Havilland Canada) is pleased to announce the delivery of the first of two Twin Otter Classic 300-G aircraft to Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest airline. The aircraft will support Ethiopian Airlines' efforts to expand regional connectivity and provide access to remote communities, tourism destinations, and lake regions across Ethiopia and East Africa.

"We appreciate Ethiopian Airlines' confidence in De Havilland Canada and the Twin Otter Classic 300-G," said Ryan DeBrusk, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, De Havilland Canada "The Twin Otter's proven reliability, versatility, and ability to operate in challenging environments make it well suited to the diverse missions Ethiopian Airlines will undertake across the region. We value the trust Ethiopian Airlines has placed in De Havilland Canada and look forward to supporting their continued growth and commitment to connecting communities throughout East Africa."

The Twin Otter Classic 300-G combines the legendary aircraft's proven short takeoff and landing (STOL)

performance which offers a greater payload capability, with a modern Garmin G1000 integrated flight deck, new Lightweight Cabin Seats, enhanced electrical systems, and upgraded cockpit ergonomics. Building on decades of proven performance, the 300-G delivers greater operational efficiency and mission flexibility while retaining the rugged capabilities that enable operators to serve destinations where other aircraft cannot. "The delivery of our first Twin Otter Classic 300-G is an important milestone in our regional growth strategy," said Mesfin Tasew, Group Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Airlines. "This aircraft will enable us to better serve remote areas while supporting tourism, economic development, and essential air services throughout the region."

The first delivery marks the beginning of Ethiopian Airlines' Twin Otter Classic 300-G fleet expansion, with a second aircraft scheduled for delivery later in 2026.

TRU Simulation Expands High-Fidelity King Air Training With Transport Canada Qualification



TRU Simulation + Training Inc. has received Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCAA) Level D qualification for its Odyssey Aura Full Flight Simulator (FFS) configured for the Beechcraft King Air 200 and 300. The simulator will support pilot training at Exchange Income Corporation's (EIC) Winnipeg, Canada, facility, where EIC Flight Training Academy will maintain the device and provide training across the organization.

Why it matters

The qualified simulator allows pilots

to train on both King Air 200 and 300 aircraft variants on a single device, improving training efficiency while maintaining a high-fidelity experience. The simulator supports mission-ready training for a range of special mission and commercial operations, including air ambulance services, special missions and operations in remote and austere environments.

About the King Air 200/300 FFS

The convertible full flight simulator supports King Air 200 and 300 aircraft equipped with Garmin G1000 NXi avionics

The dual configuration capability increases training flexibility and efficiency while supporting safe, reliable operations for crews flying in some of Canada's most challenging conditions

Air India Entrusts Lufthansa Technik With Long-Term A350 APU Support



Air India and Lufthansa Technik have recently concluded a multi-year contract covering the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of the Auxiliary Power Units (APUs) of the Indian carrier's growing Airbus A350 fleet. Under the agreement, comprehensive technical support will exclusively be provided for 40 Honeywell HGT1700 APUs, strengthening Lufthansa Technik's leading position in maintenance for this APU type. All services will be carried out in the company's specialized APU workshops in Hamburg, Germany.

As an official authorized warranty and maintenance provider for the Honeywell HGT1700 APU – designed exclusively for the Airbus A350 – Lufthansa Technik brings extensive technical expertise and certified capabilities to ensure optimal reliability

and performance. The cooperation includes a comprehensive MRO service portfolio, covering spare APU support as well as engineering services.

Jeremy Yew Jin Kit, Senior Vice President, Engineering and Maintenance, Air India, said: "The signing of this exclusive long-term agreement marks another important milestone in Air India's growing partnership with Lufthansa Technik. As India's first Airbus A350 operator, we require a maintenance partner with extensive technical expertise and a strong track record in supporting next-generation aircraft systems. Lufthansa Technik's capabilities in maintaining HGT1700 APUs provide us with the confidence and reliability needed to support our expanding A350 operations. Together with our ongoing Boeing 777 component support program, this agreement further reinforces our strong collaboration."

Johanna Koch, Vice President Corporate Sales Asia Pacific at Lufthansa Technik, commented: "We would like to thank Air India once again for their trust and for awarding Lufthansa Technik to provide APU maintenance services. Having delivered exceptional component support on Air India's Boeing 777 fleet, we are delighted to further expand our collaboration to include the Airbus A350 fleet. As Air India continues its transformation journey, we are proud to be a trusted partner at their side."

Boeing Delivers Riyadh Air's 1st 2 787 Dreamliner Jets



Boeing and Riyadh Air announced that the new carrier's first two passenger airplanes, 787 Dreamliners, were delivered and arrived in Riyadh, a milestone for the airline as it prepares

to launch commercial service.

"To see our very first custom-built 787 Dreamliner airplanes touch down in Riyadh is a historic moment for us, and a momentous day for Saudi aviation," said Riyadh Air CEO Tony Douglas. "I couldn't be more excited or more confident about the future and the legacy we are creating. Not only are we building an airline, we are opening a new gateway to the world from the heart of the Kingdom. We are absolutely ready and excited to welcome the world to Riyadh."

The deliveries are a step forward for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's aviation strategy, which aims to attract 150 million visitors and serve 330 million passengers annually by 2030. Riyadh Air's fleet plan includes up to 72 787 airplanes that will play a central role in connecting the Kingdom to regional and long-haul markets, including Europe, Asia, Africa and North America. "Riyadh Air is bringing to life a vision of modern world-class travel, and we are delighted to support them as they open new possibilities for the Kingdom and the world," said Stephanie Pope, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "The 787 Dreamliner gives Riyadh Air unmatched efficiency, flexibility across routes and a beautiful interior that will deliver a phenomenal travel experience."

Riyadh Air plans to serve more than 100 destinations by 2030, deploying early 787 flights to cities including London, Cairo and Jeddah.

World's Longest-range Aircraft, the Airbus A350-1000ULR Takes to the Skies



The A350-1000ULR (MSN 707), the first of 12 aircraft ordered by Qantas has completed its first flight in Toulouse, France. The aircraft, fitted with special flight test instrumentation, flew for

three hours 43 minutes reaching an altitude of slightly above 41,000 feet. The aircraft was flown by a dedicated Airbus Flight Test crew.

The A350-1000ULR is being developed for Qantas Airways to enable non-stop flights between Sydney and London for the first time ever - a distance of almost 10,000 nautical miles, with flight times of up to 22 hours. This is made possible primarily by the integration into the aircraft structure of an additional rear centre tank (RCT), enhancing further the aircraft performance and increasing the range of the aircraft by 1,000 nautical miles.

During the first flight the crew carried out general aircraft performance checks and tested the new fuel system architecture. This marks the start of a two month flight test campaign to certify the modifications. In addition, a new galley air cooling system will also be certified, which features lighter and more efficient refrigeration units for very long flights. The ventilation and temperature control of the cabin will also be thoroughly tested.

Following the flight test campaign, MSN 707 will be retrofitted to Qantas' commercial specifications.

The second A350-1000ULR to be produced for Qantas and the first scheduled to be delivered to the airline in April 2027, is now at an advanced stage of final assembly and ready to roll out of the paint shop in the coming days. This will be followed by completion of the premium four class cabin layout and engine installation.

The A350-1000ULR is the fourth passenger variant of the best-selling A350 Family, joining the A350-900, A350-900ULR and the A350-1000. Together, the aircraft have set new standards in long haul air travel, with a step-change reduction in fuel consumption and carbon emissions, and new levels of passenger comfort.

The passenger line-up will soon be joined by the all-new A350F freighter, also currently under development at Airbus, with first flight planned later this year.

At the end of April 2026, the A350

Family had won 1,579 orders from 68 customers, with over 700 aircraft flying with 41 operators, primarily on long haul services across the globe.

Qantas has ordered 12 A350-1000ULRs under Project Sunrise, designed to overcome one of the last frontiers in non-stop travel from Australia. In addition the carrier also has 12 standard A350-1000s on order for future operation across its long haul network.

AerCap Delivers 1st of 3 New Airbus A321neo Aircraft to Azerbaijan Airlines



AerCap Holdings N.V. announced that it has delivered the first of three new Airbus A321neo aircraft to Azerbaijan Airlines ("AZAL"). The aircraft was handed over at a special ceremony at the Airbus Delivery Centre in Hamburg, marking the introduction of the A321neo into AZAL's fleet.

This delivery is part of a broader program agreed in 2024, which includes three A321neo and three A320neo aircraft. The first two A320neos were delivered earlier this year, with the remaining aircraft scheduled for delivery through November 2026.

"AerCap is very pleased to be the first lessor to introduce the A321neo to AZAL, helping the airline to expand and modernize its fleet," said Peter Anderson, Chief Commercial Officer, AerCap. "The addition of these new, fuel-efficient aircraft will enhance AZAL's operational capabilities, support its network expansion, and deliver an improved passenger experience. We value our partnership with AZAL and look forward to continuing to support the airline in the years ahead."

EMBRAER'S PRAETOR 500E ACHIEVES TRIPLE CERTIFICATION FROM ANAC, FAA, AND EASA

Embraer announced that the Praetor 500E has received triple certification from Brazil's Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC — Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

Introduced in February 2026 alongside the Praetor 600E as the first evolution of the industry-leading Praetor family, the Praetor 500E is now approved for operation in key global markets. This milestone follows the Praetor 600E's triple certification in April 2026, marking an important step for Embraer's next generation of midsize and super-midsize business jets, having met rigorous global safety and performance standards.

"The Praetor 500E builds on the strengths of the Praetor platform, a category leader in performance and technology, now enhanced with a next-generation cabin experience," said Michael Amalfitano, President and CEO of Embraer Executive Jets. "Achieving triple certification ahead of schedule and on spec is a strong testament to our engineering excellence, enterprise efficiency, and disciplined execution. With this impressive



milestone, we are well positioned to produce this aircraft for customers worldwide. We remain focused on delivering the ultimate experience to our customers and look forward to continuing the strong market reception the Praetor 500E has already received alongside the Praetor 600E."

With a transcontinental range of 3,340 nautical miles (6,186 km), carrying four passengers with NBAA IFR reserves, the Praetor 500E enables nonstop flights across North America, including routes such as Miami-Seattle and Los Angeles-New York. Complementing this performance capability, the aircraft has an increased payload capability and features a completely reimagined cabin,

with all-new Embraer-designed seating, an advanced Cabin Management System (CMS), and next-generation innovations that enhance comfort, productivity, and connectivity.

The fastest and furthest-flying midsize jet also features Embraer's comprehensive avionics suite—including class-exclusive full fly-by-wire technology with active turbulence reduction, the Embraer Enhanced Vision System (E2VS), and the Runway Overrun Awareness and Alerting System (ROAAS). Together, these systems reduce pilot workload, enhance situational awareness, and support smoother flights while expanding operational flexibility to a broader range of destinations.

JOBY AVIATION AND TOYOTA MOTOR LAUNCH INITIAL PHASE OF A STRATEGIC MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE TO REALIZE AIR MOBILITY FOR ALL

Joby Aviation, Inc. and Toyota Motor Corporation announced the initial phase of their strategic manufacturing alliance by establishing the Joint Venture to realize air mobility. This will combine Joby's pioneering work in electric aviation with Toyota's globally recognized expertise in production systems and operational excellence.

The Strategic Alliance will initially focus on establishing the groundwork for commercial production, and advancing manufacturing excellence, with particular emphasis on further improving productivity, quality, and cost. Going forward, it will also support the expansion of Joby's production capacity to support aircraft certification and meet anticipated growth in demand for its electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

"Toyota has been by Joby's side for nearly a decade, providing invaluable guidance and support as we built the foundation for manufacturing our aircraft," said Joe Ben Bevirt, founder and CEO of Joby Aviation. "Today's announcement reflects the strength of our relationship and our shared



confidence in the opportunity ahead. Together, we share a vision of making aerial mobility an everyday reality, and we look forward to delivering on that promise together." Akio Toyoda, Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation, commented: "Since our founding, we've been guided by the philosophy of providing mobility for all. Over time, we've continued to expand what mobility can mean. We see air mobility as a natural extension of that philosophy—from the ground into the sky—and as

a way to bring new value to people's lives and to society. It's really meaningful for us to take on this challenge together with Joby, a partner that shares the same vision. We believe this strengthened relationship is an important step forward in realizing the future mobility society."

Going forward, both companies will continue to work closely together through this Joint Venture, leveraging their respective strengths to bring air mobility to society on a broader scale.

DASSAULT AVIATION: DASSAULT'S FALCON 10X MAKES MAIDEN FLIGHT



Dassault Aviation's all-new Falcon 10X has successfully completed its first flight, demonstrating the program's maturity and marking the launch of the flight test campaign.

"This inaugural flight is another milestone for Dassault," said Chairman and CEO Eric Trappier. "It is a reflection of the dedication and high skill of our engineering, production, and flight teams, and also the quality of our global network of partners. All of us are excited to see this day as we launch into a new phase for the 10X."

Test Pilot Sébastien Dupont de Dinechin and copilot Fabrice Dougnac took off from runway 23 at Bordeaux-Mérignac at 11.10 a.m. for a two-hour and 30-minute flight. The pilots evaluated handling qualities and systems at 15,000 feet, then retracted the landing gear and all movable surfaces before climbing to 40,000 feet, where they accelerated to Mach 0.82. They returned to Bordeaux-Mérignac for a smooth landing at 1.40 p.m.

"Today's flight was the culmination of years of work by thousands of Dassault employees and partners," commented de Dinechin. "It paid off in a flight that went as planned and was a delight to fly".

The first aircraft will be soon followed into the air by a second test aircraft nearing completion, and by a third, that is being outfitted with a full interior and will be used mainly for systems and cabin functional and reliability testing.

Dassault Aviation is the only aircraft manufacturer in the world to have a completely new aircraft in flight in 2026. Dassault's dual expertise—in civil and defense—is a long-term strength for the company.

BOMBARDIER DELIVERS 1ST GLOBAL 8000 IN AFRICA TO NIGERIA-BASED BUA GROUP



Bombardier announced the delivery of the first Global 8000 aircraft in Africa to BUA Group, a Nigerian-based multinational company with interests across cement, food, oil and gas, energy, infrastructure, ports and terminals, and real estate. The aircraft will support BUA Group's long-range travel requirements, enabling seamless non-stop connections from Lagos to key business destinations around the world, including Los Angeles, Perth, and Tokyo(1).

"The Global 8000 offers the range, speed, comfort, and reliability required to support our international business activities," said Abdul Samad Rabi, Founder and Chairman of BUA Group. "For a group with international operations and commitments, the ability to reach more destinations non-stop while maintaining comfort and productivity on board is an important advantage."

"The delivery of Africa's first Global 8000 to BUA Group is a significant milestone for both organizations and a proud moment in the strong relationship we have built over the years," said Éric Martel, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bombardier. "We are honoured by BUA Group's continued trust in Bombardier and pleased to support its international travel requirements with our flagship Global 8000 aircraft."

The Bombardier flagship Global 8000 is designed for customers seeking exceptional speed, range, cabin comfort, and productivity on demanding intercontinental missions. With an industry-leading top speed of Mach 0.95, a range of 8,000 nautical miles, and the lowest cabin altitude in business aviation production at just 2,691 ft (1), the Global 8000 helps passengers arrive faster and better rested. The aircraft offers four true living spaces, a dedicated crew rest area, Bombardier's signature Smooth Flex Wing, and the smooth ride that has become a hallmark of the Global aircraft family.

"We are proud to see the Global 8000 enter service in Africa with BUA Group, a long-standing and valued Bombardier customer," said Hani Haddadin, Regional Vice President, Bombardier Aviation. "The Global 8000 represents the third new Bombardier aircraft delivered to BUA Group, underscoring the group's continued confidence in Bombardier's products, people and global support network."

CESSNA CITATION M2 GEN3 TAKES 1ST FLIGHT, ADVANCING NEXT-GEN LIGHT JET PROGRAM

Textron Aviation Inc., a Textron Inc. company, reached a major development milestone in its next-generation light jet portfolio as the Cessna Citation M2 Gen3 prototype successfully completed its first flight. The aircraft will now enter an expanded phase of flight testing as the company works toward Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification and a planned entry into service in 2027.

"The aircraft systems and software performed as intended throughout the flight, with all validation checks completed successfully, contributing to a smooth and uneventful flight," said Tanner Towns, flight test engineer. "This flight confirms the strong foundation we've built as we move into the next phase of testing."

The initial flight, piloted by Andrew Thorson and Towns, lasted 2.7 hours and focused on evaluating aircraft handling and key systems. The M2 Gen3 reached a maximum altitude of 41,000 feet and a maximum speed of 263 knots.

"This milestone reflects the dedication and expertise of our team and highlights our commitment to designing, certifying and



delivering the best aircraft for our customers," said Chris Hearne, senior vice president, Engineering & Programs. "With this prototype now in our flight test program, we are continuing rigorous evaluation as we move steadily toward certification."

The first flight underscores continued momentum across Textron Aviation's next-generation Cessna Citation lineup and reinforces the company's ongoing investment in the light jet segment. Designed with

confidence and ease of operation in mind, the Citation M2 Gen3 brings Garmin Emergency Autoland technology to the cockpit, offering added peace of mind for pilots and passengers.

Paired with the Garmin G3000 avionics suite and autothrottle capabilities, the M2 Gen3 reflects growing customer demand for intuitive flight deck technology and a seamless flying experience, while maintaining the performance and reliability expected from the Citation family

A PERFECT SCORE: GULFSTREAM DELIVERS 100TH G700 AND COMPLETES 100TH G700 SPEED RECORD

Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced its 100th customer delivery and the 100th city-pair speed record for the Gulfstream G700, underscoring the exceptional performance and speed of the aircraft, backed by Gulfstream's advanced manufacturing excellence and widespread customer demand.

"The G700 has once again set a new benchmark, firmly establishing itself as the business aviation industry flagship," said Mark Burns, president, Gulfstream. "As deliveries have increased, so has customer demand. Thanks to the investments Gulfstream and our parent company, General Dynamics, have made in next-generation manufacturing technology and facilities, the G700 quality and maturity are second to none. I am incredibly proud of the Gulfstream team, whose dedication and expertise continues to create and deliver the world's finest aviation experience."

The 100th G700 city-pair speed record connected Savannah with San Jose, California, in 4 hours and 36 minutes at an average cruise speed of Mach 0.91. The aircraft then flew from San Jose to



Teterboro, New Jersey, making that record-setting flight in 4 hours and 14 minutes, also at Mach 0.91.

The G700 is produced at Gulfstream's advanced manufacturing campus in Savannah, which enhances operational efficiency through high-technology tooling, advanced robotics and precision assembly methods. As a result, customers benefit from aircraft that roll off the production line demonstrating exceptional performance from day one.

With Gulfstream's next-generation

Symmetry Flight Deck, the G700 features active control sidesticks and the industry's most extensive use of touch-screen technology paired with Phase-of-Flight intelligence, which reduces pilot workload to help enhance safety. Additional safety features include Gulfstream's Combined Vision System on dual head-up display, merging Enhanced Flight Vision System and Synthetic Vision System into a single image to increase pilot situational awareness and open access to more airports.

HONEYWELL AEROSPACE SECURES T55 ENGINE REPAIR AND OVERHAUL CONTRACT WITH US ARMY



Honeywell Aerospace has been awarded a three-year Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract for the repair and overhaul (R60) of its T55-GA-714A Turboshaft engines that power CH-47 Chinook helicopters around the globe. This contract award will ensure the Chinook fleets of the U.S. Army and foreign military customers continue to operate with high readiness and unmatched performance. The engines will be serviced at Honeywell's Engine Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Center at the company's Aerospace headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona.

"Honeywell Aerospace is proud to be the world-class provider of R60 services for the T55 engine used by CH-47 Chinook operators across the globe," said Dave Marinick, president, Engines & Power Systems, Honeywell Aerospace. "Honeywell has been providing support and improvements for the T55 since its inception in the 1960s, and we look forward to continuing that support for decades to come."

Honeywell Aerospace has leveraged the proven best commercial practices of its Phoenix facility to increase T55 R60 capacity and reduce repair turnaround times.

"For the T55 R60 line, we use the same proven and robust processes that we use on our FAA-certified line to service industry-leading turboprop engines used on premier business jets," said Brian Laughton, senior director and site leader of Honeywell Aerospace's Phoenix R60 facility. "Capitalizing on these proven commercial processes has enabled us to double our capacity in the facility and reduce cycle time to ensure we are meeting delivery commitments to our customers."

As a world leader in heavy lift, the CH-47 Chinook helicopter is used by the U.S. Army, more than 15 foreign militaries, as well as several commercial operators. Since 1961, Honeywell has grown the horsepower of the T55 engine three-fold, while also improving fuel efficiency and lowering the maintenance burden for operators.

UP TO GBP70M INVESTMENT IN ESSENTIAL SPARES FOR UK MILITARY AIRCRAFT



The National Armaments Director (NAD) Group has awarded a £27 million contract to Leonardo (UK) Ltd to supply critical aircraft consumable spares across the UK's entire fixed-wing and rotary-wing fleet.

The National Armaments Director Group has awarded an initial £27 million contract to Leonardo (UK) Ltd to supply critical consumable spares for the UK Armed Forces' entire fixed-wing and rotary-wing fleet, including aircraft on live operations in the Middle East.

The Aircraft Consumables Commodities contract covers approximately 11,000 NATO-approved "stock numbers" and will run for up to seven years, providing long-term resilience in the supply of essential aircraft spares.

Leonardo will take responsibility for spares forecasting, stock procurement and obsolescence management across key platforms including Typhoon, Apache, Chinook, A400M and C-17.

The National Armaments Director (NAD) Group has awarded a £27 million contract to Leonardo (UK) Ltd to supply critical aircraft consumable spares across the UK's entire fixed-wing and rotary-wing fleet.

The Aircraft Consumables Commodities (ACC) contract will sustain defence aviation capability for up to seven years, with a total potential investment of up to £70 million, and supports 75 jobs across the UK defence industry.

The three-year contract, with the option to extend for four additional one-year periods, covers the sourcing of approximately 11,000 NATO Stock Numbers (NSNs) - the standardised catalogue references used to identify and procure military equipment. The agreement ensures a reliable and uninterrupted supply of airworthy consumable spares essential for keeping aircraft operational, from blind rivets and washers to cable ties and face masks - all of which play an important role in mission readiness.

Aircraft covered under the contract include Typhoon fighter jets, Apache and Chinook helicopters, and A400M and C-17 transport aircraft, a number of which are currently deployed in support of live operations in the Middle East. The ACC contract therefore plays a direct role in sustaining the UK's ability to project military force and respond to international commitments.

Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry, Luke Pollard MP said: "This investment will be crucial in maintaining the military aircraft that keep the UK safe at home and secure abroad, from defending NATO's airspace from the Russian drone threat to protecting British citizens and partners in the Middle East."

"We're making sure the UK's historic rise in defence spending is an engine for growth, boosting opportunities across the country including supporting 75 jobs through this contract."

P&W F119 ENGINE SURPASSES ONE MILLION FLIGHT HOURS



Pratt & Whitney, an RTX business, announced that the F119 engine has surpassed one million engine flight hours powering the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor. In achieving this milestone, the F119 has established itself as the pioneering fifth-generation fighter engine, delivering superior performance, advanced stealth, thrust vectoring and supercruise capability to the U.S. Air Force's premier air superiority fighter.

"The F119 engine plays a critical role in maintaining air dominance for the U.S. Air Force, as it enables the F-22 mission," said Jill Albertelli, president of Military Engines for Pratt & Whitney. "Having powered the F-22 Raptor since it launched over 20 years ago, the engine continues to provide unmatched capability, safety and readiness rates. This milestone demonstrates Pratt & Whitney's commitment to delivering for our customers."

Two F119 engines power each F-22 Raptor, delivering unparalleled aircraft maneuverability, operational capability and the ability to sustain supersonic speeds without afterburner—known as supercruise. The engine incorporates stealth technologies and a unique thrust-vectoring nozzle that provide unprecedented speed, agility, precision and situational awareness.

Pratt & Whitney's F119 engine delivers a generational leap in performance and reliability, giving warfighters the assurance that it will be ready to meet mission demands. It has compiled an exceptional track record of safety, dependability and performance since entering service, serving as the technological foundation for the F135 engine that powers the F-35 Lightning II.

To help maintain mission readiness, Pratt & Whitney's sustainment network supports the F-22 fleet through comprehensive depot facilities and ongoing modernization efforts. The F119 engine continues to innovate through tools like Model-Based Systems Engineering and Usage-Based Lifing, along with ongoing component improvements, ensuring the aircraft remains operationally viable for decades to come.

Pratt & Whitney delivered the final production F119 engine in 2013 and continues to support the global F-22 fleet through long-term sustainment services.

AFI KLM E&M AND LOT POLISH AIRLINES EXTEND LONG-TERM COMPONENT SUPPORT AGREEMENT FOR BOEING 737 FLEET



Air France Industries KLM Engineering & Maintenance (AFI KLM E&M) and LOT Polish Airlines have signed an extension of their long-standing component support agreement for the airline's Boeing 737 fleet. The renewed agreement expands coverage to a total of 31 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft and extends the partnership until 2033.

The agreement reinforces the successful cooperation between the two companies and reflects LOT Polish Airlines' continued confidence in AFI KLM E&M's component support capabilities. Through its dedicated Boeing 737NG/MAX component pool solution, AFI KLM E&M will continue to support LOT's fleet operations with reliable component availability, optimized logistics, and high operational performance.

Marcel Kuijn, Vice President Sales Europe at AFI KLM E&M, said: "We are proud to further strengthen our partnership with LOT Polish Airlines through this long-term agreement extension. The decision to expand the scope of the contract and continue our collaboration until 2033 reflects the trust LOT places in our teams, expertise, and component support solutions. We remain fully committed to supporting LOT's operational performance and fleet growth ambitions in the years ahead."

Dorota Dmuchowska, Chief Operating Officer of LOT Polish Airlines, added: "In an increasingly demanding environment for the aviation industry, strengthening cooperation with a trusted and experienced partner is more important than ever. Extending our long-term agreement with KLM enables us to build on a proven cooperation model and secure stable component support for our operations. We believe this collaboration will continue to support the safe, reliable and cost-effective performance of LOT's fleet, while creating a strong foundation for its continued growth."

The renewed agreement also highlights AFI KLM E&M's position as a trusted MRO partner for airlines operating next-generation Boeing fleets worldwide.

GA TELESIS ENGINE SERVICES (GATES) SECURES 1ST SOUTH KOREAN ENGINE MRO CONTRACT FROM JEJU AIR FOLLOWING MOLIT CERTIFICATION



GA Telesis Engine Services ("GATES"), the engine MRO subsidiary of GA Telesis LLC, is pleased to announce the award of its first engine maintenance contract from a leading South Korean airline following recent Approved Maintenance Organization (AMO) certification from the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT).

Under the agreement, GATES will provide MRO services for CFM56-7B engines operated by Jeju Air, one of South Korea's leading low-cost carriers. This contract marks an important milestone for GATES as it begins supporting South Korean operators under its newly obtained MOLIT approval.

The engagement follows GATES' successful achievement of MOLIT certification for CFM56-5B, CFM56-7B, and CF6-80C2 engine platforms, secured earlier this year, enabling the company to provide approved maintenance services to operators in South Korea.

"We are honored that Jeju Air has selected GATES for this engine maintenance contract," said Avinash Singh, VP of Sales - APAC & MEA of GATES. "We appreciate the trust placed by Jeju Air in our team and look forward to demonstrating the responsiveness, technical expertise, and customer service that GATES is known for."

"We are pleased to partner with GA Telesis as its first South Korean engine MRO customer following the company's certification by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT). We look forward to leveraging GATES' global expertise and technical capabilities to support the reliability of Jeju Air's operations and enhance service quality for our customers," said J.G. Lee, Head of Fleet Management Team.

AIR INDIA ENTRUSTS LUFTHANSA TECHNIK WITH LONG-TERM A350 APU SUPPORT



Air India and Lufthansa Technik have recently concluded a multi-year contract covering the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of the Auxiliary Power Units (APUs) of the Indian carrier's growing Airbus A350 fleet. Under the agreement, comprehensive technical support will exclusively be provided for 40 Honeywell HGT1700 APUs, strengthening Lufthansa Technik's leading position in maintenance for this APU type. All services will be carried out in the company's specialized APU workshops in Hamburg, Germany.

As an official authorized warranty and maintenance provider for the Honeywell HGT1700 APU - designed exclusively for the Airbus A350 - Lufthansa Technik brings extensive technical expertise and certified capabilities to ensure optimal reliability and performance. The cooperation includes a comprehensive MRO service portfolio, covering spare APU support as well as engineering services.

Jeremy Yew Jin Kit, Senior Vice President, Engineering and Maintenance, Air India, said: "The signing of this exclusive long-term agreement marks another important milestone in Air India's growing partnership with Lufthansa Technik. As India's first Airbus A350 operator, we require a maintenance partner with extensive technical expertise and a strong track record in supporting next-generation aircraft systems. Lufthansa Technik's capabilities in maintaining HGT1700 APUs provide us with the confidence and reliability needed to support our expanding A350 operations. Together with our ongoing Boeing 777 component support program, this agreement further reinforces our strong collaboration."

Johanna Koch, Vice President Corporate Sales Asia Pacific at Lufthansa Technik, commented: "We would like to thank Air India once again for their trust and for awarding Lufthansa Technik to provide APU maintenance services. Having delivered exceptional component support on Air India's Boeing 777 fleet, we are delighted to further expand our collaboration to include the Airbus A350 fleet. As Air India continues its transformation journey, we are proud to be a trusted partner at their side."

RTX'S COLLINS AEROSPACE QUADRUPLES MRO FOOTPRINT IN MALAYSIA



Collins Aerospace, an RTX business, has expanded its maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility at Subang Aerotech Park in Malaysia. The \$63 million investment quadruples the company's Selangor MRO footprint, growing from 46,000 to 164,000 square feet, and establishes Subang as its key regional hub for advanced component MRO.

The transition to the new facility in Subang Aerotech Park is planned to be complete by the end of this year, enabling support for the region's growing fleet, which is expected to double MRO demand in the next two decades.

"The Asia-Pacific region is a key growth market for the industry, and this investment ensures that we grow alongside our customers," said Irene Makris, president of Power & Controls at Collins Aerospace. "Malaysia offers the right environment for us to scale, and we are planning to double employment opportunities for skilled talent in the region to keep pace with growing demand. The Subang expansion optimizes operations and regional support for our customers, providing faster turnaround times and more efficient service."

Subang is introducing advanced MRO capabilities supporting a variety of aircraft, including air cycle machines, heat exchangers, valves and new generation starters. The Subang facility will also leverage advanced technologies like digital tier boards, eAndon, autonomous mobile robots and real time location systems to increase productivity and lower turnaround times.

The facility has been designed with long-term operational resilience in mind. A smart building management system monitors and optimizes resource and utility consumption while integrated safety systems and a scalable platform allow for continuous improvement. New equipment incorporates enhanced ergonomic design and reduced environmental impact.

"Malaysia warmly welcomes Collins Aerospace's expansion of its MRO footprint in Subang, a vote of confidence not just in our infrastructure, but in our people and our long-term potential," said YB Loke Siew Fook, Malaysia Minister of Transport.

"This investment reflects exactly the kind of high-value, skills-intensive growth we want to anchor here. As we work to expand the local workforce at this facility, we are also deepening Malaysia's talent pipeline in advanced aerospace maintenance and engineering. The Asia-Pacific aviation market is growing fast, and Malaysia is well-positioned to be at the center of that growth. We will continue to create a business-friendly environment through competitive policy, strategic investment, and strong industry partnerships, to make Malaysia the first choice for aerospace players looking to expand in this region," he added.

SIA ENGINEERING COMPANY AND SAFRAN AIRCRAFT ENGINES TO FORM CFM LEAP ENGINE MRO JV IN SINGAPORE



SGX Mainboard-listed SIA Engineering Company Limited (SIAEC, together with its subsidiaries, the SIAEC Group) and Safran Aircraft Engines have signed a joint venture agreement to establish a full-fledged CFM LEAP engine shop in Singapore to provide engine maintenance, repair and overhaul services for the LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B. The signing of this Joint Venture agreement marks a key milestone in the collaboration between the parties following the letter of intent signed on 25 November 2025 to deepen LEAP engine maintenance support in Singapore. Under the joint venture agreement, Safran Aircraft Engines will hold a 51% equity stake in the joint venture company, with SIAEC holding the remaining 49%.

SIAEC currently performs LEAP engine Quick Turn maintenance for Safran Aircraft Engines at its Aircraft Engine Services facility in Changi North. The Quick Turn operations will be integrated into the joint venture company, forming the foundation for a future state-of-the-art engine MRO facility in Singapore. The new facility will expand the engine shop visit capacity as well as give rise to a broader and deeper scope of service for LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B engines as the global LEAP fleet continues to grow.

Mr. Wong Yue Jeen of SIAEC, commended the milestone, stating: "Building on our LEAP engine maintenance services agreement with SAE in 2019, the new LEAP MRO JV combines SAE's OEM expertise and SIAEC's MRO excellence, strengthening the LEAP maintenance network and enhancing SIAEC's new-generation engine capability to meet global LEAP engine maintenance demand."

"The creation of this joint company with SIA Engineering Company marks a significant step forward in strengthening our global MRO ecosystem to meet the accelerating demand for LEAP engine maintenance in Asia-Pacific," said Nicolas Potier, Executive Vice President Support & Services for SAE. "This new MRO facility brings together the expertise of both companies to provide world-class performance and reliable support, helping our airline customers optimize their operations."

FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW 2026 PREVIEW WHERE AEROSPACE INNOVATION MEETS THE NEW DEFENCE ERA

BY AVIATION UPDATE EDITORIAL TEAM





From 20–24 July 2026, the global aerospace and defence industry will once again converge at the Farnborough International Exhibition & Conference Centre in Hampshire, United Kingdom, for one of the world's most influential aerospace events—the Farnborough International Airshow (FIA) 2026. Held every two years, Farnborough has long been regarded as a strategic platform where governments, OEMs, suppliers, airlines, investors, defence agencies, and technology innovators shape the future of aviation, defence, and space.

Unlike traditional airshows that focus primarily on aircraft displays, Farnborough is a global business event where billion-dollar contracts are signed, next-generation technologies are unveiled, and strategic partnerships define the future direction of the industry. With more than 1,600 exhibitors, strong international participation, and a growing emphasis on defence, autonomous systems, sustainability, and space technologies, the 2026 edition promises to be one of the most significant in the event's history.

A Show Reflecting a Changing World

The global aerospace landscape has transformed dramatically over the past few years. Commercial aviation continues its recovery with record passenger demand, while defence spending across Europe, North America, and Asia has surged in response to evolving geopolitical realities. At the same time, artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, advanced propulsion, and digital manufacturing are reshaping both civil and military aviation.

Recognising these shifts, FIA 2026 is built around three strategic pillars:

Advancing Aerospace Propelling Defence



Pioneering Space

These themes highlight the increasingly interconnected future of commercial aviation, defence technologies, and the rapidly expanding space economy.

Defence Takes Centre Stage

If previous editions focused heavily on commercial aircraft orders, FIA 2026 is expected to showcase a noticeable shift toward defence and security.

Europe's unprecedented increase in defence investment, the continuing modernization of NATO forces, and growing emphasis on autonomous

warfare have made defence technologies one of the show's biggest attractions. Approximately half of this year's exhibitors are expected to represent defence-related capabilities, ranging from advanced missile systems and radar technologies to electronic warfare, cyber security, unmanned platforms, and integrated air defence solutions.

The Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), involving the United Kingdom, Japan, and Italy, is expected to remain one of the headline discussions. Industry observers anticipate further updates on sixth-generation fighter development, collaborative



combat aircraft, advanced propulsion systems, mission autonomy, and next-generation sensors.

Major defence manufacturers including BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, MBDA, Leonardo, Saab, RTX, Northrop Grumman, General Atomics, and numerous emerging defence startups are expected to unveil new capabilities aimed at meeting rapidly evolving military requirements.

Commercial Aviation Looks Beyond Recovery

Despite defence dominating headlines, commercial aerospace remains a cornerstone of Farnborough.

Aircraft manufacturers continue to face

unprecedented production backlogs while airlines seek more fuel-efficient fleets to meet growing passenger demand and sustainability targets.

Industry attention will focus on:

- New aircraft orders from global airlines and leasing companies
- Supply chain recovery
- Next-generation engine technologies
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)
- Hydrogen-powered aviation
- Digital aircraft manufacturing
- Airline fleet modernization

Although mega-order announcements may be more selective than previous years due to production constraints, both Airbus and Boeing are expected to leverage the event to reinforce long-term customer relationships while showcasing future aircraft technologies.

Engine manufacturers including Rolls-Royce, GE Aerospace, Pratt & Whitney, and CFM International are also expected to highlight advancements in fuel efficiency, hybrid-electric propulsion, predictive maintenance, and digital engine health monitoring.

Autonomous Systems Continue Their Rise

One of the fastest-growing sectors at Farnborough 2026 is expected to be unmanned and autonomous aviation.

Military planners increasingly view unmanned systems as force multipliers capable of operating alongside manned aircraft. Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA), loyal wingman concepts, autonomous surveillance platforms, and AI-enabled mission systems will likely dominate discussions.

Recent announcements surrounding BAE Systems' Brontanax collaborative combat aircraft and other autonomous combat platforms illustrate the industry's accelerating investment in AI-enabled defence capabilities.

Beyond military applications, autonomous technologies are rapidly finding commercial use in cargo logistics, inspection services, emergency response, infrastructure monitoring, and urban air mobility.

Visitors can expect dedicated showcases featuring:

- Tactical drones
- Long-endurance UAVs
- Counter-UAS technologies



AI-powered mission software
Autonomous logistics systems
Swarming capabilities
Electric VTOL aircraft

Space Industry Expands Its Presence

Space has become one of Farnborough's fastest-growing sectors.

Government agencies, satellite manufacturers, launch providers, and commercial space startups are expected to demonstrate how space technologies increasingly intersect with defence, communications, navigation, climate monitoring, and national security.

The growing commercial space economy presents opportunities in:

Earth observation
Satellite communications
Launch services
Space situational awareness
Defence space assets
In-orbit servicing
Lunar exploration technologies

As governments increase investment in sovereign space capabilities, Farnborough continues to strengthen its position as a major platform connecting aerospace and space ecosystems.

Sustainability Remains a Strategic Priority

While defence spending dominates today's headlines, sustainability remains one of aviation's biggest long-term challenges.

The industry continues working toward net-zero emissions through multiple technological pathways, including:

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)
Hydrogen propulsion

Hybrid-electric aircraft
Advanced lightweight materials
Improved aerodynamics
Digital flight optimization
Circular manufacturing practices

Many exhibitors are expected to demonstrate practical solutions that improve operational efficiency while reducing environmental impact.

Rather than focusing solely on future concepts, FIA 2026 is likely to emphasize technologies that airlines, manufacturers, airports, and maintenance providers can implement over the coming decade.

Digital Transformation Accelerates

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming every aspect of aerospace.

From aircraft design and manufacturing to predictive maintenance, mission planning, pilot training, and air traffic management, AI has become central to the industry's digital transformation.

Visitors can expect demonstrations covering:

AI-powered maintenance systems
Digital twins
Advanced simulation
Smart manufacturing
Robotics
Predictive analytics
Cybersecurity
Connected aircraft solutions

The convergence of AI, cloud computing, automation, and advanced sensors is expected to be one of the defining themes across multiple exhibition halls.

Supply Chain Resilience Under the Spotlight

The aerospace supply chain continues to recover from disruptions experienced over recent years.

OEMs increasingly seek suppliers capable of delivering higher production volumes while maintaining strict quality standards.

Discussions throughout the show are expected to address:

Supplier diversification
Manufacturing automation
Skilled workforce shortages
Advanced materials
Additive manufacturing
Digital quality assurance
Sustainable procurement

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will play a particularly important role, with many showcasing specialized manufacturing capabilities that support global aerospace programmes.

A Global Business Platform

Beyond aircraft displays and technology demonstrations, Farnborough remains one of the world's premier business networking events.

Delegations from governments, armed forces, airlines, airports, research institutions, investors, and international trade organizations will gather to establish partnerships, negotiate contracts, and explore investment opportunities.

The event's conference programme will feature senior executives, policymakers, defence leaders, engineers, and innovators discussing the future of aerospace, defence, advanced air mobility, workforce development, cybersecurity, and international collaboration.

With participation from dozens of countries and a strong international exhibitor base, FIA 2026 reinforces its role as a truly global marketplace for aerospace innovation.



Looking Ahead

Farnborough International Airshow 2026 arrives at a defining moment for the global aerospace industry. Commercial aviation is entering a new phase of growth, defence modernization is accelerating worldwide, autonomous technologies are reshaping military operations, and the space economy continues to expand at an unprecedented pace.

The event will serve not only as a showcase for cutting-edge aircraft and breakthrough technologies but also as a strategic forum where industry leaders define priorities for the next decade. From sustainable aviation and digital manufacturing to collaborative combat aircraft, advanced propulsion, and commercial space, the innovations unveiled at Farnborough will influence investment decisions,

procurement strategies, and international partnerships well beyond the exhibition halls.

For aerospace professionals, defence organizations, suppliers, airlines, investors, and policymakers, Farnborough International Airshow 2026 is far more than an exhibition—it is where the future of global aerospace takes shape.

INTRODUCING SCALABLE ARCHITECTURES FOR A FUTURE-READY GROUND SEGMENT



Defence organisations are facing a significant challenge within their ground segments. To keep up with evolving demands, they must modernise their SATCOM infrastructure without operational disruption.

In many cases, utilising a modular approach to ground architecture can provide a solution. Modularity enables a phased approach, which facilitates a gradual transition – whether in the analogue or digital domain – and supports the continued utilisation of legacy systems without impeding system evolution.

'Future-ready infrastructure' doesn't have to mean starting from scratch. By building on what they already have in place with scalable, adaptable technologies, operators can position themselves to meet future need without disruption or prohibitive resource drain.

Scaling through RF: As satellite communications systems evolve, driven by events like high-throughput satellites (HTS) coming online, the proliferation of LEO/MEO constellations, and the virtualisation movement, the ground segment must change with them.

Traditional architectures, which are hardware-bound, can struggle to meet these demands. Scalable systems allow incremental change, enabling organisations to grow their capacity and introduce or tailor capabilities without system redesign.

Legacy RF technology delivers proven reliability, low latency and an established level of performance that is critical to mission assurance. However, scalability is limited.

The advent of modern RF technologies, including RF over fibre and modular matrix architectures, allows defence organisations to add new antennas or frequency bands with minimal system-level changes and reconfigure signal paths dynamically, without compromising redundancy and resilience.

Many of these technologies are now available as part of a fully modular RF platform, consolidating traditionally separate functions into a single housing. Approaches such as ETL's GENUS ecosystem reflect this trend, enabling switching and distribution capabilities to be co-located within a more compact, flexible unit. This can be particularly valuable in more dynamic environments, as in LEO/MEO ground stations, where requirements evolve rapidly and 'plug and play', modular scalability is key.

By investing in such technologies, operators can extend both the life and value of existing systems while preparing for future expansion.

LEONARDO AND BAYKAR SET MAJOR MILESTONE FOR ADVANCED CREWED/ UNCREWED CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT WITH SUCCESSFUL 1ST K-SWARM LIVE TRIALS



Leonardo and Baykar set a major milestone in the development of Crewed/UnCrewed Teaming (CUC-T) and swarm tactics capabilities, after successfully completing the first phase of live testing activities for the K-SWARM programme. The programme is aimed at designing and developing interoperability between crewed and uncrewed aircraft.

Collaborative combat teaming has increasingly become a key enabler of future combat air systems, and part of the evolution of current generation fighters. Today's design of Crewed/UnCrewed Teaming (CUC-T) is one of the fundamental strands for the transformation of military and security tools in all domains. Its' importance is not only technological, but also operational, doctrinal and industrial. The testing was carried out in May at one of Baykar's flight and test center in Çorlu, Türkiye. The flight test campaign involved two Leonardo M-346 airplanes - a Leonardo owned M-346 Fighter Attack Variant, with an Italian Air Force's T-346A acting as chase aircraft - and the Bayraktar KIZILELMA Uncrewed Fighter Aircraft.

Testing activities consisted of a series of missions aimed at assessing latest generation algorithms as well as the relevant tactics and procedures developed by Leonardo at its Avionic, Flight Control Innovation Labs and product capability and concept laboratory, PC2LAB, in Turin, linked with an M-346 Full Mission Simulator in Venegono, Italy. In parallel, leveraging state-of-the-art software and hardware at Baykar facilities, Baykar integrated advanced smart fleet autonomy capabilities into the CUC-T algorithms. KIZILELMA's advanced autonomy capabilities greatly simplified the integration process, allowing for seamless implementation and rapid deployment.

These were brought into action during the M-346/KIZILELMA formation flights, supporting the validation of advanced collaboration and coordination of different high performance combat platforms and air systems, as the programme marked the transition from simulation to live operations.

An advanced radio frequency data exchange system allowed for the synchronization of all data shared between the M-346 and KIZILELMA platforms, protected by Leonardo GCC Tactical Platform. This proprietary cyber defence platform protects and monitors systems in real time, allowing for effective command and control of the planned flight formations.

During the flight campaign, following an autonomous taxi and take-off, the KIZILELMA autonomously rejoined the M346 Fighter Attack using Smart Fleet Autonomy algorithms developed by the Baykar's Hardware-in-the-Loop (HIL) Laboratory, enabling the M346 to subsequently assume full control of the unmanned aircraft. Using a newly developed fully integrated onboard avionic suite, the M-346 pilots commanded different formations which were autonomously executed by KIZILELMA through a dedicated crewed/uncrewed computing system. Different maneuvers and formations, including position changes, separations and rejoins were successfully tested with the KIZILELMA accurately responding to the M-346 commands.

HII AWARDED \$418M CONTRACT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING FLEET OPERATIONAL READINESS FOR THE US NAVY

Hill America's largest military shipbuilder, has been awarded a \$418 million contract to repair and maintain shipboard-based elevators on U.S. Navy aircraft carriers and amphibious ships, supporting the fleet's operational readiness.

Under the five-year, indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract awarded by Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), Hill's Mission Technologies division will provide engineering, maintenance and technical repair support for the elevators, cargo handling equipment and associated systems installed on the ships.

"Ensuring that essential operational systems — including shipboard elevators — run reliably is central to meeting the readiness needs of our U.S. sailors and Marines," said Michael Lempke, president of Mission Technologies' Global Security group. "We look forward to applying four decades of Elevator Support Unit experience to safeguard the performance of these systems and ensure they are reliable, resilient and fully capable of supporting the fleet."

Hill's Mission Technologies will also conduct sailor training to promote self-sufficiency at sea



and provide rapid response fly-away teams that deploy globally to ensure complex maintenance and repairs are completed safely and effectively.

Building on more than 40 years of Elevator Support Unit experience, the team will apply lessons learned to ensure consistent high-quality, rapid-response and affordable sustainment services for the U.S. Navy's fleet.

Work will be performed within the

continental United States, outside the continental United States and at forward-deployed locations around the world. Hill currently maintains and modernizes the vast majority of the U.S. Navy's fleet. The team employs a holistic approach to life-cycle maritime defense systems, from small watercraft to submarines, surface combatants and aircraft carriers, to ensure a high state of readiness.

SPECIAL MISSIONS CESSNA SKYCOURIER TO APPEAR AT FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW

Textron Aviation Inc., a Textron Inc. company, will return to the Farnborough International Airshow with a Cessna SkyCourier on static display, giving global customers and media an up-close look at the aircraft's expanding role in special missions, military and government operations.

Why It Matters : The Farnborough International Airshow provides an opportunity to highlight growing international interest in the Cessna SkyCourier as it enters new global defense markets.

"A fleet of five Cessna SkyCourier aircraft, similar to the one on display, was recently selected by Belgium to support its special operations forces," said Travis Tyler, president and CEO, Textron Aviation Defense. "This first announced military purchase shows strong



interest in the SkyCourier and proves it is ready for high-stakes missions."

More than 1,700 Cessna and Beechcraft turbine aircraft manufactured by Textron

Aviation operate across Europe today, including more than 850 Cessna Citation business jets, 450 Beechcraft King Air turboprops and 175 Cessna Caravan turboprops.

TERMA AND MBDA JOIN FORCES AT EUROSATORY TO STRENGTHEN EUROPE'S DEFENSE CAPABILITIES



The agreement, signed at Eurosatory by Terma CEO Henriette Hallberg Thygesen and MBDA CEO Eric Béranger in the presence of Denmark's Minister for Business and Competitiveness, Martin Lidegaard and French Minister Delegate for Industry Sébastien Martin builds on a longstanding partnership between the two companies.

The cooperation goes beyond traditional industrial participation and includes joint development activities in the naval domain. The agreement also creates significant export potential and will enable Terma and MBDA to develop new solutions that help allies strengthen their air defense capabilities and maritime security.

A significant step in the European direction : The agreement represents a significant step in Terma's continued growth as a leading European defense company and creates new opportunities to develop advanced solutions together with one of Europe's foremost defense industry players. It also provides access to new international opportunities through MBDA's global market presence and customer base.

"By combining MBDA's world-class missile expertise with Terma's advanced maritime systems capabilities, we are strengthening both Danish and European defense. This partnership builds on a strong and trusted relationship and allows us to develop new solutions together, expand our export opportunities, and further strengthen the competencies that are critical to Europe's future security," says Henriette Hallberg Thygesen, CEO of Terma.

"This agreement marks the first step of a long-term cooperation with Terma and the Danish industry. It reflects on MBDA's DNA of cooperation to develop innovative solutions meeting the needs of the armed forces and strengthening our European defence capabilities. It also reinforces our partnership with Denmark, after the selection of our sovereign air defence systems to protect its skies," says Eric Béranger, CEO of MBDA.

EMBRAER SIGNS SERVICE AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE OPERATIONAL AVAILABILITY OF THE BRAZILIAN AF'S KC-390 FLEET



Embraer has signed a new long-term agreement with the Brazilian Air Force (FAB) to provide support solutions for its KC-390 Millennium fleet. The agreement strengthens the partnership between Embraer and the Brazilian Air Force, focused on maximizing operational availability of the multimission platform. The agreement provides full lifecycle support for the KC-390 fleet, covering both aircraft currently in service and those yet to be delivered.

"The signing of this Logistics Support Agreement reinforces the Brazilian Air Force's commitment to operational readiness and fleet availability. Through this contract, we will provide the maintenance and logistical sustainment required to support the KC-390 Millennium, which is a strategic asset for the country's mobility, defense, and rapid response capabilities. In addition, the agreement contributes to enhancing operational efficiency across the Brazilian Air Force, while strengthening reliability and ensuring continuity for a program that has become a global benchmark in military aviation," said Lieutenant-Brigadier Valter Malta, Brazilian Air Force General Support Commander.

"We are very pleased to sign this agreement with the FAB. This contract further reinforces Embraer's decades-long commitment to supporting the Brazilian Air Force with comprehensive, world-class solutions designed to maximize operational availability and efficiency across the KC-390 Millennium fleet. Our goal is to support the FAB's mission readiness and its ability to perform at the highest standards," said Carlos Naufel, President and CEO of Embraer Services & Support.

The agreement includes a comprehensive portfolio of support services, such as component repair and overhaul, spare parts supply, engineering services, technical publications, and additional support for contingency situations. The scope has been structured to enhance logistics performance, increase operational predictability, and enable rapid response to the FAB's requirements.

The KC-390 Millennium, built and designed in the 21st century, is the most modern military transport aircraft in its class. It can carry more payload (26 tons) compared to other medium-sized military transport aircraft, flying faster (470 knots) and farther. It can perform a wide range of missions, including cargo and troop transport, equipment and personnel airdrop, medical evacuation, search and rescue (SAR), firefighting, and humanitarian missions, operating from temporary or unpaved runways. The aircraft, when configured with quick-installation air-to-air refueling equipment (AAR), can operate both as a tanker and as a receiver.

ANDURIL WINS PRODUCTION CONTRACT FOR USAF CCA PROGRAM

The U.S. Air Force has selected Anduril for the production phase of the Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) program. Under the contract, Anduril will deliver an initial set of production FQ-44 semi-autonomous fighter aircraft to support testing, validation, and operational fielding. The contract also establishes a structure for the Air Force to purchase additional lots over the next several years, providing a clear path to rapidly and affordably expand fighter capacity.

The FQ-44 is the first semi-autonomous fighter aircraft to move into serial production.

Speed : The threat demands urgency. Crewed fighters cannot be produced at the timelines or scales required for a high-end fight. The CCA program addresses this by rapidly fielding large numbers of affordable, mass-producible semi-autonomous fighter aircraft. From prototype award in April 2024 to production contract in June 2026 represents the fastest path from prototype to production for a fighter aircraft in more than 50 years. By announcing a production decision months ahead of schedule, the Air Force has demonstrated its confidence in the program.



Operationally-Relevant Capability : FQ-44 has the ferry range to deploy anywhere in the world, can take off and land on short fields, and has a combat radius exceeding current crewed fighters. It has the payload capacity to make a real impact on the battlefield. Across hundreds of hours with Air Force experts and thousands of simulations, FQ-44 has proven it will excel in high-end combat.

Today, multiple FQ-44 aircraft are flying regularly, with dozens of sorties completed from multiple airfields. The team has flown two different mission autonomy software suites and integrated inert air-to-air munitions. In the first exercise with the Air Force's Experimental

Operations Unit, a small crew with days of training successfully launched, recovered, and turned multiple sorties without the infrastructure of a large base.

FQ-44 was designed to evolve: its modular design and open architectures ensure rapid integration of new capabilities as operational demands require.

Production : From the start, the focus has been on delivering at scale. Anduril has been refining its production system in parallel with aircraft development for two years. The production line at Arsenal-1 is already active and capable of delivering up to 150 aircraft per year in its current configuration, with everything on wheels to enable rapid iteration and scaling.

Way Forward : The Air Force's decision marks the first time a new company has won a fighter aircraft program since the 1970s. What began as an idea has evolved into a production-ready capability in record time. As Anduril moves into the next phase – scaling production and fielding an operational capability – the aircraft, team, and ability to overcome challenges remain the foundation of this historic effort.

THEON ENTERS INTO EXCLUSIVITY AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF HGH SYSTEMES INFRAROUGES

Theon International Plc (THEON) announces that it has entered into an exclusivity agreement with Carlyle for the acquisition of SAS Stéropès, the holding company of SAS HGH Systèmes Infrarouges (HGH) for an enterprise value of approximately €300 million.

HGH designs, develops, assembles and markets electro-optical and infrared solutions systems for Defense and Civil applications. The company was founded in 1982 in France and currently employs more than 130 people with a primary focus in R&D.

HGH has a highly agile and IP-driven business model that is fully compatible with THEON. The acquisition would broaden THEON's Multi-Domain ISR (Platform Electro-Optics) product portfolio and company's counter drone (C-UAS) solutions. These are supported by advanced detection and classification capabilities based on HGH's proprietary ITAR free technology using unique and patented AI



features.

This is a significant milestone in THEON's

strategy to rapidly establish itself as a leader in platform electro-optics. It follows the acquisition of Kappa Optronics and its recently announced order buildup, the investment in ShockEOS and the subsequent selection of THEON's PHYLAX gimbal by Rheinmetall and the Joint Venture with Safran for the creation of Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) electro-optics. The above demonstrate that THEON's approach is already generating tangible commercial results and the addition of HGH would materially increase the contribution of Multi-Domain ISR to THEON'S revenue and profitability.

This agreement reinforces THEON's strategic commitment to France, further expanding its industrial base and strengthening its connection to the French supplier and customer communities. France will become an important export hub for THEON, as well as an AI R&D center, building on HGH's current AI capabilities.

SAAB RECEIVES ORDER FOR GIRAFFE 1X RADARS FROM DENMARK



Ahead of the EU leaders' security summits in Copenhagen in October 2025, the Danish Armed Forces engaged Saab to deploy several Giraffe 1X systems for surveying both civil and military infrastructure. Saab responded promptly, and after successfully operating the systems for over six months, the Danish Ministry of Defence Acquisition and Logistics Organisation (DALO) has now placed a permanent order for the systems.

Leading up to and during the high-profile summits in Copenhagen, industry and military units from several NATO countries, including the Swedish Armed Forces with Saab's anti-drone system, which includes the Giraffe 1X, were deployed to support security at various sites in Denmark. Additionally, Denmark rented extra Giraffe 1X systems from Saab, which have since been purchased.

"We delivered the systems just three days after receiving the initial request from DALO. The swift response was made possible not only by our own organizational capacity but also by the exceptional efficiency and cooperation shown by Swedish and Danish authorities. I want to emphasize DALO's solution-oriented approach, which significantly saved time and enabled our systems to commence air surveillance with drone detection in record time, says Carl-Johan Bergholm, head of Saab's business area Surveillance.

The Giraffe 1X is a high performing 3D radar that was deployed in the self-sufficient configuration Compact Radar module (CRM) which makes it excellent for urgent use with limited operational infrastructure. It also allows the user to move the module, including the radar from one platform to another, as an example from a pickup flatbed to a building or another vehicle.

The Giraffe 1X capabilities include detection, tracking, and classification of air targets including drones. The system covers the entire search volume every second and can detect fixed and rotary wing targets, fast missiles and RAM targets as well as small UAVs in high-clutter environments.

AT LEAST 6 NEW AIR DEFENCE WARSHIPS TO DEFEND UK WATERS AND BOOST SHIPBUILDING



At least six new warships will be built for the Royal Navy under the Defence Investment Plan, delivering the UK's most advanced maritime air defence capability and keeping British shipyards working for decades to come.

The Common Combat Vessel will replace the current fleet of six Type 45 destroyers, with delivery expected from the early 2030s. Unlike its predecessors, the new warship will act as a control hub for uncrewed systems - extending the Navy's reach, resilience and firepower without a proportional increase in crew or cost.

Due to be outlined in the forthcoming Defence Investment Plan, these new ships will replace earlier plans for a Type 83 destroyer. Rather than concentrating capability in a small number of large, expensive ships, the Royal Navy's shift to a hybrid navy will mix crewed and uncrewed capabilities and be more suited to the pace and nature of modern warfare. The funding announced in the DIP allows the National Armaments Director Group to commence the design work that will underpin the fundamental shift in how to deliver Air Defence at and from the sea.

When in service, these CCVs will work alongside eight Type 26 and five Type 31 crewed frigates, as well as Type 91 uncrewed missile platforms, Type 92 uncrewed underwater sensing platforms, Type 93 Extra-Large Uncrewed Underwater Vehicles and Type 94 uncrewed sensor platforms, representing a once in a generation investment in new maritime capability.

It will also sustain and grow the UK's shipbuilding sector, providing new work for British shipyards and maintaining vital skills. It demonstrates defence as an engine for growth and programmes funded through the Defence Investment Plan are expected to back tens of thousands of new UK jobs.

Defence Secretary Dan Jarvis MBE MP said: "Our Royal Navy is a formidable force, operating to protect our nation and our allies in the Atlantic and beyond. These Common Combat Vessels will provide our dedicated sailors with hybrid ships that are designed and built for the increasing threats we face."

"Developed with exceptional British innovators, the new ships will be British-built, supporting jobs across the nation and giving the Royal Navy a capability built for modern warfare."

\$35BN THAAD SEVEN-YEAR PROCUREMENT AWARD PROPELS ACCELERATION OF CRITICAL MISSILE DEFENSE INTERCEPTOR PRODUCTION

The U.S. government awarded Lockheed Martin a seven-year undefinitized contract action (UCA) for up to \$35 billion to quadruple production of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptors. The award is one of the first major multiyear procurement contracts executed under the Department of War's Acquisition Transformation Strategy and represents one of the first full-scale transitions from framework agreement to contract execution under the initiative. It demonstrates Lockheed Martin's commitment to building the Arsenal of Freedom.

The contract puts into action the THAAD framework agreement signed in January between the Department of War and Lockheed Martin, providing the long-term demand signal needed to accelerate production capacity, strengthen the defense industrial base and deliver critical missile defense capability at speed and scale for the U.S. and its allies.

The award comes weeks after Lockheed Martin broke ground on a new Munitions Production Center in Troy, Alabama, as part of



the company's more than \$9 billion investment through 2030. This investment is already delivering tangible results to meet heightened munitions demand, including more than 20 new or modernized facilities across the United States. Lockheed Martin also recently opened the Next Generation Interceptor facility in Courtland, Alabama, and the Munitions Acceleration Center in Camden, Arkansas.

WHY IT MATTERS : THAAD is the only U.S. system designed to intercept threats both inside and outside the atmosphere, providing a critical layer of missile defense. Its performance has been

demonstrated in operations including Operation Epic Fury, where it continues to defend forces and key infrastructure against evolving threats.

EXPERT PERSPECTIVE : "This award reflects our shared vision with the Department of War to strengthen America's Arsenal of Freedom through a transformational shift to multiyear procurement," said Tim Cahill, president, Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. "This new approach propels our efforts to strengthen the defense industrial base, expand production and deliver capabilities to the American warfighter at unprecedented speed and scale."

BAE AWARDED CONTRACT FOR CONTINUED PRODUCTION OF M109A7 PALADIN SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS

BAE Systems received a contract award valued at \$535 million to produce additional M109A7 Paladin Self-Propelled Howitzers and M992A3 Ammunition Carriers for the U.S. Army.

As a key capability in the Army's Armored Brigade Combat Team formation, the M109A7 Paladin provides advanced firepower and maneuverability, enabling artillery units to rapidly deploy and engage targets with precision. With its "scoot-and-shoot" capability, the M109A7 can deliver precise fires in under 30 seconds when emplaced or within a minute while on the move, ensuring both survivability and effectiveness in high-threat environments.

"The M109A7 Paladin is a battle-proven platform that delivers what Soldiers need to succeed on today's battlefield," said Dan Furber, Combat Mission Systems vice president of Artillery programs. "With its reliable performance and robust industrial

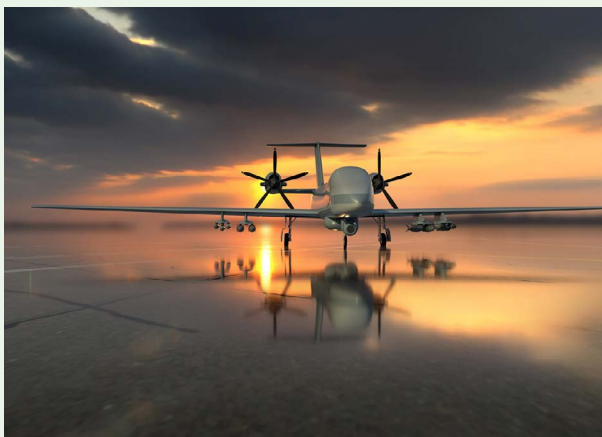


base, the Paladin ensures our troops have the firepower and support they can count on when it matters most." Equipped with an adaptable chassis and next-generation capabilities, the M109A7 is one of the lightest tracked self-propelled howitzer systems on the battlefield, engineered to perform in even the most challenging terrains and conditions.

BAE Systems continues to strengthen

its role across the defense industrial base through ongoing self-investments in advancing artillery capabilities, expanding manufacturing capacity and driving operational excellence. These efforts reflect the company's unwavering commitment to the innovation, reliability and mission success of the M109A7 Paladin program, to meet the evolving needs of the U.S. Army.

AIRBUS SIGNS MOU TO EXPLORE JAPANESE ANTI-SUBMARINE VARIANT OF THE EURODRONE



Airbus has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kawasaki Heavy Industries. Under the MoU, Airbus, in cooperation with Kawasaki Heavy Industries, will analyse opportunities to work on a Japanese anti-submarine warfare variant of the U950 Eurodrone, Europe's first Large Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS). Japan has held observer status in the Eurodrone programme since 2023.

The Eurodrone is ideally suited for countries like Japan that need to monitor large maritime areas. Compared to its nearest competitor, Eurodrone has very long flight endurance and can fly with much more mission payload, including sonobuoys and torpedoes for anti-submarine warfare. With Eurodrone, Japan could complement its current crewed anti-submarine warfare fleet with a very efficient uncrewed platform and strengthen its maritime security in a sovereign and sustainable manner.

In the next step, Airbus will engage in discussions with Kawasaki Heavy Industries to develop options for the design, development, and commercialisation for a future Japanese maritime version of Eurodrone, including the definition of possible configurations, integration of Japanese sensors and effectors, and other potential workshare for Japanese industry during production and sustainment. All this is intended to ensure that Japan can operate the Eurodrone sovereignly and without restrictions, should the country decide to acquire the RPAS.

This targeted collaboration with Japan is set to bolster the Eurodrone programme while deepening the strategic framework of European-Japanese defense initiatives. Furthermore, insights gained from developing Japan's specific variant are expected to provide substantial operational and logistical advantages for future European naval versions of Eurodrone.

Eurodrone: Long endurance and broad mission portfolio. The Eurodrone, a 4-nation programme of Germany, France, Italy and Spain, led by the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR), is currently under development and is scheduled to take its first flight in 2029. India is also an observer in the programme. The Eurodrone can cover a wide range of missions - from airborne intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance to early warning and signals intelligence, as well as maritime patrol and anti-submarine warfare. With a mission payload (excluding fuel) of up to 23 tonnes it can stay airborne for up to 40 hours. It will be fully integrated in civil airspace and thanks to its high levels of safety and redundancy, it will be ideal to operate over the open sea.

AUSTRALIA - F/A-18F & EA-18G GROWLER AIRCRAFT TRAINING



The U.S. Department of State has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Australia for the purchase of F/A-18F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler aircraft training and related equipment. The estimated total cost is \$250 million.

The Government of Australia has requested to buy the following non-major defense equipment (MDE) items: F/A-18F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler aircraft classified and unclassified aircrew and maintenance training; protective personnel equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services; classified and unclassified technical and non-technical manuals, books, publications, and training documentation; and other related elements of logistics and program support that will be added to the previously implemented cases. The original Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case, valued at \$18 million (\$0 in major defense equipment (MDE)), included F/A-18F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler aircraft aircrew and maintenance training; protective personnel equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. In 2015, the case was amended and added \$39 million for a total of \$67 million (\$0 in MDE) and included F/A-18F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler aircraft aircrew and maintenance training; protective personnel equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. In 2018, the case was amended and added \$72 million for a total of \$142 million (\$0 in MDE) and included F/A-18F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler aircraft classified and unclassified aircrew and maintenance training; protective personnel equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. This amendment caused the case to exceed congressional notification threshold, and it should have been notified to Congress at that time, but the technical error was not discovered until the partner requested an amendment. This notification is for a combined total of the following non-MDE items: F/A-18F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler aircraft classified and unclassified aircrew and maintenance training; protective personnel equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services; classified and unclassified technical and non-technical manuals, books, publications, and training documentation; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$250 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the Western Pacific. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will enhance Australia's capability to meet current and future threats and increase its interoperability with the U.S. and its allies through comprehensive training. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this training into its armed forces.

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

WESTJET PRESIDENT DIEDERIK PEN TO STEP DOWN AND RETIRE

WestJet has announced the planned retirement of Diederik Pen, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of WestJet Group, and President of WestJet Airlines. His departure is expected no later than the first quarter of 2027, subject to the appointment and onboarding of his successor.

Until then, Pen will continue to oversee the airline and lead its operational teams. A global search for his successor is currently underway, with Pen actively involved in the selection process and committed to supporting a smooth and seamless leadership transition.

Pen joined WestJet in late 2021 and played a key role in guiding the airline through its post-pandemic recovery, overseeing the safe restart and expansion of operations as travel demand rebounded. He successfully negotiated several significant agreements with labour partners and led major operational and organisational initiatives, including the integration of Swoop and Sunwing Airlines, helping to create a more resilient, efficient, and competitive airline.

Widely respected across the aviation sector, Pen has also been instrumental in strengthening relationships throughout the industry, both in his capacity as the accountable executive with Transport Canada and through his strong leadership of WestJet's people and teams.



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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.



MIKE HUMPHREYS APPOINTED AS NEW CEO OF TP AEROSPACE

TP Aerospace has appointed Mike Humphreys as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective June 1, 2026. He succeeds Nikolaj Jacobsen, who has held the role of CEO since 2022.

Humphreys joins the executive role after serving as a non-executive director of TP Aerospace, where he played a key role in shaping the company's current strategy. In his new position, he will focus on strengthening commercial execution and supporting the company's next phase of growth.

He brings more than 35 years of experience in the commercial aviation aftermarket, having held senior leadership and C-suite positions at several industry organisations, including FLS Aerospace, SR Technics, and most recently Airinmar, where he served as President.

Flemming Jensen, Chairman of the Board, stated: "I am very pleased that Mike has agreed to take on the role of CEO of TP Aerospace. He brings significant experience from previous chief executive positions, where he demonstrated a strong focus on commercial execution. We believe these skills will be highly valuable as TP Aerospace builds on the work undertaken to prepare the business for future growth."

The appointment marks the next stage in TP Aerospace's development as the company looks to expand its market position and capitalise on new growth opportunities within the aviation sector.



DAHER APPOINTS MICHEL DENIS AS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Daher has announced a strengthened executive leadership structure, with the creation of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) role alongside Executive Deputy CEO Aymeric Daher, reinforcing the Group's focus on leadership continuity and complementary expertise.

Daher's Board of Directors, chaired by Thibault Scaramanga, has appointed Michel Denis as Chief Executive Officer, effective July 1. Denis, a graduate of École Centrale de Lyon and ESSEC Business School, brings extensive industrial and leadership experience. He currently serves as CEO of Manitou Group, the family-owned materials handling equipment manufacturer.

According to Scaramanga, Denis' expertise in industrial transformation and family-owned businesses will bring valuable insight to Daher's Executive Committee. Working alongside Aymeric Daher, he is expected to help drive the Group's long-term growth and development.

Denis stated that he was honoured by the Board's confidence and highlighted Daher's global presence, strong family heritage, long-term vision, and market leadership as key strengths.

He pledged to build on this legacy and support the company's continued success.

Until Denis takes up the role, Scaramanga will remain Interim CEO, working closely with Aymeric Daher and the Executive Committee to ensure a smooth transition.



JAZEERA AIRWAYS NAMES ANDREW LITLEDALE AS NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Jazeera Airways has appointed Andrew Littledale as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective July 1, 2026.

A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (FCMA), he brings more than 25 years of international finance leadership experience, including senior executive roles within the aviation sector.

Welcoming Littledale to the airline, Chief Executive Officer Barathan Pasupathi highlighted his extensive aviation finance expertise and strong track record in financial strategy, business transformation, and capital management.

Pasupathi stated that Littledale's experience would play a key role in supporting Jazeera Airways' growth plans, strengthening the business, and delivering long-term value for shareholders, customers, and employees.



PAUL MCELHINNEY APPOINTED CEO OF STANDARDAERO



StandardAero's Board of Directors has appointed Paul McElhinney, a 35-year aerospace industry veteran and StandardAero's current Lead Independent Director, as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will succeed Russel Ford, who will retire after 13 years leading the company and a 45-year career in the aerospace industry. McElhinney will assume the role of CEO on October 1, 2026.

To ensure a smooth transition, Ford will work closely with McElhinney in the coming months and will remain Executive Chairman of StandardAero's Board until December 31, 2026. McElhinney will then take on the role of Chairman from January 1, 2027, while Ford will continue to serve as a member of the Board.

Since becoming CEO in 2013, Ford has overseen a period of significant growth and transformation for StandardAero. During his tenure, annual revenue increased from US\$1.6 billion to more than US\$6 billion in 2025. The company also expanded its global presence, broadened its service capabilities, improved profitability, and strengthened relationships with operators and original equipment manufacturers worldwide.

Ford also led StandardAero through its successful initial public offering in 2024, positioning the company for continued long-term growth. Since listing, StandardAero has delivered strong operational and financial results, including sustained revenue growth, higher earnings, and an expanding backlog.

McElhinney brings extensive leadership experience across the aerospace and industrial sectors. He currently serves as Senior Operating Partner and co-Head of the Portfolio Strategy and Optimisation Group at AE Industrial Partners and has been a member of StandardAero's Board since 2019.

Before joining AE Industrial Partners, McElhinney held several senior leadership roles at General Electric during a 30-year career with the company. He served as President and CEO of GE Power Services, a US\$15 billion power generation aftermarket business, and as President and CEO of GE Aviation Services, where he more than doubled the division's backlog to over US\$100 billion. He also held General Counsel and Business Development positions at GE Aviation and GE Capital Aviation Services.

CONDOR STRENGTHENS LEADERSHIP TEAM WITH TWO SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

German airline Condor is expanding its Executive Management Board with two senior appointments aimed at strengthening its commercial and financial leadership.

Effective August 1, 2026, Dr. Pierre Dominique Prüm will join Condor as Chief Commercial Officer. In this role, he will oversee Network & Partnerships, Revenue Management, Cargo, Sales, and E-Commerce.

At the same time, Dag Jessel has been appointed Chief Financial Officer, effective July 6, 2026. He will succeed Björn Walther.

Condor stated that the expanded management structure will support sustainable long-term growth and provide a stronger foundation for the airline's next phase of development. Prüm brings more than 20 years of aviation leadership experience. He most recently served as Executive Board Member for Aviation and Infrastructure at Fraport, where he was responsible for the operational and strategic core business of Frankfurt Airport. His career has focused on strategy, business development, growth, customer orientation, and major infrastructure projects. Jessel brings broad international experience as a CFO and Managing Director across industrial and service-sector companies. He has also led several international growth and transformation programmes. He maintains long-standing links to aviation, having held senior roles at Lufthansa, including Director Finance & HR North Asia and positions in Mergers & Acquisitions. His wider aviation experience also includes cost management, process optimisation, and engineering-related responsibilities.



AMERICAN AIRLINES APPOINTS PAOLA TORRI AS DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR MEXICO AND CANADA



American Airlines has appointed Paola Torri as Director of Operations for Mexico and Canada, a newly created leadership position aimed at supporting the airline's continued growth and operational strength across two of its most significant international markets.

Torri assumes the role as part of a wider leadership transition across the region, building on the foundations laid by the late Tony Gutiérrez and José María Giraldo, who has since moved into a senior leadership position in the United States.

Torri brings more than 25 years of experience with American Airlines, most recently having served as People Business Partner for International, based in Mexico City, where she supported teams across Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States.

She will remain based in Mexico City and report to José A. Freig, Vice President of International and Inflight Dining Operations.

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Aviation UPDATE

FOR EDITORIAL

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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
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Launch Vehicles Facilities

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