

Weekly Aviation Headline News



“ Agreement “not in the public interest.”
U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor ”

Boeing Plea Deal Over 737 MAX Crashes Rejected by Judge

Seized on a single sentence in the plea agreement mentioning the DOJ's diversity policy

On Thursday last week (December 5), U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor in Fort Worth, Texas chose to reject Boeing's agreement to plead guilty to fraud in the wake of two fatal 737 MAX crashes. The judge made it clear that the reasoning behind his decision lay in the diversity and inclusion provision in the deal. While no comment was made by Boeing at the time, the US Department of Justice (DOJ), which had brokered the original plea agreement with Boeing, is reviewing the decision. The options now available to both sides include appealing the judge's rejection of the plea deal or presenting a renegotiated agreement for approval of the court. The judge seized on a single sentence in

the plea agreement relating to the DOJ's diversity policy regarding the selection of an independent monitor to audit the Boeing's compliance practices. It is understood that the plea bargain also “marginalises” the judge in the selection and oversight of the independent monitor and forbids imposing a probation condition requiring Boeing to comply with the monitor's anti-fraud recommendations, O'Connor said in his decision. He also said the agreement was “not in the public interest.” “Judge O'Connor's emphatic rejection of the plea deal is an important victory” for the families of the victims, said Paul Cassell, a lawyer representing them. According to Reuters news agency, the judge's

objections largely centred on the government's diversity and inclusion policy covering the selection of the independent monitor to oversee Boeing for a period of three years. “The plea agreement requires the parties to consider race when hiring the independent monitor,” O'Connor wrote in his decision. “In a case of this magnitude, it is in the utmost interest of justice that the public is confident this monitor selection is done based solely on competency.” Shirley Emehelu, former New Jersey executive assistant attorney general, said she expected the DOJ and Boeing would try to swiftly renegotiate the deal, though it was unclear if that would be done before President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan. 20. “The monitor that ultimately will be chosen will face the challenge of a remarkable level of scrutiny by the court over their undoubtedly highly complex work,” she said. As part of the plea deal, Boeing had agreed to pay a fine of up to US\$487.2 million and spend US\$455 million to improve safety and compliance practices over three years of court-supervised probation. However, the relatives of victims want Boeing, and its executives charged with crimes holding them responsible for the deaths of their loved ones and any evidence of wrongdoing presented in a public trial. They have also argued Boeing should have to pay up to US\$24.78 billion in connection with the two fatal crashes.



Boeing 737 MAX

© Boeing

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

TrueNoord acquires seven ATR 72-600 aircraft from GOAL Aircraft Leasing

TrueNoord, the specialist regional aircraft lessor, has acquired a portfolio of seven ATR 72-600 turboprop aircraft from German asset manager GOAL Aircraft Leasing, acting on behalf of KGAL. This acquisition increases TrueNoord's fleet to over 100 aircraft and introduces three new European lessee airlines into its portfolio. The newly integrated aircraft are leased to Air Serbia (four aircraft), Emerald Airlines of Ireland (two aircraft) and Olympic Air in Greece (one aircraft). Notably, the 100th aircraft in TrueNoord's fleet, MSN 1159, operates with Air Serbia. TrueNoord Chairman Nigel Turner attributes the company's growth to teamwork and support from equity investors, including Freshstream, BlackRock, abrdn/PATRIA, and global banks. Turner affirmed TrueNoord's commitment to regional aviation and hinted at accelerated growth plans, aiming to solidify its position among the world's largest regional aircraft lessors. He noted that increasing scale would enhance profitability and enable the company to better meet rising demand for its aircraft. Anne-Bart Tieleman, TrueNoord's founder and CEO, underscored the company's commitment to maintaining a modern, efficient fleet that supports lessees' operational goals. He credited OEM partners Embraer, ATR, de Havilland Canada, and Airbus for sharing this vision. Tieleman noted the importance of a capable and expanding team to manage the growing portfolio, with staff numbers set to rise across offices in Amsterdam, Dublin, and Singapore as the company eyes further expansion into North America. TrueNoord is poised for continued growth, backed by high demand and strong investor confidence, with plans to pursue new acquisition opportunities involving the latest technology aircraft.



TrueNoord has purchased a portfolio of seven ATR 72-600 aircraft from GOAL Aircraft Leasing

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BOC Aviation signs lease deal for Boeing 737-8 aircraft with TUI



TUI's new Boeing 737-8 aircraft from BOC Aviation are set for delivery in 2025 and 2026

© AirTeamImages

BOC Aviation Limited (BOC Aviation) has entered into a leasing agreement with TUI Airways (TUI) for 14 Boeing 737-8 aircraft. The planes, which will be powered by advanced CFM LEAP-1B engines, are set for delivery in 2025 and 2026. This transaction reflects BOC Aviation's ongoing relationship with TUI and its commitment to supporting customers' fleet modernisation efforts. "With this financing we are once more working with our existing customer, TUI, as it builds its fleet of new-generation aircraft," said Steven Townend, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, BOC Aviation. "With the delivery of these aircraft anticipated over the next two years, this transaction will contribute to our investment and revenue pipelines." TUI, headquartered in Germany, is recognised as the world's leading tourism group, with a comprehensive portfolio that spans the entire tourism value chain. Its offerings include 1,600 travel agencies, leading online portals, five airlines operating around 150 aircraft,

over 400 hotels, 15 cruise liners, and various destination services. The group is committed to economic, environmental, and social sustainability, with more than 20 years of dedication to promoting sustainable tourism. Publicly traded, TUI's shares are listed in the FTSE 250 index in the UK, as well as on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and Hanover Stock Exchange in Germany. This agreement with BOC Aviation aligns with TUI's strategic focus on upgrading its fleet to more efficient, next-generation aircraft. For BOC Aviation, this deal represents an important step in strengthening its long-term investment strategy and sustaining its revenue growth. The delivery timeline highlights the company's readiness to meet increasing demand for advanced aircraft that support operational efficiency and environmental goals.



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AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

AutoFlight completes historic eVTOL flight in Japan

AutoFlight, an innovator in electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) technology, has achieved a significant milestone with its first successful flight in Japan. On November 29, the company's two-ton eVTOL aircraft completed its inaugural demonstration flight in Okayama Prefecture. The landmark flight was conducted in collaboration with MASC, a Japanese non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing the aerospace industry. With full approval from the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB), this event represents a pivotal step in MASC's "Setouchi Community AAM Infrastructure 2028 Project" (SCAI28). The successful demonstration sets the stage for further test flights across multiple Japanese cities, accelerating progress toward commercial advanced air mobility (AAM) operations in Japan. This initiative supports the nation's vision for next-generation urban air transportation. The Setouchi region, a vital coastal area along Japan's Inland Sea, links three of the country's main islands: Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. This region faces critical challenges, including ageing infrastructure in coastal areas and limited transport options between the mainland and remote islands. The SCAI28 project aims to address these challenges through cutting-edge air mobility solutions while fostering local industrial growth. AutoFlight's eVTOL aircraft features a lift and cruise configuration powered by an all-electric propulsion system. Its vertical take-off and landing capabilities eliminate the need for conventional runways, while efficient horizontal cruising allows for extended range. This innovative design strikes an ideal balance of range and efficiency, offering a safe, reliable and environmentally conscious transport solution. The aircraft, alongside future models, is poised to support a range of applications in the Setouchi region, including cargo and passenger transport, medical assistance and tourism services. eVTOL technology is becoming a cornerstone of advanced air mobility (AAM) systems as countries race to implement sustainable urban air transport. Industry advancements include demonstration flights in diverse scenarios, alongside the development of critical infrastructure such as vertiports, digital management systems and regulatory frameworks. AutoFlight has showcased its technical expertise in multiple milestone flights during 2024. These include cross-city and cross-sea flights in China's Pearl River Delta (Shenzhen to Zhuhai) and Yangtze River Delta, as well as a 123-kilometre flight in Abu Dhabi, during which half of the aircraft's battery charge remained upon landing. This successful flight in Japan underscores AutoFlight's technical capabilities and its commitment to global cooperation in the fields of research and development, airworthiness certification, and practical AAM applications. As the industry advances, AutoFlight remains at the forefront of delivering innovative solutions to meet the challenges of sustainable urban transportation.



AutoFlight's eVTOL aircraft has completed its inaugural demonstration flight in Okayama Prefecture, Japan © AutoFlight

Icelandair welcomes first Airbus A321LR



Icelandair's first Airbus A321LR

© Airbus

Icelandair, headquartered in Keflavik, has taken delivery of its first Airbus aircraft, an A321LR, marking a significant milestone in its fleet renewal programme. The A321LR is the first of four aircraft leased from SMBC Aviation Capital Limited, making Icelandair the newest Airbus operator. The airline is also set to receive 13 A321LRs in the near future. The A321LR is powered by Pratt & Whitney GTF engines and features a two-class configuration with 187 seats (22 in Business Class and 165 in Economy Class). Its Airspace cabin includes XL bins, which offer 60% more stowage space compared to previous-generation aircraft, ensuring a smoother boarding experience for passengers and crew. Icelandair's customers will also enjoy state-of-the-art gate-to-gate connectivity, next-generation inflight entertainment, and advanced lighting systems designed to enhance comfort and well-being throughout the journey. Ideally suited for transatlantic routes, the A321LR can operate flights of up to 4,000 nautical miles. It boasts cutting-edge technology and advanced fuel efficiency, delivering at least 20% fuel savings and a corresponding reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to earlier single-aisle models. Furthermore, the A321neo is compatible

with up to 50% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) today, with full 100% SAF capability expected by 2030. Icelandair's acquisition of the A321LR aligns with the airline's commitment to sustainability, improving operational efficiency while significantly reducing its environmental footprint. This move supports Icelandair's efforts to enhance passenger experience while meeting evolving environmental standards in the aviation industry.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

UrbanLink pre-orders 20 Integrity eVTOL aircraft



Integrity eVTOL aircraft in UrbanLink livery

© CRISALION Mobility

CRISALION Mobility (CRISALION), a Spanish pioneer in advanced electric mobility solutions, has secured a pre-order for 20 Integrity eVTOL aircraft from UrbanLink Air Mobility (UrbanLink), a sustainable transportation company based in South Florida. The agreement highlights their mutual commitment to transforming regional air travel through advanced air mobility (AAM) solutions. UrbanLink aims to be the first independent operator of all-electric AAM systems in the U.S., integrating electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft into its fleet. This collaboration aligns with UrbanLink’s strategy to establish a sustainable transportation network across air, sea, and ground. The inclusion of CRISALION’s Integrity aircraft will strengthen UrbanLink’s presence in Europe, focusing on the Spanish and Italian markets to improve connectivity, efficiency and passenger comfort. The agreement brings CRISALION Mobility’s total pre-sales of Integrity aircraft to 145 across four continents, reaffirming its status as a global innovator in future mobility solutions. Currently under development, the Integrity eVTOL is designed to transport up to five passengers and a pilot, making it ideal for urban and intercity travel. Equipped with FlyFree technology, it ensures a comfortable, low-vibration experience while significantly reducing emissions. UrbanLink Founder and Chairman Ed Wegel praised the Integrity’s design, stating, “The Integrity’s innovative design, which significantly reduces vibration while optimising range and speed, is truly impressive. We are excited to bring these aircraft to routes connecting Madrid, Milan, and other major European cities.” CRISALION CEO Manuel Heredia added, “UrbanLink’s vision of becoming a fully electric, efficient transport operator is perfectly aligned with our commitment to lead the mobility of the future, driving innovation, quality and sustainability. We are delighted to commit to a strong, lasting partnership, one that will change the way we understand transport.”

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AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

SWISS ups A350-900 aircraft order



SWISS plans to enhance its long-haul fleet with five additional Airbus A350-900 aircraft © SWISS

Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) has announced plans to enhance its long-haul fleet with five additional Airbus A350-900 aircraft, complementing the five already on order. The deliveries will begin in summer 2025 and continue progressively until the end of 2031, featuring the airline's new 'SWISS Senses' cabin interior for an upgraded travel experience. The acquisition is part of a broader investment by the Lufthansa Group, underscoring SWISS's commitment to fleet modernisation and sustainability. "Our new Airbus A350s will make our fleet even more modern," said SWISS CEO Jens Fehlinger. "This is a major investment, and a vital one to ensure that we continue to meet our customers' high expectations. With these advanced twinjets and their innovative cabins, we're bringing our long-haul aircraft fleet up to a totally new level of modernity, sustainability and in-flight comfort for our guests." The Airbus A350-900 is celebrated for its efficiency and advanced design. It is among the most fuel-efficient aircraft in its class, producing significantly lower carbon emissions compared to older models. Its cutting-edge engines also reduce noise emissions by more than half, enhancing its environmental performance. The new 'SWISS Senses' cabin interior will elevate the travel experience across all classes, offering the latest in inflight comfort and amenities. The airline aims to finalise its plans for the routes that the new A350s will serve in the coming months. With the gradual delivery of these aircraft, SWISS will establish a more sustainable, efficient and passenger-friendly long-haul fleet.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Qatar Airways expands MRO capabilities with landmark APU deal

Qatar Airways has secured a ground-breaking agreement with Honeywell, becoming the first MRO provider in the Middle East and Africa authorised to service the HGT1700 auxiliary power unit (APU) used in Airbus A350 aircraft. This milestone represents a significant step forward for Qatar Airways in the aviation maintenance sector. The HGT1700 APU, located in the tail of the Airbus A350, supplies critical electric and pneumatic power to the aircraft's systems, including its main engines. With this agreement, Qatar Airways will not only generate additional revenue but also save on maintenance costs for its own fleet. This collaboration supports Qatar's Vision 2030 strategy, promoting economic diversification and positioning the nation as a hub for aerospace innovation. A central element of the partnership is the development of a cutting-edge MRO facility, designed to service Honeywell's advanced HGT1700 APUs. This state-of-the-art site will incorporate eco-friendly and energy-efficient technology, setting new standards for maintenance excellence. Scheduled for completion by 2028, the facility will create over 50 high-skilled jobs, fostering local talent and attracting top global engineering expertise to Qatar. In addition to becoming a Honeywell Channel Partner, Qatar Airways will accelerate its timelines to induct its first APU for maintenance by 2028. This designation allows the airline to extend its maintenance services beyond its own fleet, marking a significant expansion in its business operations.



Representatives from Honeywell and Qatar Airways © Qatar Airways

Norwegian Air Shuttle and LHT renew partnership by five more years



Norwegian has extended its collaboration with Lufthansa Technik for an additional five years © Norwegian Air Shuttle

Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA (Norwegian) has renewed its partnership with Lufthansa Technik (LHT) for an additional five years. This extended agreement covers base maintenance services for Norwegian's fleet of over 80 Boeing 737NG and 737MAX aircraft. Starting on August 1, 2025, the contract will be executed at Lufthansa Technik's Budapest facility and encompasses a total of 120 scheduled maintenance checks. The extension ensures Norwegian will have guaranteed maintenance slots, addressing operational needs with a customised performance package. For any unscheduled or supplementary maintenance requirements, Norwegian will also gain access to LHT's extensive European overhaul network. This agreement builds on a robust 17-year relationship between the two companies. Their collaboration began with a contract for component services and expanded over time to include wheel and brake maintenance, as well as engine overhauls for CFM56-7B engines. Since 2012, LHT has provided overhaul services for Norwegian's Boeing 737NG aircraft, contributing to the operational efficiency of the airline. Headquartered at Fornebu near Oslo, Norwegian Air Shuttle continues to reinforce its commitment to high maintenance standards while prioritising reliable operations for its customers. By extending this partnership, Norwegian capitalises on Lufthansa Technik's extensive expertise and network to maintain its fleet to the highest standards.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Eve secures additional US\$35 million funding from BNDES

Eve Air Mobility (Eve) has announced a US\$35 million investment from Brazil's National Development Bank (BNDES), further strengthening its financial position to advance the development of its electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. This funding, sourced from BNDES' Climate Fund, will support the production of conforming prototypes, testing processes, and eventual commercial manufacturing. This marks the second phase of funding from BNDES, following a US\$92.5 million line of credit secured in 2022 for research and development. It complements Eve's recent US\$50 million investment from Citibank, underscoring the company's commitment to innovation and leadership in the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) sector. Eve CEO Johann Bordais highlighted the significance of the continued support: "The continued support from BNDES is highly significant as we advance our eVTOL programme and transition from prototype development to certification and production readiness. This funding strengthens our financial position even more and provides the resources necessary to achieve our key milestones, including certification and the commercialisation of our eVTOL aircraft." The National Civil Aviation Agency of Brazil (ANAC) recently finalised airworthiness criteria for Eve's eVTOL aircraft, an essential step toward type certification. Following a public consultation process, Eve will now define its means of compliance with ANAC. BNDES President Aloizio Mercadante emphasised the broader impact of the funding: "BNDES was instrumental in installing the eVTOL aircraft factory in Taubaté, guaranteeing quality jobs in the region. Now, we are financing the development of the aircraft itself. In addition to supporting an innovative project, we are investing in a disruptive technology industry that is also green, contributing to the strengthening of the national industry in the world market and to the energy transition. In total, the bank has already approved, this year, R\$700 million

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

First Qantas A321XLR progresses to final assembly line



Qantas' first A321XLR has entered the final assembly line at Airbus' production facility in Hamburg, Germany © Airbus

Qantas is one step closer to receiving its first Airbus A321XLR, as the aircraft has now entered the final assembly line at Airbus' production facility in Hamburg, Germany. This development marks a major milestone in the Qantas Group's fleet renewal programme, with key airframe components such as the forward and rear fuselage, wings, and the iconic Flying Kangaroo tail coming together. Scheduled for delivery in April 2025, this aircraft will be the first of 28 A321XLRs on firm order, with purchase rights for additional units. These will progressively replace the Group's ageing Boeing 737 fleet over the next decade. Meanwhile, QantasLink continues to expand its operations with the A220, with the fifth aircraft set to enter service by the end of this year. Earlier in November, Iberia became the first airline globally to operate a commercial flight with the A321XLR. When Qantas' inaugural A321XLR begins service next year, Australian travellers will be the first in the Asia-Pacific region to experience

this cutting-edge aircraft. Initially deployed on domestic routes currently serviced by 737s, the A321XLR promises an enhanced customer experience, offering wider seats, larger windows, fast and free Wi-Fi and overhead bins with 60% more capacity for luggage than its predecessor. In preparation for the aircraft's arrival, Qantas Engineering has received nearly 800 new tools and pilot training is well underway. Pilots will undergo up to 60 hours in the new simulator before taking command in the cockpit. Qantas Group CEO Vanessa Hudson highlighted the milestone, attributing it to over two years of meticulous planning and collaboration across multiple teams. "These new aircraft are part of the biggest domestic fleet renewal programme in Qantas' history, which is bringing significant improvements for customers and career opportunities for our people" Hudson said. "The A321XLR is a fantastic aircraft, which provides a more comfortable flight for customers and the longer range will in time give us the opportunity to explore more non-stop routes and operate them more efficiently. "New aircraft mean more jobs, training and promotion opportunities for our people and we'll be training more than 240 pilots on the new aircraft over the next three years."

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(US\$115 million for the production of Eve's eVTOL aircraft." This latest funding milestone solidifies Eve's leadership in the growing AAM market, positioning the company to meet increasing global demand for sustainable air mobility solutions.

MTU Aero Engines projects profitable growth for 2025

MTU Aero Engines AG has forecast continued growth and improved earnings for 2025, expecting revenues between €8.3 and €8.5 billion. Adjusted EBIT is projected to rise in the low-to-mid teens percentage range, with adjusted net income expected to grow in line with EBIT. Free cash flow is anticipated to remain in the low triple-digit million-euro range, influenced by the ongoing Geared Turbofan fleet management plan. "We will maintain strict cash management as planned, which will also impact our dividend proposal for 2024," said Peter Kameritsch, CFO of MTU Aero Engines AG. A dividend of €2.20 per share—10% higher than the previous year—will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting on 8 May 2025. This reflects a balance between the financial demands of the fleet management plan and MTU's robust growth outlook. MTU expects significant growth in all areas in 2025. The commercial series business is forecast to see the highest increase, with organic growth in the mid-teens' percentage range. Revenue from commercial maintenance is projected to grow in the low-to-mid teens, with Geared Turbofan MRO contributing around 40%. Organic revenue growth in the spare parts sector is expected to reach the low teens percentage range, while the military business is anticipated to grow by mid-to-high single digits. "We aim to capitalise on strong growth drivers across all business segments to further MTU's success," stated CEO Lars Wagner. The forecast assumes a US dollar/euro exchange rate of 1.10. MTU has also reaffirmed its increased earnings expectations for 2024, anticipating adjusted EBIT to surpass €1 billion for the first time, with adjusted net income rising in tandem. Revenue is forecast between €7.3 and €7.5 billion, with contributions from all business areas. Free cash flow is expected to remain in the low triple-digit million-euro range for the year. (€1.00 = US\$1.05 at time of publication).

Honeywell and Bombardier resolve legal dispute, launch aviation technology deal

Honeywell International and Bombardier have reached a settlement in a lengthy legal dispute while also forming a new partnership to develop advanced aviation technologies. The collaboration will focus on avionics, engines, and satellite communications, with

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

C&L Aerospace secures bulk purchase of Cessna Citation aircraft

C&L Aerospace has secured a long-term strategic agreement for the disassembly of end-of-life business jet aircraft, marking a significant step in the company's commitment to offering cost-effective, high-quality parts to operators worldwide. The company will begin by disassembling 13 aircraft throughout the remainder of 2024, with parts from these aircraft supporting a range of Cessna Citation models, including the Excel (XL), XLS, XLS+, (560), Sovereign (680), and Latitude (680A). This new programme will enable C&L to expand its support to corporate jet operators and MROs (maintenance, repair and overhaul providers), either individually, via consignment, or through tailored support programmes. Additional aircraft types are set to be included in the future. Chris Kilgour, CEO of C&L Aviation Group, commented: "This strategic programme will offer our customers improved availability of parts for these aircraft types. With our MRO facility in Bangor, Maine, and our strategically positioned global warehouse network, C&L is uniquely equipped to support these fleets." To meet the growing demand, C&L is enhancing its disassembly operations and in-house repair services, with a focus on landing gear support. The company is also forging new partnerships with leading repair vendors to expand its aircraft component repair capabilities. The PW306C and PW545B engines removed from these aircraft will either be disassembled to support engine shop visits or made available as complete engines. Furthermore, C&L will establish parts programmes and maintain essential component stock to serve customers worldwide, offering an innovative alternative to current supply chain-constrained parts suppliers.



© C&L Aerospace

Neptune Aviation begins converting A319 for wildland firefighting



Neptune BAe 146 firefighting aircraft

© Neptune Aviation Services

Neptune Aviation Services (Neptune), a prominent name in aerial firefighting, is transitioning its airtanker platform to the Airbus A319. Partnering with Aerotec & Concept, an Expleo company specialising in aircraft modification, Neptune has initiated the conversion process for the A319, with the first aircraft expected to be operational for the 2027 wildfire season.

Following two years of rigorous research, including airframe assessments and simulated retardant drops, the Airbus A319 was selected for its advanced features and greater capacity. The aircraft can carry at least 4,500 gallons of retardant, significantly more than the 3,000-gallon capacity of Neptune's existing BAe 146 fleet. Additionally, its larger fuel capacity will allow for extended service to remote fires previously out of reach. Johan Clochet, CEO of Aerotec & Concept, stated: "The Airbus A319's increased capacity and advanced features make it an ideal choice for wildland firefighting. With our extensive experience in aircraft modification, we are confident this transition will enhance Neptune's firefighting capabilities." As part of the A320 family, the A319 is equipped with advanced avionics and a fly-by-wire (FBW) system, enhancing safety and manoeuvrability while reducing weight. Neptune plans a gradual fleet transition, operating a mix of 10–15 A319s and BAe 146s, depending on operational demands. Neptune is conducting extensive airflow modelling and tank flow evaluations to optimise performance, with Airbus providing comprehensive lifecycle support. The company's partners, including the USDA Forest Service and Cal Fire, have expressed strong support for the fleet upgrade and its potential to bolster the nation's aerial firefighting resources.

FINANCIAL NEWS

an estimated potential revenue of up to US\$17 billion. The legal dispute, which dates back decades, centred on pricing disagreements over Honeywell's HTF7000 turbofan engines, initially developed exclusively for Bombardier's Challenger jets. Bombardier argued that Honeywell provided competitors, including Gulfstream Aerospace and Textron Inc., with similar engines at lower prices. Bombardier sought CA\$447 million (US\$318 million) in damages for alleged overpayments between 2012 and 2017 and additional compensation for purchases in subsequent years. A Quebec Superior Court ruling a year ago required Honeywell to negotiate cost reductions for Bombardier. The settlement comes at a cost for Honeywell, as it revised its financial forecasts downward. The company now expects adjusted fourth-quarter earnings of US\$2.36 per share, reduced from a prior projection of at least US\$2.73 per share. Honeywell also cut its sales outlook by US\$400 million, impacting margins and cash flow. The announcement caused a 2% drop in Honeywell's shares during after-hours trading in New York, on Monday, December 2. The roots of the dispute trace back to the 1990s, when Bombardier was developing its Challenger line of super-midsize private jets designed for transcontinental flights. Despite the past conflict, the agreement positions both companies to collaborate on future aviation innovations.

VSE Corporation completes acquisition of Kellstrom Aerospace

VSE Corporation has finalised its acquisition of Kellstrom Aerospace Group (Kellstrom), a global distributor and service provider in the commercial aerospace engine aftermarket and a portfolio company of AE Industrial Partners, LP. "This marks the next step in VSE Aviation's growth strategy, providing a clear opportunity to expand our business and better serve global aerospace aftermarket customers," said John Cuomo, President and CEO of VSE Corporation. "The acquisition of Kellstrom Aerospace enhances our OEM-focused value proposition and underscores our commitment to expanding our distribution and MRO capabilities in the growing commercial aerospace market. "Kellstrom's proven expertise in supporting a diverse range of global OEM partners through its portfolio of proprietary engine-focused products, repair services and technical advisory capabilities aligns seamlessly with VSE Aviation's business. We are confident that this integration will deliver significant value to both our customers and supplier partners." The acquisition was valued at approximately US\$185 million in cash and 172,414 common shares of VSE Corporation, subject to working capital adjustments. The cash component was financed using proceeds from VSE's October public offering of common stock and borrowings under its existing credit facility.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

RAS partners with Lufthansa Technik AERO Alzey



Representatives from Lufthansa Technik AERO Alzey and Rheinland Air Service © RAS

Rheinland Air Service (RAS), a provider of MRO services, has announced a strategic partnership with Lufthansa Technik AERO Alzey (LTAA), part of the Lufthansa Technik Group. This collaboration combines RAS's expertise in airframe and systems maintenance with LTAA's world-renowned engine maintenance capabilities, enabling RAS to provide a comprehensive, one-stop MRO solution. Under the agreement, LTAA will deliver EASA Part 145-compliant engine services, leveraging decades of experience and the global reputation of the Lufthansa Technik Group. The partnership is particularly beneficial for operators of regional fleets, including Embraer E-Jets and De Havilland Dash 8 aircraft. RAS will enhance its technical offerings and expand its ability to innovate, delivering value-added services to its global clientele. "We are thrilled to collaborate with Lufthansa Technik AERO Alzey, a name synonymous with quality and reliability in aviation," said Thomas Knäpper, CEO of RAS SAAR. This agreement underscores the mutual commitment of RAS and LTAA to safety, excellence, and innovation. It also sets the stage for future opportunities, as both companies explore ways to better support airlines, operators, and lessors in an evolving aviation industry. As part of the Lufthansa Technik family, LTAA brings its extensive expertise to the partnership, ensuring the highest standards in MRO services. By uniting their strengths, RAS and LTAA aim to set a new benchmark in the industry, offering unparalleled support to customers worldwide. This collaboration positions both organisations at the forefront of aviation maintenance, reinforcing their roles as trusted partners in a dynamic market.

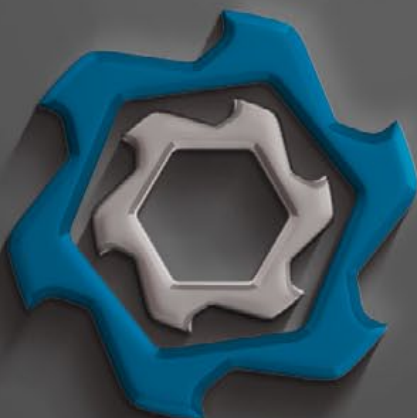
FINANCIAL NEWS

IFC invests US\$35 million to develop Pakistan's first SAF facility

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is providing US\$35 million in equity and debt financing to SAFCO Venture Holdings to establish Pakistan's first sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) facility. Located in Sheikhpura, Punjab, this greenfield project will convert waste oils, including used cooking oil, into SAF, contributing significantly to emissions reduction and the promotion of a circular economy in Pakistan. The facility, capable of producing 200,000 tonnes of SAF annually, will collect 250,000 tonnes of feedstock oil, helping to cut over 500,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year. SAF, derived from renewable biomass and waste, can reduce life-cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 94% compared to conventional jet fuel. This is particularly important as aviation accounts for 13.9% of global transport sector emissions, the second-largest contributor after road transport. The IFC's US\$35 million financing package includes US\$30 million in equity—US\$20 million from IFC's own account and up to US\$10 million from the UK-backed climate-focused CIPPAK programme—and US\$5 million in debt. This investment is crucial for anchoring SAFCO Ventures' pioneering efforts and supporting the nascent SAF industry in South Asia. Beyond its environmental benefits, the project is set to generate economic opportunities. It is expected to create 300 direct jobs, providing technical training and technology transfer and approximately 20,000 indirect jobs in the waste-to-fuel supply chain. Additionally, it will bolster Pakistan's foreign exchange earnings through SAF exports while producing Bionaphtha, a feedstock for sustainable plastics. Managed by Safoo OPCO, a subsidiary of SAFCO Ventures, the facility marks a significant step forward in South Asia's renewable energy landscape. SAFCO's other subsidiary, Biotech Energy (BTE), operates Pakistan's largest biodiesel refinery and oil feedstock collection network, further positioning the group as a leader in sustainable energy solutions.



IFC is investing US\$35 million to develop Pakistan's first SAF facility © Shutterstock



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MILITARY AND DEFENCE

FAB, Embraer partner to boost C-390 Millennium for ISR missions



Embraer and FAB have signed an agreement to expand C-390 Millennium special mission capabilities © Embraer

The Brazilian Air Force (FAB) and Embraer have signed an agreement to advance studies on enhancing the C-390 Millennium for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions, with an emphasis on maritime patrol. The announcement was made during Mostra BID, the National Defence and Security Fair in Brasília. Renowned for its versatility, durability, advanced communication and self-protection systems, the C-390 Millennium offers exceptional potential to meet the operational needs of the FAB and international customers alike. Lieutenant-Brigadier Marcelo Kanitz Damasceno, Commander of the Brazilian Air Force, stated: "The studies to adapt the C-390 Millennium aircraft to ISR missions have evolved in a structured way, analysing the aircraft's capability to evolve in order to meet the current and future needs of the Brazilian Air Force, especially in relation to maritime patrol." The aircraft's engineering and integration capabilities are highlighted by its adoption by several nations, including Hungary, Austria, South Korea and Sweden, to modernise their air forces. With a maximum payload of 26 tonnes, top speed of 470 knots, and cutting-edge technology, the C-390 Millennium is a

leader in its category, excelling in diverse operations, including from unpaved runways. Globally, the C-390 fleet has accumulated over 15,000 flight hours with a mission capability rate of 93% and mission completion rates exceeding 99%, showcasing unmatched reliability and performance.

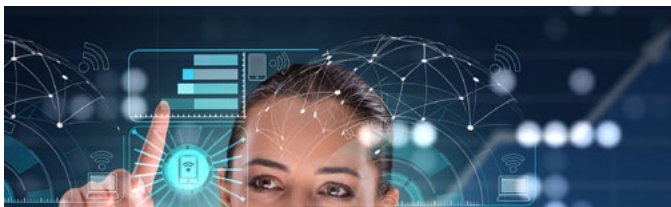
U.S. Army orders three more CH-47F Block II Chinooks

The U.S. Army has awarded Boeing a US\$135 million contract for three additional CH-47F Block II Chinook helicopters as part of its ongoing modernisation programme. This Lot 3 contract is a continuation of the Army's efforts to upgrade its heavy-lift capabilities to meet evolving mission requirements worldwide. The announcement follows the Army's decision in February to proceed with full-rate production of the CH-47F Block II programme. To date, Boeing is under contract to deliver nine of the planned 465 aircraft in the current fleet. Additionally, U.S. Congress has funded three more aircraft for the next production lot, with Boeing also receiving a contract last year to acquire long-lead parts for future production. The first production CH-47F Block II helicopter was delivered to the Army in June, followed by a second in September. The CH-47F Block II introduces several improvements over its predecessors. Enhancements to the drivetrain and airframe have increased the helicopter's maximum gross weight by 4,000 pounds, significantly boosting lift capacity. Updates to the fuel system have also extended the aircraft's mission range across nearly all payload configurations. Designed with long-term sustainment and future affordability in mind, the helicopter is built to meet the Army's operational needs for at least the next 40 years. The combination of advanced capabilities and extended lifespan positions the Chinook as a critical component of the U.S. Army's heavy-lift operations.



The U.S. Army has ordered three additional CH-47F Block II Chinooks © Boeing

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



© Pentagon 2000 Software

Pentagon 2000 Software, a provider of software solutions for the aviation and defence industries, has unveiled its new Available-to-Promise (ATP) module. This innovative tool is designed to enhance inventory management for aerospace and defence organisations, enabling precise delivery commitments and improved customer satisfaction. The ATP module is a powerful dashboard offering real-time insights into actual and projected inventory availability over a 12-month period. By utilising advanced algorithms and predictive analytics, the tool empowers organisations to optimise stock levels, minimise shortages, and increase order fulfilment efficiency.

Key features of the ATP module include:

1. **Real-Time Inventory Visibility:** Access to a 12-month timeline of anticipated supply and demand, with real-time updates across multiple locations to ensure reliable delivery schedules.
2. **Advanced Analytics:** Incorporating actual and forecasted demand to optimise stock levels and prevent stockouts.
3. **Enhanced Order Management:** Integrating seamlessly with order and contract management systems, as well as MRO (maintenance, repair, and operations) requirements, reducing errors and saving time.
4. **Customisation:** Tailoring the module to suit specific organisational needs, ensuring seamless compatibility with existing Pentagon 2000 systems.
5. **Scalability:** Accommodating the growth of organisations of all sizes with robust support for increasing transaction volumes.

The launch of the ATP module reinforces Pentagon 2000 Software's commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions that support efficiency, scalability and client satisfaction. The tool is expected to be a game-changer for organisations seeking to streamline inventory management in the complex and fast-paced aerospace and defence sectors.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IFS, a provider of enterprise cloud and industrial AI software, has announced its partnership with **CRISALION** Mobility, a Spanish company acclaimed for its efficient, safe and sustainable advanced electric mobility solutions. CRISALION has chosen IFS Cloud to enhance the design, manufacturing and maintenance processes for its passenger and cargo eVTOL aircraft, as well as its fleet of remotely operated vehicles. IFS will deliver a robust, end-to-end platform that leverages its extensive expertise in regulatory collaboration. Its innovative solution, powered by IFS.ai, provides a comprehensive digital thread across the Build, Operate, and Maintain value chain. This enables effective management of complex Quality Assurance, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) requirements while offering detailed serial number tracking to ensure quality and design integrity. In addition to its leadership in zero-emission ground mobility, CRISALION is a frontrunner in the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) sector. The company will depend on IFS to support the design of prototypes, manufacturing, testing, and commissioning of its advanced air vehicles. This partnership highlights the growing prominence of IFS in the AAM sector, solidifying its status as a strategic ally in driving innovation within the eVTOL industry. Gustavo Rodriguez, Chief Technology Officer at CRISALION, remarked: "At CRISALION Mobility, we are pioneering innovative mobility technologies that will redefine the future of transportation. To achieve this, we are dedicated to collaborating with top-tier partners like IFS. Its unique IFS Cloud platform, with aerospace-specific capabilities, will help us build, operate and maintain our eVTOL aircraft and vehicle fleets now and into the future."

OTHER NEWS



The EU Commission has approved the concessions made by Deutsche Lufthansa to acquire a stake in ITA Airways © AirTeamImages

The European Union has approved **Lufthansa's** acquisition of a 41% stake in **ITA Airways**, subject to key concessions, the Handelsblatt reported. This antitrust approval was granted in July, but only after **Deutsche Lufthansa** agreed to measures designed to ensure fair competition, as confirmed by the EU Commission on Friday, November 29. These measures include providing additional flight connections for rival airlines such as **EasyJet**, **International Airlines Group (IAG)** and **Air France-KLM**. With this, Lufthansa has surmounted the final EU regulatory hurdle for its investment in ITA. The acquisition, worth €325 million, will give Lufthansa a significant foothold in ITA Airways, the successor to the now-defunct **Alitalia**. This move aligns with Lufthansa's strategy to bolster its presence in the lucrative southern European market. As part of the agreement, Lufthansa and Italy's Ministry of Economy and Finance committed to facilitating greater competition. This includes permitting other airlines to operate more short- and long-haul routes from Italy and relinquishing some take-off and landing slots at Milan's Linate airport. In a subsequent phase, Lufthansa plans to acquire an additional 49% stake in ITA, a transaction expected to cost around €325 million, likely within a few years. (€1.00 = US\$1.05 at time of publication).

LEVEL, IAG's long-haul airline based in Barcelona, has obtained its Air Operator Certificate (AOC). This achievement, announced during IAG's Capital Market Days in November 2023, marks a new chapter for the airline, founded seven years ago as a commercial brand operated by Iberia. The AOC grants LEVEL operational autonomy, aligning it with other IAG airlines such as **Aer Lingus**, **British Airways**, **Iberia**, and **Vueling**. With its own operational structure, financial results and processes, LEVEL will enjoy greater agility to achieve strategic goals, strengthening its position as a next-generation airline. This autonomy enables the airline to focus on expanding its long-haul operations from Barcelona and solidifying its role as a key player in the global aviation market. The certification process has brought significant economic benefits to Catalonia, creating new jobs and doubling LEVEL's office staff. A dedicated operations team was formed to lead the project, while the technical crew (commanders and co-pilots) and cabin crew have been integrated into the new structure. These developments underscore LEVEL's commitment to growth and its long-term contribution to the local economy. The AOC confirms that LEVEL meets stringent safety standards set by Spain's State Agency for Aviation Safety (AESA). The airline has also obtained its operating licence, verifying the financial sustainability of its operations. Over the next two years, LEVEL will progressively secure permits to operate in countries such as Argentina, Chile and the United States. Once fully operational under its own entity, LEVEL will adopt the IATA code "LL" and the ICAO code "LVL," with "Dali" as its callsign, paying tribute to its Catalan heritage. This marks a new era for LEVEL as it continues to connect Barcelona with key global destinations.



The AOC grants LEVEL operational autonomy, aligning it with other IAG airlines

© AirTeamImages

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OTHER NEWS

Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) is introducing plastic-free food packaging across its flights departing from Copenhagen, Oslo, Arlanda and Gothenburg. This initiative, launched on December 1, is expected to reduce 37 tonnes of single-use plastics annually. The move reflects SAS' broader efforts to minimise environmental impact and lead the aviation industry's shift towards sustainable operations. The innovative packaging, developed in collaboration with suppliers, features a fully sealed, food-grade cardboard barrier that eliminates the need for traditional plastic coatings. This aligns with SAS' ambitious target of achieving 100% sustainable materials by 2030. Aron Backström, SAS Vice President of Product and Loyalty, highlighted that decarbonisation is the airline's overarching goal, encompassing sustainable choices in fleet, fuel and operations. Replacing single-use plastics represents an immediate, actionable step to reduce waste and emissions. SAS also aims to expand the impact of this initiative by offering its biodegradable packaging solution to other food producers. This industry-wide collaboration underscores the airline's commitment to fostering change beyond its own operations. In addition to replacing plastics, SAS is focusing on other cabin sustainability measures, including reducing onboard waste and optimising cabin materials to lower aircraft weight. This approach contributes to improved fuel efficiency and reduced emissions, supporting the global aviation sector's sustainability goals. Backström stressed the importance of collective support from passengers and stakeholders in embracing these changes. He acknowledged the challenges of transitioning to sustainable practices but expressed confidence in their long-term benefits. By promoting biodegradable packaging and reducing waste, SAS is not only addressing its immediate environmental impact but also paving the way for a more sustainable future in air travel.

Lufthansa's Executive Board has addressed harsh criticism from Klaus-Michael Kühne, a key shareholder owning 20% of the airline. In a November interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, Kühne expressed frustration with Lufthansa's sprawling structure, claiming the airline had become 'bogged down' with an incredible number of by-products and airlines under completely different names. He argued that a more focused business strategy would boost the share price. In response, Lufthansa is taking steps to review its operations. Board Member Dieter Vranckx is leading the "Target Operation Model" (TOM), a project aimed at fostering better collaboration among Lufthansa's eleven passenger airlines to unlock unused synergies. According to Handelsblatt, despite Kühne's criticisms, the company plans to retain its diverse brand portfolio while implementing



Fraport has won the concession to operate Kalamata Airport (KLX) in Greece © Fraport

infrastructure, including retail and parking areas, under a 40-year concession. Operations are expected to begin in late 2025, pending final approvals, with the concession agreement due to be signed by mid-2025. As part of the deal, the consortium has committed to modernising and expanding the terminal infrastructure at Kalamata Airport, with capital expenditures of €28.3 million planned within the first three years. During the 40-year concession, the Hellenic Corporation of Assets and Participations S.A. (HCAP), also known as Growthfund, will receive additional dividends from its ten-percent stake in the operating company. In total, the concession fees and dividends will generate €71.2 million in revenue for the Growthfund. The airport in Kalamata, located in the south of the Peloponnese, is expected to handle approximately 330,000 passengers in 2024. The region is known for its historic sites, such as Messene, Olympia and Sparta, and its stunning landscapes, including sandy beaches and mountains, making it a popular travel destination. Since 2017, Fraport AG has successfully operated 14 regional airports in Greece, focusing on modernisation and development to enhance the passenger experience. (€1.00 = USD\$1.05 at time of publication).

Fraport AG has won the concession to operate **Kalamata Airport (KLX)** in Greece, securing the deal with a bid of €45.2 million. The winning consortium, which includes Fraport and its Greek partners – Delta Airport Investments S.A. (Copelouzos Group) and Pileas Holdings S.A. (Constantakopoulos Group) – will oversee the operation of the terminal and other

SITA, a global provider of air transport technology, and **IDEMIA**, a specialist in computer vision, biometrics and digital security, are expanding their partnership to tackle critical challenges in airport operations, particularly in baggage handling. Building on their previous collaboration in enhancing digital travel credentials and biometric solutions for border management, the two companies aim to improve operational



SITA and IDEMIA to tackle key challenges in baggage handling and airport operations © Shutterstock

efficiency and provide a smoother travel experience for both passengers and airlines. As global air travel continues to rebound, with passenger numbers reaching 5.2 billion in 2023, surpassing pre-pandemic levels, the need for more efficient baggage handling has become increasingly important. According to the SITA Baggage IT Insights 2024 report, the baggage mishandling rate decreased from 7.6 to 6.9 per 1,000 passengers in 2023, reflecting a 9.2% improvement over the previous year, driven largely by technological investments. This collaboration between SITA and IDEMIA will help to further improve baggage handling by integrating computer vision, enabling better tracking of luggage from check-in to its final destination. The enhanced tracking system aims to reduce the incidence of lost or delayed luggage, offering passengers greater visibility and control over their baggage journey—a feature increasingly demanded by travellers. In addition to improving baggage handling, the partnership will enhance airport operations by reducing human error and boosting the speed and accuracy of baggage delivery. With 85% of airports having already introduced self-bag drop technology and 32% of passengers using mobile phones for baggage collection updates, the trend towards automation is clear. By incorporating computer vision into baggage processing, airports and airlines can further streamline operations. The partnership will also address the challenge of ensuring interoperability and security across airports, airlines, and governments without the need for complex integrations. The integration of IDEMIA's computer vision and SITA's baggage processing technologies represent a significant step towards the future of more efficient and secure airport operations.

OTHER NEWS

significant reforms. Grazia Vittadini, who joined the board in July, described the current efforts as a “stress test for our strategy.” A significant part of these reforms includes tackling IT inefficiencies within the Group, which Vittadini highlighted as a critical challenge, Handelsblatt reported. Standardising IT systems has become the top priority for Lufthansa’s technology team. Additionally, Vranckx has instructed the termination of all external consultancy contracts by the start of 2024. Financial challenges have also come under scrutiny, particularly regarding the Lufthansa premium brand, which recorded an operating loss of €36 million in the first nine months of 2023. Jens Ritter, head of the core brand, plans to address this by reallocating some routes to other Group airlines and increasing capacity through wet leasing arrangements during peak summer demand. However, Kühne remains sceptical about whether such measures align with the airline’s premium positioning. The ongoing reforms reflect Lufthansa’s effort to balance shareholder expectations with operational realities, as it seeks to solidify its strategy for sustainable growth.

Airbus has announced plans to cut 2,043 jobs across Europe within its Defence and Space division, citing economic pressures and increased competition in the satellite market. The job reductions, affecting around 5 per cent of the workforce, are aimed at lowering the company’s fixed costs, ‘Brussels Signal’ has reported. Germany will experience the highest impact, with 689 positions set to be eliminated. France will lose 540 jobs, the UK 477, Spain 303, and a further 34 positions will be cut globally. The majority of affected roles are in management support functions not tied to specific projects or programmes. The job losses, while substantial, are less severe than Airbus’ initial warning in October of up to 2,500 cuts. The company highlighted supply chain disruptions, shifting management priorities, and budget constraints as significant challenges for the division. Airbus has also been affected by major market shifts, including the rise of smaller, low-cost satellites in low-Earth orbit, such as Elon Musk’s **Starlink** constellation. This trend has disrupted the traditional market for large, complex geostationary satellites, where Airbus once dominated. The adjustments reflect the company’s need to adapt to a more competitive and volatile business environment. In response to these challenges, Airbus is reportedly exploring potential collaborations with other firms, including Thales, which announced its own job cuts in March 2024. Thales plans to reduce 1,300 positions, with around 1,000 based in France, as part of its space division restructuring. Both companies are navigating the evolving aerospace and satellite sectors, striving to maintain their leading positions amid economic and technological shifts.

Qatar Airways Cargo has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Japan Airlines** (JAL) to strengthen their partnership and expand cargo services. This follows Japan Airlines’ recent launch of daily passenger flights between Tokyo Haneda and Hamad International Airport in Doha. The MoU aims to enhance product offerings for cargo customers and create operational synergies between the two carriers. The agreement was signed by Qatar Airways Cargo Chief Officer Mark Drusch and Japan Airlines Senior Vice President Yuichiro Kito, with **Qatar Airways’ Group** CEO, Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, also in attendance. The collaboration focuses on integrating the airlines’ networks via their hubs in Doha and Tokyo. This will enable customers to benefit from improved connectivity and access to a wider range of destinations spanning Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Mark Drusch described the MoU as a commitment to a deeper partnership, highlighting the benefits of linking Qatar Airways’ extensive network with JAL’s operations. Yuichiro Kito emphasised that the agreement strengthens a long-standing relationship and leverages JAL’s passenger and freighter networks alongside Qatar Airways’ expanded network. He noted that Japan Airlines has reintroduced its own freighters after 13 years, further enhancing the partnership’s capabilities. The two carriers aim to streamline cargo transfer processes and optimise their mutual networks, ensuring efficiency for customers. Cooperation will also extend into other areas as both airlines enhance their collaboration. Starting next year, Qatar Airways Cargo will introduce freighter services between Doha and Tokyo Narita, further boosting connectivity. This partnership is expected to drive significant economic value by increasing trade flows between Japan and the regions served by Qatar Airways Cargo. Over the past year, the airlines have handled over 4,462 tonnes of cargo in Japan, with the collaboration expected to further increase this figure in the future.



MoU signing between Qatar Airways Cargo and JAL © Qatar Airways



The new Astrova IFE system debuted during the delivery flight of Icelandair’s first A321neo LR aircraft © Panasonic Avionics

Icelandair, the flag carrier of Iceland, is the first airline to implement Astrova, the advanced in-flight entertainment (IFE) system by **Panasonic Avionics**. This new system debuted during the delivery flight of Icelandair’s first A321neo LR aircraft. Passengers on Icelandair’s A321neo LRs will experience Astrova’s cutting-edge features, including 4K OLED HDR10+ displays that offer precise colour reproduction, infinite contrast ratios and deep blacks. The aircraft is equipped with 16-inch screens in Business Class and 13-inch screens in Economy Class. The system also offers high-quality sound with Spatial Audio, compatible with wired headsets or wireless headphones via Panasonic Avionics’ Bluetooth® technology. Additionally, passengers will have access to 67W USB-C power outlets at each seat, allowing them to fast-charge devices such as laptops. Astrova enhances the onboard atmosphere with programmable LED lighting, designed to align with various flight phases, including meal service, improving passenger comfort and experience. Icelandair has also adopted several other digital solutions from Panasonic Avionics, such as Arc™, ZeroTouch™ and OneMedia. These systems aim to improve operational efficiency and enhance the passenger journey through data-driven technologies. Arc™ provides a 3-D moving map with detailed points of interest to enrich the travel experience. ZeroTouch™ enables seamless updates of content and files on Icelandair’s aircraft, ensuring up-to-date in-flight offerings. OneMedia delivers personalised advertisements and promotes products, creating additional revenue opportunities for the airline. With the integration of Astrova and these advanced solutions, Icelandair is taking steps to provide passengers with a modern and connected travel experience while streamlining its operations.

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OTHER NEWS

The **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** has opened a new office in Abu Dhabi and a state-of-the-art training centre, underscoring its commitment to the Middle East's burgeoning aviation sector. The facility was officially inaugurated by His Excellency Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Director General of the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority, alongside the first cohort of trainees and IATA representatives. Located strategically to leverage the UAE's connectivity, the IATA office aims to serve airlines, trainees, strategic partners and governments across the Middle East and beyond. According to Kamil Alawadhi, IATA's Regional Vice-President for Africa and the Middle East, the office has seen significant growth, with a 140% increase in staff over the last 18 months. Alawadhi emphasised the importance of the facility in fostering the aviation sector's growth, noting its role as a strategic contributor to the region's social and economic development. IATA's new training centre addresses the increasing demand for skilled aviation professionals in the global and regional markets. By 2025, it plans to offer over 60 courses spanning critical disciplines, including safety, security, sustainability, airline operations, airport management and cargo logistics. These cutting-edge programmes aim to equip the next generation of industry professionals with the expertise needed to support and enhance the capabilities of the Middle East's aviation sector. The Abu Dhabi training centre marks a significant step in IATA's efforts to strengthen the aviation value chain and support the sector's sustainable growth in the region and beyond.



IATA has opened a new office in Abu Dhabi and a state-of-the-art training centre
 © Shutterstock

INDUSTRY PEOPLE


Daniel Rodriguez

- IAG Cargo, the cargo division of International Airlines Group (IAG), has introduced a new role, Head of Digital Sales, appointing **Daniel Rodriguez** to lead the position. This strategic move reflects

IAG Cargo's focus on expanding its digital capabilities to better serve customers and adapt to the changing logistics environment. The role will enhance IAG Cargo's online platform, allowing customers worldwide to book, amend and cancel shipments with greater flexibility. **Camilo Garcia Cervera**, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer at IAG Cargo, highlighted the importance of digital transformation in meeting customer needs, expressing confidence in Rodriguez's leadership to advance the company's digital sales strategy. Rodriguez, who has been part of IAG Cargo since 2018, brings extensive market experience to the position, officially beginning his tenure on December 2, 2024. He emphasised his enthusiasm for driving innovation to optimise efficiency and im-

prove customer experience, stating, "Our goal is to fully leverage the tools available to us, ensuring that we future-proof the business by utilising digital means to optimise our offering to customers." This development underscores IAG Cargo's commitment to modernisation and innovation. By investing in digital transformation, the company aims to remain competitive and adaptable to evolving customer expectations and industry trends. Rodriguez's leadership will play a critical role in positioning IAG Cargo as a leading provider of efficient and customer-centric logistics solutions in the digital age.



Carmen-Maja Rex

- **Carmen-Maja Rex** has been named Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) at Airbus, effective April 1, 2025. In this role, she will join the Executive Committee and report directly to Airbus CEO **Guillaume Faury**. Rex is currently the Human Resources Group Director at Heidelberg Materials, a leading global manufacturer of building materials and

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solutions. She will succeed **Thierry Baril**, who has been with Airbus for nearly 22 years, including 12 years as CHRO and a member of the Executive Committee. Baril will depart later in 2025, following a smooth handover to Rex. Rex brings a wealth of experience to Airbus, having started her career at Accenture in 1999 before moving to the United Nations in 2003. She joined Siemens in 2010, where she held several senior Human Resources roles, before becoming HR Group Director at Heidelberg Materials in 2020. In her current position, she oversees a global workforce of 51,000 employees across more than 50 countries. With her extensive HR expertise and leadership experience, Rex is well-positioned to support Airbus in navigating its future challenges and driving workforce engagement on a global scale.

Commercial Jet Aircraft

Aircraft Type	Company	Engine	MSN	Year	Available	Sale / Lease	Contact	Email	Phone
B737-400F	Royal Aero	CFM56-3C1	29204		Now	Sale/Lease/Ex	Gary MacLeod	gary@royalaero.com	+44 (0)1357 521144
B737-800 SF	GA Telesis		27988	2000	Now	Sale / Lease		aircraft@gatelesis.com	
B737-800 SF	GA Telesis		33814	2004	Now	Sale / Lease		aircraft@gatelesis.com	
B767-300ERBCF	Altavair	PW4060-3	28141	2000	Now	Now	Gareth Henry	gareth.henry@altavair.com	+353 87 330 9220
B767-300ERBCF	Altavair	PW4060-3	30563	2000	Now	Now	Gareth Henry	gareth.henry@altavair.com	+353 87 330 9220
B777-300ER	BBAM	GE90-115BL	39237	2013	Now	Sale / Lease	Steve Zissis	info@bbam.com	+1 787 665 7039

Regional Jet / Turboprop Aircraft

Aircraft Type	Company	Engine	MSN	Year	Available	Sale / Lease	Contact	Email	Phone
SAAB 2000	Jetstream Aviation Capital	AE2100A	031	1996	Now	Sale / Lease	Donald Kamenz	dkamenz@jetstreamavcap.com	+1 (305) 447-1920 x 115
SAAB 340B CRG	Jetstream Aviation Capital	CT7-9B	224	1990	Now	Lease	Bill Jones	bjones@jetstreamavcap.com	+1 (305) 447-1920 x 102
SAAB 340B Plus	Jetstream Aviation Capital	CT7-9B	450	1998	Now	Lease	Bill Jones	bjones@jetstreamavcap.com	+1 (305) 447-1920 x 102

Commercial Engines

AE3007 Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(8) AE3007A1	Now - Sale	Newcastle Aviation	Steve Hendrickson	steveh@newcastleaviation.com	952-223-0317
CF34 Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) CF34-10E	Now - Sale	Lufthansa Technik AERO Alzey	Johannes Otto	johannes.otto@lhaero.com	+49-151-589-39560
(2) CF34-10E	Now - Lease				
(1) CF34-8C5	Now - Sale / Lease	ASI Aero	Dave Silvers	daves@asiaero.net	+561.931.6650
(1) CF34-10E6	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
(1) CF34-10E5	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717
(1) CF34-8C5A1	Now - Sale / Lease	Magellan Aviation Group	Bradley Hogan	engines@magellangroup.net	+1 704-504-9204
(2) CF34-3A	Now - Sale	GNS	Shlomi Levi	shlomi@g-n-solutions.com	+972-52 850 8511
(1) CF34-10E5A1	Now - Lease	DASI	Joe Hutchings	joe.hutchings@dasi.com	+ 1 954-478-7195



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Commercial Engines

CFM Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) CFM56-5B3/3	Now - Lease	FTAI Aviation LLC	Mark Napoles	mnapoles@ftaaviation.com	+1 786-785-0777
(1) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Lease				
(1) CFM56-5B3/P	Now - Lease				
(1) CFM56-5B1/P	Now - Lease				
(1) CFM56-7B26	Now - Lease				
(3) CFM56-5C4	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
(1) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Lease				
(1) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Sale	BBAM	Steve Zissis	info@bbam.com	+1 787 665 7040
(1) CFM56-7B26	Now - Lease				
(1) CFM56-7B26/3	Now - Lease				
(4) CFM56-5B6/P	Now - Sale				
(3) CFM56-5B5/P	Now - Sale				
(1) CFM56-5B3/3	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717
(1) CFM56-5B4/3	Now - Lease				
(1) CFM56-7B22E	Now - Lease				
(1) CFM56-5B6/3	Now - Lease				
GE90 Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(2) GE90-94B	Now - Sale	BBAM	Steve Zissis	info@bbam.com	+1 787 665 7039
LEAP Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) LEAP-1B28	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
(1) LEAP-1B25	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717



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PW Small Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) PW150A	Oct 2024 - Lease	Lufthansa Technik AERO Alzey	Johannes Otto	johannes.otto@lhaero.com	+49-151-589-39560
(2) PW150A	Now - Sale/Lease/Exch.	Willis Lease	David Desaulniers	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
(1) PW127M	Now - Sale/Lease/Exch.				
Trent Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(2) Trent 772B-60	Now - Sale/Lease/Exch.	Rolls-Royce & Partners Finance	RRPF Marketing	RRPFMarketing@rolls-royce.com	+44 7528975877
(1) Trent XWB-84	Now - Sale/Lease/Exch.				
(1) Trent 556-61	Now - Sale/Lease/Exch.				
V2500 Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) V2527-A5	Now - Sale/Lease/Exch.	Rolls-Royce & Partners Finance	RRPF Marketing	RRPFMarketing@rolls-royce.com	+44 7528975877
(1) V2533-A5	Now - Sale/Lease/Exch.				
(1) V2527-A5	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717
(1) V2530-A5	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
(1) V2533-A5	Now - Lease	FTAI Aviation LLC	Mark Napoles	mnapoles@ftaiaaviation.com	+1 786-785-0777

Aircraft and Engine Parts, Components and Misc. Equipment

Description		Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(2) GTCP331-200ER, (2) GTCP131-9A, (1) GTCP131-9B	Now - Sale	Setna IO	David Chaimovitz	david@setnaio.com	+1-312-549-4459
(1) A321 Enhanced Landing Gear 2020 OH					
(3) 3800702-2, (1) 3800708-1, (1) APS3200	Now - Lease	Magellan Aviation Group		apuleasing@magellangroup.net	+1 704.504.9204
(4) APU EMB145LR, Model: 4504113A	Now - Sale	Newcastle Aviation	Steve Hendrickson	steveh@newcastleaviation.com	952-223-0317
(4) EMB145 LG Shipsets	Now - Sale	Newcastle Aviation	Steve Hendrickson	steveh@newcastleaviation.com	952-223-0317
(1) GTCP36-150	Now - Sale	GNS	Shlomi Levi	shlomi@g-n-solutions.com	+972-52 850 8511
(5) A340 LG Shipset, (1) B777 LG Shipset (2) B737 LG Shipset, (3) 767 LG Shipset, (1) A320 Shipset, (5) A330 LG Shipset, (1) A330 Shipset		GA Telesis		landinggearsales@gatelesis.com	
GTCP131-9A (2), GTCP131-9B(2)	Now - Lease	REVIMA APU	Olivier Hy	olivier.hy@revima-apu.com	+33(0)235563515
(1) GTCP331-200, (1) GTCP331-250	Now - Lease				
APS500C14(3), APS1000C12(2), APS2000	Now - Lease				
APS2300, APS3200(2), APS5000(2)	Now - Lease				
PW901A(4), PW901C(2)	Now - Sale / Lease				
TSCP700-4E	Now - Sale				
(2) 131-9A, (1) 131-9B (Max compliant), (1) APS3200, (2) 331-500		GA Telesis		apu@gatelesis.com	+1-954-849-3509
(5) 131-9B, (2) APS3200 "C", (1) 85-129H					
Engine stands: CF6-80C2, CFM56-3, CFM56-5A/B/C, PW4000				stands@gatelesis.com	+1-954-676-3111
(2) APU GTC131-9B	Now - Sale / Lease	Willis Lease	Gavin Connolly	gconnolly@willislease.com	+44 1656 765 256
Engine stands now available	Now - Lease				