

Weekly Aviation Headline News



“As I conclude my time at the FAA, my confidence in you to meet our safety mission has never been stronger.”
FAA Chief Michael Whitaker in memo to FAA employees”

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Michael Whitaker, FAA Chief, to Quit Post on Day of Trump Inauguration

FAA Deputy Administrator Katie Thomson to step down on January 10

In only his second year of a planned five-year term, the Chief of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Michael Whitaker has announced he will be stepping down from his role on January 20, 2025, the day of the inau-

guration of Donald Trump as President of the United States of America. Whitaker has been heavily involved with overseeing the FAA's response to safety issues at Boeing following a door panel which was missing four key bolts blew off an Alaska Airlines 737 MAX 9 jet at 16,000 feet (4,877 m) back in January this year. President-elect Donald Trump has made it clear from the onset of his presidency that he intends to remove many government officials from their positions, though without specifically mentioning the FAA. However, Elon Musk, a now very close adviser to Donald Trump and "Volunteer IT Consultant" at the head of the newly created Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has wanted to see Whitaker resign from his role for some time. According to Reuters news agency, Musk has been harshly critical of the FAA's decision to impose a US\$633,000 fine on SpaceX after the agency said the company violated launch license requirements. "As I conclude my time at the FAA, my confidence in you to meet our safety mission has never been stronger," Whitaker said in a memo to employees on Thursday, December 12. Former U.S. Representative Sean Duffy, who is Trump's nominee to head

the Transportation Department, told Reuters in an interview that Trump will nominate a new FAA administrator "who is strong and capable and ready to roll." He added that a deputy would be in place on January 20 to oversee the agency. The FAA has confirmed that Deputy Administrator Katie Thomson will step down on Jan. 10, meaning that Mark House, the agency's assistant administrator for finance and management, will become the agency's senior acting official during the presidential transition. While Whitaker had managed to make inroads into other problems, air traffic control staffing issues and a series of near-miss incidents that have raised safety concerns, the incoming chair of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee, Senator Ted Cruz, said at a hearing on air traffic on December 12, that the Federal Aviation Administration must take actions to modernise air traffic control systems. "The status quo of how the FAA modernises our ATC is unacceptable," Cruz said. "We are stuck with technology that is outdated almost as soon as it is introduced into the airspace." Cruz has indicated that he plans to look at "the status of the airspace and what changes may be necessary to enhance its efficiency and reliability."



Mike Whitaker

© FAA

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Air New Zealand to begin electric aircraft demonstration flights in 2025

Air New Zealand is advancing its goal of introducing electric aircraft into its fleet with the announcement of a technical demonstrator programme using the battery-electric ALIA CX300 aircraft from April 2025. Manufactured by US partner BETA Technologies, the aircraft will be used to evaluate its performance in New Zealand conditions before commercial operations commence in 2026. The ALIA CX300 will initially be based at Hamilton Airport for a series of proving flights, with operations gradually expanding to surrounding airports and Wellington. These flights will replicate the planned cargo route between Wellington and Blenheim, set to launch in 2026 in partnership with New Zealand Post. Bringing the aircraft to New Zealand a year ahead of commercial service allows Air New Zealand to refine operations, train pilots, and familiarise crews with the technology. Kiri Hannifin, Air New Zealand’s Chief Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Officer, highlighted the significance of this milestone in achieving the airline’s net-zero carbon emissions target by 2050. “We’re so thrilled to be moving into the next generation of aviation. This future is one where we can fulfil our purpose to connect New Zealanders but with a much lower emissions – something we are deeply committed to expediting as quickly as we can to help meet our 2050 net-zero carbon emissions target. The technology behind this aircraft is incredible, and we’re very proud to be able to bring it to Aotearoa a little earlier to show the country what the future of domestic air travel will look like,” Hannifin said. BETA Technologies’ founder and CEO, Kyle Clark, praised Air New Zealand’s proactive and collaborative approach, noting that the programme will provide critical data and operational insights to ensure smooth integration of the electric aircraft. To support the programme, Air New Zealand has invested in 60kW mobile chargers, which will be located at Hamilton, Wellington and Blenheim airports. These chargers can fully recharge the aircraft in approximately 90 minutes.

Orders and deliveries – Boeing and Airbus

Airbus v Boeing: Orders and Deliveries					
November 2024 YTD (net orders)					
	Airbus		Boeing		
Type	Orders	Deliveries	Type	Orders	Deliveries
A220	-16	65	737	266	247
A320 Family	540	510	767	15	16
A330	79	25	777	61	13
A350	139	43	787	28	42
Total	742	643	Total	370	318
Total	810	495	Total	550	363

Source: Airbus

Source: Boeing

Air India expands Airbus fleet with orders for 100 new aircraft



Air India has ordered ten A350 aircraft and 90 A320-family aircraft

© Airbus

Air India, under Tata Group ownership, has revealed an order for ten A350 wide-body aircraft and 90 single-aisle A320-family jets, solidifying its fleet modernisation plans. This latest order, already accounted for in Airbus’ 2024 orderbook, complements the substantial purchase made in 2023 of 40 A350s and 210 A320-family aircraft. With these additions, Air India’s total Airbus order now stands at 344 aircraft, six of which—A350-900s—have already been delivered. The airline has also opted for Airbus’ Flight Hour Services-Component (FHS-C) package to enhance the reliability and performance of its expanding A350 fleet. FHS is a comprehensive material and maintenance service based on a contractual fixed hourly-rate payment. FHS-C will provide Air India with fully integrated component services including on-site stock at Delhi. It will also provide the airline access to Airbus mutualised regional spares pools as well as repair and engineering services for a wide range of replaceable parts. FHS-C’s guaranteed service levels and component engineering expertise will allow Air India to benefit from maximised aircraft availability and operating maintenance cost savings. The purchases and service contracts align with Air India’s broader fleet modernisation programme aimed at scaling operations and supporting the airline’s transformation under the “Vihaan.AI” strategic initiative. Guillaume Faury, Airbus CEO, expressed his satisfaction with the partnership, applauding Air India’s trust in Airbus and the airline’s efforts to modernise its fleet under Tata’s vision. “We are committed to supporting the success of Air India’s ‘Vihaan.AI’ transformation plan,” he said. This expansion marks a milestone for Indian aviation, with Air India commencing operations of the A350 in January 2024, making it the first Airbus wide-body aircraft to serve the Indian market.

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AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

FAA and EASA approve durability enhancements for CFM LEAP-1A engines



CFM has used a propriety dust ingestion rig to replicate what operators are experiencing in service © CFM International

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) have jointly certified an updated high-pressure turbine (HPT) hardware durability kit for the CFM LEAP-1A engines that power Airbus A320neo-family aircraft. This new kit, designed to extend time on wing in demanding conditions, includes improved HPT Stage 1 blades, Stage 1 nozzles, and forward inner nozzle supports. Gaël Méheust, President and CEO of CFM International, stated, “This new hardware is fulfilling our promise to ensure that LEAP engines achieve the same level of maturity, durability and time on wing that our customers have enjoyed with the CFM56 product line.” To address durability challenges in extreme environments, CFM collaborated with geologists to create artificial dust that replicated the abrasive conditions faced by engines globally. A proprietary dust ingestion system allowed CFM to simulate HPT blade wear experienced in the field. These realistic conditions enabled the company to design, test, and validate improvements to enhance the durability and operational longevity of these critical engine components. The CFM LEAP-engine family has set a benchmark in fuel efficiency, offering 15–20% lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions compared to earlier-generation engines, along with significant noise reduction. With over 3,500 LEAP-powered aircraft currently in service, the engines have helped CFM customers collectively avoid more than 40 million tonnes of CO2 emissions. Since its introduction, the LEAP engine has become the most successful new product in CFM’s 50-year history. It has achieved an unprecedented industry milestone, surpassing 60 million engine flight hours in just eight years, marking the fastest operational ramp-up ever recorded in aviation.

Eve Air Mobility secures partnership with Helicopters Inc.

Eve Air Mobility (Eve) has entered into a letter of intent with Helicopters Inc., a prominent vertical lift and helicopter operator in the United States, to acquire up to 50 electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. This agreement, encompassing the aircraft order, service support, and Vector—Eve’s urban air traffic management (ATM) software—was unveiled at the Revolution.Aero Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) conference. During the event, Eve highlighted strategies to support and scale the future of air mobility. The partnership between Eve and Helicopters Inc. is built on a foundation dating back to a collaborative simulation project conducted in Chicago, Illinois, in 2022. In this initiative, Eve, in partnership with Blade, Inc., and Helicopters Inc., utilised a helicopter operated by Helicopters Inc. to mimic future eVTOL operations. The collaboration involved transporting passengers from Vertiport Chicago to two helistops located northwest and southwest of the city. The inaugural route connected Vertiport Chicago to Schaumburg Municipal Helistop, while the second route linked Vertiport Chicago to Tinley Park Helistop. Under the new agreement, Eve and Helicopters Inc. will deepen their collaboration by refining potential launch cities within target markets, establishing aircraft maintenance and servicing requirements, and working alongside ecosystem partners to evaluate the additional infrastructure necessary for safe and efficient operations. Potential applications of this partnership include airport shuttles and point-to-point connections across the United States, enhancing the accessibility and efficiency of urban air mobility. As part of the agreement, Helicopters Inc. will also gain access to Eve TechCare, an innovative all-in-one suite of solutions designed to streamline eVTOL operations. TechCare offers the industry’s most comprehensive services, expert customer support, and cutting-edge operational solutions. Additionally, the partnership includes Vector, an agnostic software solution engineered to optimise both current and future advanced air mobility operations. This strategic alliance between Eve Air Mobility and Helicopters Inc. underscores Eve’s commitment to advancing urban air mobility. By leveraging Helicopters Inc.’s operational expertise and Eve’s technological innovations, the partnership aims to accelerate the adoption and scalability of eVTOL technologies, paving the way for a more connected and efficient aerial transportation network in the United States.



Helicopters Inc has signed an LoI to acquire up to 50 eVTOL aircraft from Eve © Eve Air Mobility

Cambodia Angkor Air to add ATR 72-600 aircraft to its fleet



Cambodia Angkor Air will add three ATR 72-600s to its fleet in 2025 © ATR

ATR, the manufacturer of regional aircraft, has announced the addition of three ATR 72-600 aircraft to the fleet of Cambodia Angkor Air, which will rebrand as Air Cambodia on January 1, 2025. The aircraft, procured by HNCAL (HNCA Aviation Financial Leasing Co., Ltd.), a Chinese lessor and subsidiary of Henan Civil Aviation Development & Investment Group Co., will be leased to Cambodia’s national carrier to strengthen domestic and regional routes. Deliveries are set for 2025. This development underscores the growing aviation partnership between China and Cambodia and reflects Cambodia Angkor Air’s strategic focus on fleet expansion. By integrating the versatile ATR 72-600 into its operations, the airline aims to connect major tourism hubs and enhance the country’s transport infrastructure. The fleet addition supports Cambodia’s government initiative to boost regional air connectivity and develop new airport facilities, fostering economic growth and tourism. The ATR 72-600, known for its fuel efficiency and reliability, is well-suited for Cambodia’s high-demand routes, enabling efficient service to smaller airports and fostering greater accessibility across the region. The move highlights Cambodia Angkor Air’s dedication to advancing its

services and meeting increasing passenger demand, both locally and regionally. It also demonstrates ATR’s pivotal role in supporting regional airlines with adaptable aircraft designed to deliver optimal performance on diverse route networks.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Avianca selects Honeywell avionics and APUs for A320neo fleet

Avianca, Colombia's largest airline, has selected Honeywell to provide avionics technologies and mechanical systems for its new Airbus A320neo fleet. This decision is expected to improve operational efficiency and enhance pilot situational awareness, supporting Honeywell's focus on the future of aviation. Furthermore, Honeywell will supply 131-9A auxiliary power units (APUs) for Avianca's 138 new aircraft. These systems provide electrical power while the aircraft is on the ground, ensuring passenger comfort and operational readiness. Honeywell highlighted that the integration of its technologies would help Avianca achieve greater efficiency and equip its pilots with intuitive cockpit tools to improve flight operations. Avianca noted that the partnership with Honeywell represents a significant step forward in enhancing the safety and efficiency of its operations. The airline expressed confidence that Honeywell's systems would provide its fleet with reliable and innovative solutions to improve overall performance and the experience of both crew and passengers. Among the technologies Avianca is adopting are the Honeywell Pegasus II Flight Management System, which streamlines navigation and flight planning; the IntuVue RDR-4000 3D Weather Radar System, offering detailed weather monitoring and enabling efficient rerouting; and the SmartTraffic Collision Avoidance System, which enhances safety in high-density airspace. Additional systems include an Integrated Multi-Mode Receiver for precise navigation and the Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning System, designed to mitigate collision risks with terrain. The collaboration positions Avianca's fleet to benefit from state-of-the-art solutions aimed at efficiency, safety, and passenger satisfaction. Honeywell reiterated its commitment to providing technologies that drive operational excellence and align with the evolving demands of modern aviation.



Avianca has opted for Honeywell's advanced avionics technologies and APUs for its new Airbus A320neo fleet © Honeywell

AerCap expands partnership with Aloula Aviation through Boeing 737-800 lease



Aloula Aviation will operate two leased B737-800s from AerCap

© Boeing

AerCap Holdings N.V. has announced a new agreement to lease two Boeing 737-800 aircraft to Mukamalah Aviation Company, a subsidiary of Aramco operating as Aloula Aviation. These aircraft will support the transportation of passengers within the Aramco Group in Saudi Arabia. This partnership extends the long-standing relationship between AerCap and Aramco, which previously focused on helicopter leasing through Milestone Aviation, AerCap's helicopter leasing division. The new collaboration highlights AerCap's diverse offerings in both rotorcraft and fixed-wing aircraft. Aengus Kelly, CEO of AerCap, commented on the expanded relationship: "We are pleased to grow our partnership with Aramco and Aloula from helicopter leasing to passenger aircraft. Supporting Aloula with their first directly leased aircraft for passenger operations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a privilege, and we wish them great success in this endeavour." Established in 1934 as Saudi Aramco

Aviation, Aloula Aviation is Saudi Arabia's first aviation company and the second in the Middle East. Based in Dammam, the company operates over 60 aircraft, serving various purposes, including oil exploration and passenger transportation. Aloula also manages operations at 18 airports across Saudi Arabia, including full management of nine and supports more than 300 helipads onshore and offshore. This agreement underscores Aloula's efforts to modernise and expand its fleet while reinforcing its pivotal role in advancing Saudi Arabia's aviation infrastructure.

Aircalin orders two Airbus A350-900s

Aircalin, the international airline of New Caledonia, has announced an order for two Airbus A350-900s to support its fleet renewal and long-haul network expansion. This investment marks a significant step in the airline's growth strategy, enabling enhanced service and increased capacity on key routes. Currently, Aircalin operates a wide-body fleet comprising two A330neo aircraft. The addition of the A350-900s, configured in a premium three-class layout with seating for over 320 passengers, will boost capacity by 15% compared to the A330neo. The new layout includes an expanded business class, providing a more luxurious offering for long-haul travellers. Aircalin's decision to integrate the A350-900 aligns with its aim to modernise its fleet with efficient, high-performance aircraft. The A350-900 aircraft is renowned for its fuel efficiency and ability to operate on some of the world's longest routes while maintaining passenger comfort. The new A350-900s will be pivotal for Aircalin's ambitious plans, allowing the airline to improve connectivity from New Caledonia to global destinations while delivering a premium travel experience.



Image of Aircalin A350 aircraft

© Airbus

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

GA-ATS delivers the first Do228 NG aircraft to North America

German aircraft manufacturer General Atomics AeroTec Systems GmbH (GA-ATS) has successfully delivered the latest Do228 NG aircraft. Following extensive modernisation at the OEM and MRO centre in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, this marks the first NG series aircraft delivered to North America. The new owner, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI), a global leader in unmanned aerial systems (UAS), will employ the aircraft for airborne sensor research and development projects, as well as flight testing production sensor systems. The Do228-212, previously in service for many years, was completely rebuilt and customised by General Atomics AeroTec Systems to meet its new operational requirements. During an extensive refurbishment process, the aircraft was disassembled, inspected, and underwent necessary repairs and structural upgrades. Its technology was then enhanced to meet Do228 NG standards. A significant element of the upgrade was the installation of a new wing featuring Hard-



A Do228 NG aircraft

© GA-ATS

points, allowing for the future deployment of underwing sensor payloads. The aircraft has been specially designed with features such as multiple connection points, a dedicated mission power bus, structural interfaces for radar and EO/IR sensors, and multiple mission RF antennas. These adaptations ensure the Do228 NG is ideally suited for developing and testing advanced technologies, making it the first of its kind to enter service in North America. After rigorous ground and flight testing in Germany, the Do228-212 NG was ferried from Oberpfaffenhofen to San Diego, California, USA, where it was ceremoniously handed over to General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. The delivery route included stops in Scotland, Iceland, Greenland, Canada, and the western United States. The challenging journey highlighted the aircraft's reliability and resilience, withstanding heavy fog, strong winds, ice, snow, and temperatures dropping below -25°C on the ground in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. Despite these extreme conditions, the Do228 NG demonstrated its durability and exceptional performance, meeting expectations with flying colours.

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MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Lufthansa Technik to open state-of-the-art MRO facility in Portugal by 2027



Image of the new facility in Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal © Lufthansa Technik

Lufthansa Technik is set to enhance its global MRO capacities with the construction of a cutting-edge facility in Portugal. Located in the Lusopark business park in Santa Maria da Feira, roughly 35 kilometres south of Porto, the plant is expected to be operational by the end of 2027. The ambitious project will create over 700 jobs, with applications opening as early as next year. The newly acquired 230,000 m² site will house advanced MRO technologies, reinforcing Lufthansa Technik’s strategy of expanding its global network. The signing ceremony for the purchase agreement, was held with representatives from Portuguese politics and business and Harald Gloy, Chief Operating Officer of Lufthansa Technik. After extensive evaluation, Santa Maria da Feira was deemed the ideal location for this multi-million-euro investment. “Great

things will be created here—for the region, for Lufthansa Technik and for our employees and customers. This investment also underscores the Lufthansa Group’s commitment to Portugal,” Gloy noted. The project received strong support from the Portuguese government and the city of Santa Maria da Feira, facilitated by the trade and investment agency AICEP. Portugal’s Minister of Economy, Pedro Reis, commended the investment, emphasising its significance in fostering reindustrialisation and showcasing Portugal’s skilled workforce in the aeronautics sector. “This major investment reflects confidence in our infrastructure and talent,” Reis stated. “It represents a bold step in strengthening strategic alliances between Portugal and Germany, paving the way for sustainable growth in Europe.” The facility marks a new milestone for Lufthansa Technik, poised to contribute significantly to regional economic growth while enhancing the company’s global MRO capabilities.

AMAC Aerospace joins Airbus ACJ Service Centre Network

AMAC Aerospace (AMAK) has reported its inclusion in Airbus Corporate Jets’ (ACJ) Service Centre Network (SCN) for its headquarters in Basel, Switzerland. This significant partnership extends AMAC’s renowned expertise in maintenance and VIP completion services through Airbus’ global network. Under the SCN, AMAC will offer ACJ customers a comprehensive range of tailored services, including maintenance, engineering, VIP cabin refurbishments and upgrades. This collaboration was officially sealed at the MEBAA 2024 event in Dubai, marking a milestone for both organisations. Chadi Saade, President of Airbus Corporate Jets, commented: “We are honoured to welcome AMAC to our service centre network. AMAC is a long-standing trusted partner of ACJ, and their extensive expertise and proven commitment to excellence perfectly align with our objective to provide the highest level of care and support to ACJ operators worldwide.” Tarek Muhiddin, COO of AMAC Aerospace Basel, expressed his enthusiasm, stating: “We are delighted to join ACJ’s approved service centre network, a milestone that we believe will further strengthen our bond and foster a deeper relationship. This underscores our commitment to excellence and our dedication to providing world-class service.” He added: “We look forward to contributing to the network’s continued growth and success. Together, we aim to set new benchmarks in quality and customer satisfaction.” Through this collaboration, AMAC Aerospace will deliver customised, high-quality solutions to clients globally, ensuring every project is approached with the utmost safety and precision.



Tarek Muhiddin, COO of AMAC Aerospace Basel (l) and Chadi Saade, President of Airbus Corporate Jets (r) © AMAC

SkySelect Procurement technology is ushering in the era of AI in aviation



SkySelect has processed US\$5 billion worth of aircraft parts transactions since its launch of Procurement AI © Shutterstock

In 2024, SkySelect’s Procurement AI entered the early majority adoption phase, marking a pivotal transformation in the aircraft materials procurement landscape. Numerous customers have embraced this innovative technology, signalling a shift in how transactions for aircraft parts are conducted. The company has surpassed a significant milestone, having processed US\$5 billion worth of aircraft parts transactions since its launch. This achievement caps an impressive 12 months, during which SkySelect facilitated US\$1.5 billion in transactions. The surge was driven by the onboarding of a number of customers, including major names like JetBlue, Avianca, Airborne Maintenance & Engineering Services, MTU Maintenance and other prominent international airlines, maintaining discretion about their partnerships. SkySelect has tripled the number of airlines and MRO providers on its platform in 2024. Recognising the importance of a balanced ecosystem, SkySelect has

collaborated with over 3,000 suppliers, offering support for routine, urgent and Aircraft on Ground (AOG) part needs. These partnerships span a wide range of part categories, covering every aspect of the aviation supply chain. To ensure seamless integration for its users, SkySelect has also expanded its roster of partners, including AvSight, Ambry Hill, Rotabull, Quantum and Corridor. The aviation industry is increasingly embracing artificial intelligence (AI), with its role rapidly evolving from novelty to necessity. The global AI market in aviation is anticipated to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 35.38% between 2022 and 2030. Economic pressures have been a significant catalyst for this surge in technological adoption, as airlines strive to streamline operations and optimise supply chains amidst persistent economic and logistical challenges. “As airlines and MROs look ahead to 2025, operational efficiency and supply chain optimisation have become priorities,” said Erkki Brakmann, CEO of SkySelect. “Procurement AI has transitioned from a convenient tool to an essential technology for thriving in today’s complex environment.”

FINANCIAL NEWS

Alaska Airlines targets US\$1 billion profit boost by 2027

Alaska Airlines has unveiled an ambitious plan to achieve an additional US\$1 billion in profits by 2027, leveraging its acquisition of Hawaiian Airlines and rising demand for premium travel. The announcement, made on Tuesday, December 10, caused a surge in the carrier's share price, climbing 12% to US\$60.81. Based in Seattle, Washington, Alaska Airlines acquired Hawaiian Airlines for US\$1.9 billion in September. This deal is expected to bolster the company's financial performance without impacting profit margins, offering US\$500 million in savings. As part of its growth strategy, Alaska is set to increase the share of premium seating on its flights from 26% to 29% by 2027, aiming to generate an extra US\$100 million in profits. The airline noted that customers are increasingly willing to pay higher prices for spacious and comfortable seats, particularly on long-haul flights, boosting high-margin revenue growth. "Premium is the profit differentiator," stated Andrew Harrison, the Chief Commercial Officer, highlighting the significance of premium services in the airline's profitability. The company is also introducing a premium credit card as part of an overhaul of its loyalty programme. This initiative is expected to grow its frequent flyer base by 50% and add US\$150 million in incremental pre-tax profits by 2027. Alaska anticipates earning at least US\$10 per share by 2027, more than doubling its projected US\$4.25 to US\$4.50 per share earnings for 2024. Additionally, it foresees a pre-tax margin of 11% to 13%. Alaska aims to expand its international footprint with new non-stop flights from Seattle to Tokyo and Seoul in 2025, utilising Hawaiian Airlines' wide-body aircraft. By 2030, the airline plans to serve 12 international destinations from Seattle, generating US\$1.5 billion in revenue. The Hawaiian Airlines acquisition has significantly increased Alaska's access to 1,200 global destinations, enabling the airline to carry nearly 6 million passengers annually without increasing capacity. Domestically, Alaska plans to enhance seating availability in key West Coast markets, including Seattle, Portland and San Diego, which are among the nation's fastest-growing travel hubs. CEO Ben Minicucci emphasised the transformative impact of the Hawaiian Airlines deal, stating, "What could have taken us decades to build is at our fingertips today. The Hawaiian acquisition has allowed us to accelerate our future

Korean Air finalises acquisition of Asiana Airlines, creating a regional aviation giant

Korean Air has completed its long-awaited acquisition of Asiana Airlines, solidifying its position as one of Asia's largest carriers. The 1.8 trillion won (US\$1.26 billion) deal, which has been in progress for four years, is the longest airline merger in history. Initially announced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the merger aimed to rescue Asiana Airlines, which was burdened with substantial debt and struggling

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

ExecuJet and Satys to launch aircraft paint facility in Dubai

ExecuJet MRO Services Middle East (ExecuJet), part of Dassault Aviation, has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Satys Aerospace to collaborate on aircraft livery services. This partnership includes the establishment of a state-of-the-art aircraft paint facility at Dubai South's Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC), slated to open in the first quarter of 2025. The MoU indicates ExecuJet's intent to utilise the facility for livery projects once operational. The two companies will also explore joint marketing opportunities to enhance their service offerings. ExecuJet MRO Services Middle East specialises in line and heavy maintenance for a diverse range of aircraft, including Dassault, Bombardier, Embraer, and Hawker models. Additionally, it provides cabin refurbishments and frequently oversees livery customisations for its clientele. Nick Weber, ExecuJet's Regional Vice President for the Middle East, and Paul Woods, Satys ASP International's Commercial Director, signed the MoU ahead of the Middle East and North Africa Business Aviation Association (MEBAA) Conference and Exhibition, being held in Dubai South from December 10–12, 2024. The new paint facility will span 2,831 m² and feature climate-controlled environments, ensuring precision and quality in aircraft painting. It will accommodate various aircraft types, ranging from business jets to larger models like the Boeing 737-10 Max and Airbus A321XLR. Designed to serve business, commercial, and VVIP aviation sectors, the facility is expected to have an annual capacity to paint up to 35 aircraft. This partnership reinforces Dubai's position as a hub for aviation innovation and excellence, addressing growing demand in the region for high-quality aircraft livery services. The development also strengthens ExecuJet and Satys' presence in the Middle East's burgeoning aviation market, ensuring advanced, efficient, and comprehensive solutions for clients.



Satys paint facility in Toulouse, France © ExecuJet MRO

First Trent 1000 MRO engine arrives at Rolls-Royce Dahlewitz facility



The first Trent 1000 engine has arrived in Dahlewitz, Germany, for MRO © Rolls-Royce

Rolls-Royce has announced the arrival of the first Trent 1000 engine for maintenance, repair and overhaul at its Dahlewitz facility in Germany. This marks a significant step in the company's £55 million investment initiative to expand assembly, testing, and shop visit capacity across the UK and Germany, a move that will create approximately 300 jobs. The

investment, announced in March, aims to meet rising demand for Rolls-Royce's civil large engines and enhance aftermarket support for its global fleet. Rolls-Royce anticipates an annual growth of 7-9% in Rolls-Royce-powered aircraft in service through the remainder of the decade, as outlined during its 2022 Capital Markets Day. Half of the total investment, and about one-third of the new jobs, will be focused on Dahlewitz. Initially, the facility will support Trent 1000 engines, providing additional global capacity while preparing to introduce a durability enhancement package next year. In the long term, the facility is expected to transition assembling and testing new Trent XWB-84 engines. The durability enhancement package, already in use on the Trent 7000 engine, is part of a broader £1 billion investment in the Trent-engine fleet. This package will significantly extend engine time on-wing, more than doubling its performance. An additional package of hot-section enhancements, due in 2026, is expected to deliver a further 30% improvement. This strategic investment underscores Rolls-Royce's commitment to advancing its capabilities and supporting its growing global fleet while driving innovation in engine performance and durability. (£1.00 = US\$1.27 at time of publication).



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FINANCIAL NEWS

amid a dramatic drop in demand. To address competition concerns raised by regulatory authorities worldwide, Korean Air had to make considerable concessions, including relinquishing certain routes to other airlines and selling Asiana’s cargo operations. On Thursday, Korean Air acquired a 63.88% stake in Asiana, making it a subsidiary three years later than initially expected by Asiana. The expanded Korean Air group now holds over half of South Korea’s passenger capacity and ranks as the 12th-largest airline globally by international capacity. In terms of revenue, it now stands among the Asia-Pacific region’s top carriers, alongside China’s state-owned airline giants, according to 2023 financial data. Korean Air has assured that Asiana’s integration will not lead to layoffs. Asiana will operate as a subsidiary for up to two years before the two airlines fully merge under the Korean Air name, which will feature refreshed branding. Plans also include creating a unified low-cost carrier by integrating the low-cost subsidiaries of both airlines. Korean Air’s strategy focuses on streamlining flight schedules on overlapping routes, introducing new destinations, and continuing investments in safety measures. Additionally, the two airlines’ frequent flyer programmes are set to merge, with a proposal to be submitted to the Korea Fair Trade Commission by June 2025 for approval.

Archer secures US\$430m in funding to develop hybrid VTOL aircraft for defence applications

Archer has raised US\$430 million in equity funding to support its collaboration with Anduril Industries (Anduril) on the development of hybrid vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft for defence applications and for other general corporate purposes. The new partnership with Anduril targets a potential programme with the U.S. Department of Defence (DoD) and aims to deliver cutting-edge capabilities with accelerated timelines and reduced costs. Archer brings its expertise in rapidly designing and manufacturing advanced VTOL aircraft using commercial components and supply chains. Anduril contributes its deep proficiency in artificial intelligence, systems integration, and missionisation, creating a powerful synergy to meet urgent national security needs. The project will be carried out under Archer’s newly launched defence initiative, Archer Defense. The recent funding round saw participation from strategic and institutional investors, including Stellantis, United Airlines, Wellington Management and Abu Dhabi-based 2PointZero, a subsidiary of International Holding Company (IHC). This capital injection brings Archer’s total funding to nearly US\$2 billion, positioning it as one of the most well-capitalised companies in the sector. With US\$502 million in cash and cash equivalents reported at the end of Q3 2024, Archer is now financially secure with no immediate need for additional funding. Archer

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

AAR and AFI KLM E&M to establish joint venture for nacelle MRO services



The new joint venture will specialise in advanced nacelle MRO services © AFI KLM E&M/ Patrick Delapierre

AAR CORP. and Air France Industries KLM Engineering & Maintenance (AFI KLM E&M) have partnered to establish a new joint venture focused on maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services for next-generation aircraft nacelles in the Asia-Pacific region. This venture marks the second collaboration between the two companies, following a 2021 joint venture with Triumph Product Support, acquired by AAR earlier this year, to serve the Americas region. The new facility will be based in AAR’s Chonburi, Thailand, location, specialising in advanced nacelle MRO services. Its offerings will include on-wing and on-site inspections, alongside ensuring robust part availability for customers. By combining the strengths of an independent MRO provider and a global airline MRO, the joint venture aims to deliver top-tier service and support for operators in the region. Both companies emphasised their commitment to addressing the evolving needs of the aviation industry while maintaining their reputations for excellence. The venture will contribute to a global network of nacelle service providers, enhancing support for operators with increased efficiency and reliability. Regulatory approval is pending for the official formation of the partnership. This collaboration strengthens both companies’ foothold in the Asia-Pacific region, setting new benchmarks for nacelle MRO services while aligning with industry advancements.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Falko transitions ownership to HPS Investment Partners

Falko Regional Aircraft Limited (Falko) and its affiliates have officially transitioned ownership from Chorus Aviation (Chorus) to affiliates of investment funds managed by HPS Investment Partners (HPS). This significant development was marked by a statement from Jeremy Barnes, Falko’s Chief Executive Officer, who expressed optimism about the company’s future under its new ownership. Barnes highlighted the long-standing



Falko is now specialising exclusively in the 70–130-seat aircraft segment © AirTeamImages

relationship between Falko’s management and HPS executives, stating, “With the support of HPS and its senior executives... I firmly believe that Falko will continue to excel in our segment of the leasing market.” He also praised the achievements made during Chorus’ tenure, which included the expansion of Falko’s aircraft portfolio to over 220 aircraft and the growth of its workforce to 86 employees. Acknowledging Chorus’ contributions, Barnes remarked on its role in establishing Falko as an industry leader in the 70- to 130-seat aircraft leasing segment. The transition to HPS marks the beginning of a new chapter for Falko. The company will maintain its current leadership structure, with Barnes continuing as CEO, alongside the existing senior management team. As of the completion of the ownership change, Falko will now oversee 226 aircraft leased to 39 customers. Its operations will now span across three principal offices located in Hatfield, Dublin and Singapore, supported by a workforce of 86 employees. With the backing of HPS, the company will now aim to further strengthen its platform and build on the successes achieved over the past decade.

Defense will be led by Joseph Pantalone, a seasoned veteran with nearly three decades of experience at Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky. He will be supported by Archer’s Defence Advisory Board, comprising distinguished retired military

leaders. This collaboration underscores Archer’s commitment to advancing aerospace innovation while addressing the evolving needs of the defence sector.

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

Slovakia takes steps towards procuring Embraer C-390 military aircraft



The Slovak Defence Minister identified Embraer's C-390 Millennium as the optimal choice for Slovakia's future military transport needs © Embraer

The Slovak Ministry of Defence has signed a letter of intent with its Brazilian counterpart, setting the stage for enhanced industrial cooperation between the two nations. During his visit to Brazil, the Slovak Defence Minister identified Embraer's C-390 Millennium as the optimal choice for Slovakia's future military transport needs. This decision reflects the importance of regional synergies, as neighbouring countries have already integrated the C-390 into their fleets, offering opportunities for shared training, logistics and collaborative fleet growth. Slovakia plans to begin formal steps in January 2025 to procure three C-390 aircraft. Highlighting the aircraft's appeal, Bosco da Costa Junior, President & CEO of Embraer Defense and Security, stated, "The C-390 is currently the best aircraft in its category due to its cost efficiency, versatility and reliability, being able to perform the most demanding missions anytime, anywhere. We are confident that the C-390 is the most suitable aircraft to meet the needs of the Slovak Air Force." The C-390 Millennium is increasingly recognised as the preferred multi-mission airlift for EU and NATO member states, as well as their allies. It supports modernisation efforts, enhances operational capabilities, and promotes interoperability among allied forces. Portugal and Hungary already operate the aircraft, while it has been ordered by the Netherlands, Austria, and the Czech Republic. Sweden recently selected the C-390, joining Brazil and South Korea in embracing the aircraft for their defence needs. This growing adoption across Europe and beyond underscores the C-390's position as a key component in the modernisation of armed forces, meeting diverse mission requirements with efficiency and reliability.

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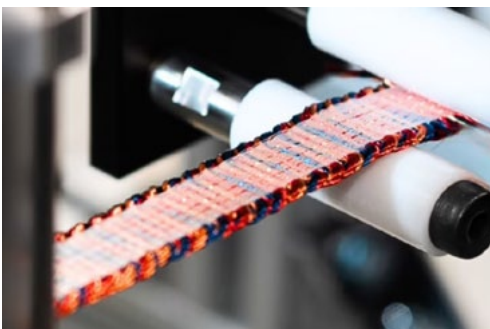
Kazakhstan takes delivery of first Airbus A400M aircraft

Airbus Defence and Space has delivered the first Airbus A400M aircraft to the Republic of Kazakhstan, marking a pivotal milestone in the country's tactical and strategic airlift operations. The initial aircraft, one of two A400Ms ordered by Kazakhstan, was officially handed over to the Kazakh Air Defence Forces at a ceremony in Almaty, southern Kazakhstan. This followed its ferry flight from Airbus' A400M final assembly line in Seville, southern Spain, a few days prior. "Proven for over a decade in military and humanitarian operations worldwide, the A400M is a game changer for the Kazakh Air Defence Forces, delivering unrivalled tactical and strategic capabilities in a single platform," said Jean-Brice Dumont, Head of Air Power at Airbus Defence and Space. "A second A400M, currently in production, will further strengthen these capabilities on its delivery in 2026." The delivered aircraft, production number MSN139, comes with a comprehensive maintenance and training support package provided by Airbus. To date, over 130 A400Ms have been delivered to nine countries, amassing 200,000 flight hours. The aircraft has demonstrated its versatility in a range of missions, including the evacuation of civilians and military personnel from Afghanistan, Sudan, and Niger. The A400M's unique combination of tactical and strategic capabilities allows it to transport heavy and oversized cargo to short, unprepared airstrips, fly at low altitudes, or deploy up to 116 paratroopers or 25 tonnes of cargo.



The Republic of Kazakhstan has taken delivery of its first of two A400M aircraft © Airbus

Alva Industries wins US\$1.85 million Lockheed Martin contract on advanced UAV technologies



FiberPrinting™ is an industrial winding method that allows for continuous winding of stator mats for ironless and slot-less rotary and linear motors © Alva Industries

Alva Industries (Alva), a Norwegian manufacturer renowned for its frameless motors and pioneering FiberPrinting™ technology, has secured a US\$1.85m contract with Lockheed Martin. This collaboration will focus on developing cutting-edge technologies to enhance the capabilities of small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (sUAVs) in the aviation and defence sectors. Leveraging Alva's expertise in electric propulsion and motors, the partnership aims to optimise UAV performance for varied mission requirements. Key advancements include the ability to interchange system properties for different scenarios, such as prioritising endurance through improved efficiency or reducing noise for stealth operations. This flexibility is expected to significantly enhance UAV flight and mission readiness. The initial phase of the project will span 24 months, with opportunities for further collaboration, reinforcing the longstanding alliance between U.S. and Norwegian defence industries. Alva Industries, a frontrunner in frameless motor technology for critical applications across land, sea, air, and space, employs its proprietary FiberPrinting™ technology to achieve unprecedented precision, torque density and adaptability. This innovative approach enables up to 60% copper fill factor in ironless and slot-less motor windings, along with rapid prototyping for motors

of almost any shape or size. Jørgen Selnes, CEO of Alva Industries, is very pleased with the new partnership: "Partnering with Lockheed Martin underscores the potential of Alva's expertise in electric motors and propulsion systems. We are proud to be a part of this groundbreaking project and look forward to delivering cutting-edge solutions that enhance UAV capabilities together with Lockheed Martin and the Sikorsky team."

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

Bahrain orders nine advanced H145 helicopters for police and EMS operations



Bahrain has ordered nine H145 helicopters © Airbus Helicopters

Airbus Helicopters has signed a contract with His Excellency Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Bahrain’s Minister of Interior, for the acquisition of nine H145 helicopters. These state-of-the-art aircraft will be utilised by the Police Aviation Command for law enforcement operations and emergency medical services (EMS), enhancing public safety and response capabilities across the kingdom. Olivier Michalon, Executive Vice President for Global Business at Airbus Helicopters, commented: “We are sure that the H145 will quickly become a valuable new asset for the Bahraini police. As a truly multi-role helicopter, the H145’s versatility makes it a key asset for public safety missions around the world and in the region.” Highlighting its strong presence in the Middle East, Michalon added that more than 60 H145s are currently operational in the region, supporting a variety of missions, including emergency medical services, energy sector operations, and utility roles. The H145, a light twin-engine helicopter, is renowned for its innovative design and advanced features. The latest version includes a five-bladed rotor, increasing its payload capacity by 150kg while simplifying maintenance through its bearing less rotor design. These advancements enhance serviceability and reliability while improving comfort for passengers and crew. Powered by two Safran Arriel 2E engines, the H145 is equipped with full-authority digital engine control (FADEC) and Airbus’ Helionix digital avionics suite. It features a high-performance four-axis autopilot that boosts safety and reduces pilot workload. The H145 is also the quietest helicopter in its class, with the lowest CO2 emissions among competitors. Globally, the H145 family has proven its reliability, with over 1,700 helicopters in service and a collective total of eight million flight hours. Its reputation as a versatile, efficient, and environmentally conscious helicopter now positions it as a valuable asset for Bahrain’s public safety and emergency operations.

OTHER NEWS

Delta Air Lines has inaugurated a leading-edge pilot training facility in Salt Lake City, marking its first major investment in a training centre outside its Atlanta headquarters. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the milestone, attended by Delta executives, local employees, government officials and community members. Strategically located near Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC), the facility underscores Delta’s commitment to expanding its presence in key network hubs. This investment aims to increase pilot training capacity while offering a more convenient option for pilots based in Delta’s western hubs. The facility will host thousands of pilots for extended training sessions throughout the year, contributing to the local economy through increased demand for accommodation and services. In addition to the new pilot training centre, Delta maintains a robust training programme for flight attendants in Salt Lake City, conducting thousands of training events annually. These investments complement Delta’s broader commitment to SLC, which has evolved into a premier domestic and international gateway. Delta’s ongoing contributions to SLC’s infrastructure include the opening of the 900,000 ft² Concourse A in 2020. This facility, featuring 50 Delta gates alongside 19 new restaurants and shops, significantly enhanced the airport’s passenger experience. By 2027, the airline plans to further expand its footprint with additional gates, reinforcing its strategic presence in the region.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Delta executives, local employees, government officials and community members in Salt Lake City © Delta Air Lines



FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker (l) and Florian Guillermet, Executive Director of EASA (r) © EASA

The **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** and the **European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)** have signed a declaration of intent to deepen their collaboration in advancing safe and secure civil aviation activities. The renewed partnership the FAA and EASA was discussed during the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) 80th anniversary of the Chicago Convention. “Aviation safety and modernisation is a joint effort that requires collaboration with our international partners,” said FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker. “Emerging technologies are transforming the global aviation system and require constant collaboration to re-evaluate and adapt our strategic direction as new challenges and opportunities present themselves.” Florian Guillermet, Executive Director of EASA, added, “Building on the EU-US agreement on cooperation in the regulation of civil aviation safety, this declaration of intent will generate a new momentum in our EASA-FAA relationship, and allow for better alignment on the priorities voiced by the global aeronautical industry.” The declaration outlines shared commitments, including the exchange of knowledge and best practices in areas such as safety data, risk management, cybersecurity and emerging technologies. It also encompasses innovation, research and sustainability, with an emphasis on seeking regulatory alignment where feasible. Additionally, the FAA and EASA will collaborate to provide technical assistance to support regions worldwide. This renewed commitment highlights the importance of international cooperation in addressing the evolving challenges and opportunities presented by the modern aviation landscape.

OTHER NEWS

SITA will provide specialised airport systems for Saudi Arabia's **Red Sea International Airport's (RSI)** new Main Terminal building. This collaboration builds on SITA's prior work with RSI, including the successful implementation of technology in the airport's Air Taxi Terminal. RSI, a key component of The Red Sea destination developed by Red Sea Global, is projected to handle one million annual passengers by 2030, with a peak capacity of 900 passengers per hour. To manage this anticipated volume seamlessly, the partnership will leverage digital innovations to create a smooth and efficient passenger experience. Under the agreement, SITA will implement a range of advanced solutions designed to streamline operations. The SITA Flex platform and Maestro departure control system will automate check-in and departure processes, enabling passengers to control their journey via mobile devices. For baggage management, SITA Bag Manager will provide real-time tracking of every bag within the airport, ensuring efficient reconciliation and freeing staff to focus on more complex tasks. In addition, SITA will deploy a suite of airport management solutions that use data analytics to optimise resource allocation and enhance operational efficiency. Passengers will benefit from real-time updates provided by SITA's Information Display Systems, ensuring clear and timely communication throughout their journey. RSI will also benefit from cost-effective implementation of these technologies. By building on the infrastructure already established in the Air Taxi Terminal, SITA will deliver fully interoperable systems that streamline operations and improve efficiency.



Eve Air Mobility and Signature Aviation will explore ecosystem requirements and ground services necessary for safe, efficient AAM operations © Eve

Eve Air Mobility (Eve) and **Signature Aviation**, the largest network of private aviation terminals, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore the ecosystem requirements and ground services necessary for safe, efficient and scalable advanced air mobility (AAM) ground operations. The agreement unites two established leaders in the global aerospace industry: Eve Air Mobility's expertise as an eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) manufacturer and Signature Aviation's expansive network of private aviation terminals. In addition to their research collaboration, the MoU also includes plans to explore potential future commercial partnerships. "The announcement of our partnership with Eve adds to a transformative year for Signature, while also reinforcing our commitment to shaping the future of aviation through our sustainability initiatives," said Derek DeCross, Chief Commercial Officer at Signature Aviation. "We're always looking ahead to create and deliver exceptional experiences for our guests, and working towards the most comprehensive ground infrastructure for eVTOL aircraft is a major part of that mission. This collaboration will bring together our experience, resources and creativity to find the most effective path towards innovative, safe and scalable ground operations for advanced air mobility." In addition to the MoU, the companies have also signed a letter of intent (LOI) for Vector, Eve's urban air traffic management software. Vector is an agnostic software solution developed to address the unique air traffic and network management challenges associated with both current and future AAM operations. By supporting reliable, efficient and scalable fleet and vertiport operations, Vector enables operators to adapt as the industry evolves. The software is progressing towards an operational version that customers can now test and trial, helping advance the market for AAM.

INDUSTRY PEOPLE



Dave Jackson (l) and Nico Neumann (r)
© Deutsche Aircraft

- Regional aircraft manufacturer Deutsche Aircraft has announced the appointment of **Nico Neumann** as Co-CEO alongside current CEO, **Dave Jackson**. Neumann will guide Deutsche Aircraft through its next phase, delivering the D328eco® aircraft to market by 2027. This role is part of a managed transition, with Neumann set to assume full CEO responsibilities for the Deutsche Aircraft-operated businesses in Munich and Leipzig by mid-2025. Dave Jackson will continue to support Neumann and the growing team, remaining as CEO of the

parent company, Deutsche Aircraft Group. Neumann will assume the role of Co-CEO from January 1, 2025 and will relinquish his current position of Chief Operating Officer. Over the past 18 years, Neumann has held various operational positions within the Deutsche Aircraft and 328 Support Services, including Vice President of Operations and Programmes. In this capacity, he was responsible for developing the aircraft production programme and lead the supply chain team, as well as being a key point of contact with the German government. He was also part of the core team that identified and selected the location for the final assembly line for the D328eco in Leipzig. Neumann established a strong foundation in the aviation sector as a B2 certified engineer at 328 Support Services. He subsequently advanced to leadership roles, including Head of Avionics & Electric as well as Director of Production & Maintenance, where he successfully supervised numerous VIP modifications and maintenance programs for the global Dornier 328 fleet. Dave Jackson has for over 18 years been

CEO and Managing Director of 328SSG/Deutsche Aircraft. His leadership since 2006 has ensured the business turnaround of the company and continuous and safe operation of the worldwide Dornier 328 fleet, maintaining the company's position as a leading regional aircraft OEM. Prior to his role at Deutsche Aircraft, he had over 20 years' experience in the automotive and aviation sectors, specializing in business turnarounds, restructuring and development, including acquisitions, as well as sales, service and logistics, in airframe and engine maintenance, component manufacturing, as well as regional airline ownership. During the transition, Neumann will work closely with newly appointed COO Olaf Lawrenz, to ensure the smooth handover of responsibilities. Lawrenz brings a wealth of experience from companies like Airbus and Asco Industries, where he was VP Supply Chain, leading the final assembly lines, flight lines and delivery centres for the Airbus A320 in Hamburg. His expertise will be crucial in driving Deutsche Aircraft's continued growth and success.

INDUSTRY PEOPLE



Theo Panagiotoulas (l) welcoming Michael Rousseau (r) as the new Chairperson of the Star Alliance Chief Executive Board © Star Alliance

• **Michael Rousseau**, President and CEO of Air Canada, has been elected as the new Chairperson of the Star Alliance Chief Executive Board (CEB), succeeding **Scott Kirby**, CEO of United Airlines, who served in the role since December 2020. As Chairperson, Rousseau will oversee the strategic direction of Star Alliance, which is the world's largest airline alliance comprising 25 member airlines. He will preside over the Alliance's two annual board meetings and act as its spokesperson. The CEB represents the CEOs of all member airlines and serves as the governing body responsible for shaping the Alliance's overall strategy. **Theo Panagiotoulas**, CEO of Star Alliance, extended his congratulations to Rousseau: "I am delighted to welcome Michael Rousseau, one of the most seasoned CEOs on the board, as the new Chairperson and look forward to working closely with him as we bring the renewed vision of the Alliance to fruition. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to Scott Kirby for his guidance and support to Star Alliance during his successful four-year term." Founded in 1997, Star Alliance was established as the first global airline alliance, dedicated to delivering global connectivity and seamless service. With 17,500 daily flights connecting nearly 1,150 airports in 189 countries, Star Alliance continues to offer unparalleled reach, ensuring a superior travel experience across its extensive network.



James Meyler (l) and John O'Donoghue (r)

• ORIX Corporation has announced significant management changes and organisational reforms following its recent Board Meeting, set to take effect on January 1,

2025. Among the key changes is the promotion of **James Meyler** to Group Executive, ORIX Corporation, Japan. This new role will be in addition to his current position as Chief Executive Officer of the ORIX Aviation Group. Meyler, who has over 25 years of experience in the aviation sector, was appointed CEO of ORIX Aviation Systems (ORIX Aviation) in 2018 and has served as a Board Director of Avolon since February 2022. ORIX Aviation also announced that **John O'Donoghue** will take up the role of General Counsel on April 1, 2025. Commenting on the appointment, Meyler said: "We are delighted to welcome John to his new role as General Counsel, ORIX Aviation. John has been a key member of our management team since he joined our company, and I am looking forward to working closely with him over the coming months and years ahead". O'Donoghue has held various positions within ORIX Aviation's Legal Department since joining the company in 2018. He was promoted to Assistant General Counsel in July 2022 and previously worked at Arthur Cox Solicitors. A graduate of University College Dublin, O'Donoghue brings extensive legal expertise to his new role. Additionally, ORIX Aviation announced the promotion of Alexander Losy to Assistant General Counsel. These changes signal ORIX Corporation's continued focus on strengthening its leadership team and organisational capabilities as it moves into 2025.



Florian van Vugt

• Specialist regional aircraft lessor TrueNoord has appointed aviation finance expert **Florian van Vugt** to the newly created role of Corporate Finance Manager. Based in TrueNoord's Amsterdam office, Van Vugt will oversee debt structuring and refinancing activities while spearheading initiatives to diversify the company's funding base. His responsibilities also include fostering long-term relationships with financial stakeholders such as banks, institutional investors, capital market participants, and rating agencies. Van Vugt highlighted TrueNoord's innovative vision and ambitious expansion plans as key factors in his decision to join the company. "Even before joining the team, TrueNoord made a strong impression on me as a dynamic and progressive business. Its fleet of turboprops and regional jets are essential for maintaining connectivity on thinner routes to remote communities or in challenging geographies. These aircraft also play a pivotal role in the broader network strategies of several

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long-haul carriers, making them indispensable to the aviation industry." With extensive experience in aviation finance and strategy consulting across Europe and Asia, Van Vugt brings a deep understanding of the sector's financial and strategic dynamics. He expressed enthusiasm for his new role, stating, "I'm pleased to be joining TrueNoord at such a monumental time, with the team recently having acquired its 100th aircraft. I look forward to working closely with my colleagues to evaluate debt terms in relation to acquisitions, sales, and lease transactions, bringing a dual focus on financial rigour and strategic foresight to the team." This appointment reflects TrueNoord's commitment to strengthening its financial capabilities as it continues to grow its fleet and expand its presence in the regional aviation market.

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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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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Commercial Engines

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				