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Weekly Aviation Headline News


© Lilium

"We are optimistic, but not euphoric."
Mobile Uplift Corporation spokesperson

Germany's Lilium thrown €200 million lifeline as Volocopter files for bankruptcy

Investment consortium comes to the rescue as major competitor falters

Having filed insolvency petitions with the Weilheim district court at the end of October 2024, Germany's eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) startup Lilium has announced that the company has found an investor which will enable it to continue operations for the foreseeable future. The investor, in the form of a consortium, the Mobile Uplift Corporation (MUC), has pledged an injection of €200 million (US$210 million) which was announced on December 30, 2024, and immediately notarised, though no money has yet been paid and the restructuring process is yet to be completed. According to Germany's online manager magazin, among them is the German battery developer and producer CustomCells , in which Abacon Capital, Porsche Venture, 468 Capital, Vsquared Ventures and World Fund are also invested. The company has previously been a partner and supplier to Lilium. The online publication also believes that Fifth Wall and other likely investors will include Maximilian Prince of Liechtenstein, the CEO of the LGT Group, and Niklas Zennström (58), the founder and ex-CEO of Skype and current managing director of Atomico. In addition, the well-known investors 468 Capital, Financial Investments SPC and Earlybird are believed to have helped arrange the deal for Lilium. At the end of December 2024, MUC signed a purchase agreement with Lilium's parent company. The initiators of the consortium are the Berlin-based financier Earlybird and the Munich-based investment company General Capital. They announced that they want to bring back 750 employees who had previously been laid off. MUC also wants to take over the subsidiaries Lilium GmbH and Lilium eAircraft GmbH. However, the decisive creditors' committees for the two Lilium companies still have to be appointed by the court. They also have to approve the purchase agreement. In the meantime, another German eVTOL startup, Volocopter, responsible for the development of the Volocity two-seater air taxi startup, has now filed for bankruptcy. However, according to Deutsche Welle, the company remains optimistic that early in the year it will find additional investment and is consequently continuing operations. Part of its problem is that it still needs type certification from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for the market launch and the bankruptcy petition has proved necessary for the company to stay afloat. The company said it was "nearing the finishing line" in gaining approval for the Volocity's all-electric vertical take-off and landing technology. "The company needs financing to take the final steps towards market entry. We will endeavour to develop a restructuring concept by the end of February and implement it with investors," said Tobias Wahl, the court-appointed provisional insolvency administrator. Recently Volocopter had a major set-back when it was forced to cancel test flights during the summer Olympic Games in Paris because it had not received the certificate for its aircraft engine. Volocopter said in December that that the Volocity model had fulfilled three-quarters of the EASA criteria required.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Brussels Airlines to welcome three more A320neos by 2026

Brussels Airlines A320neo © David Plas Photography

Brussels Airlines has announced that it will welcome three more Airbus A320neo aircraft to its fleet by summer 2026. The A320neo consumes less fuel, produces up to 20% less CO2 emissions, and offers a 50% reduction in noise compared to previous-generation aircraft. This will bring the total number of A320neo aircraft in the Brussels Airlines fleet to eight. On November 1, 2023, Brussels Airlines received its first Airbus A320neo, directly from the Airbus factory in Toulouse. This marked a milestone for the airline, as it was the first time in its history that brand-new aircraft had joined the fleet. Brussels Airlines currently operates five A320neos and is pleased to announce that three more aircraft of this type will be added to the fleet by summer 2026. These state-of-the-art aircraft will replace two older A319 aircraft, while the third unit will serve to expand the fleet. "Being able to add extra brand-new aircraft is a win-win-win: by replacing older aircraft by the most fuel-efficient aircraft on the market, we reduce our impact on the environment. We are also growing our fleet, which creates extra jobs and improves connectivity for Belgium. And last but not least: the A320neo is a joy to fly, both for passengers and crew, thanks to it's upgraded, comfortable cabins, the quietness during the flight and additional space for hand luggage." comments Dorothea von Boxberg, CEO, Brussels Airlines. Fleet renewal is a key part of Brussels Airlines' strategy to reduce its carbon footprint. The A320neo reduces CO2 emissions by up to 20% compared to its predecessor. As Brussels Airlines replaces smaller A319 aircraft with the A320neo, the benefits are even greater, with reductions of up to 30% per passenger.

Taiwan's China Airlines Places US$11B aircraft order

China Airlines has announced an order for ten Airbus A350-1000s and 14 Boeing 777X aircraft, including four freighters from the latter family, on December 19. In a filing with the Taiwan Stock Exchange on the same day, China Airlines revealed that it had ordered ten Airbus A350-1000s, ten Boeing 777-9s, and four 777-8F freighters. The carrier disclosed that it would pay no more than US$448 million for each A350-1000, US$530 million for each 777-9, and US$519 million for each 777-8F, with the total value of the transaction not exceeding US$11.85 billion.

China Airlines has ordered ten Airbus A350-1000s and 14 Boeing 777X aircraft © Boeing

Also on December 19, China Airlines confirmed it would purchase four GE Aerospace GE9X engines and three Rolls-Royce XWB-97 engines, the exclusive engines for the 777X and A350-1000 aircraft, respectively. The airline will pay no more than US$59.2 million for each GE9X engine and US$51.2 million for each XWB-97 spare engine, with the total cost of the seven engines not exceeding US$390.4 million. For Airbus, this marks the third order for A350-family aircraft in December, following Air Calin's purchase of two A350-900s and Air India's announcement as the undisclosed customer for ten A350s, likely consisting of five A350-900s and five A350-1000s. Additionally, Air India has added another 90 A320neo-family aircraft to its order book. The A320neo and A321neo models were also added to Airbus' order list throughout the year. Airbus also has an order for five A350-900s from an undisclosed customer, dated November 27.

Setna iO acquires three vintage Boeing 737-800 aircraft

American Airlines Boeing 737-800 © AirTeamImages

Setna iO has purchased three vintage Boeing 737-800 aircraft on lease with American Airlines, via its affiliated leasing entity, Setna Aero Lease. The aircraft were manufactured in 2010 and delivered to American Airlines at birth. The aircraft will continue operating with American Airlines until redelivery when Setna iO will ultimately disassemble the engines and airframes for subsequent piece part sales.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Air India orders 34 trainer aircraft

Air India, India's leading global airline, has placed an order for 34 trainer aircraft as it prepares to begin cadet pilot training at South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) in Amravati, Maharashtra, set to open in the second half of 2025, pending regulatory approvals. The order includes 31 single-engine aircraft from Piper Aircraft (USA) and 3 twin-engine aircraft from Diamond Aircraft (Austria). The FTO is a significant step in Air India's efforts to enhance its training infrastructure under its Vihaan.AI transformation programme, aiming to develop a steady pipeline of pilots as the airline expands its fleet and becomes more self-reliant. The trainer aircraft, due for delivery starting in 2025, will feature glass cockpits, G1000 avionics systems, and Jet A1 engines, ensuring advanced training for aspiring pilots. The FTO, located at Belora Airport in Amravati, aims to graduate 180 commercial pilots annually. Air India has also invested in its new 600,000 ft² Aviation Training Academy in Gurugram, the largest in South Asia. The FTO in Amravati will feature cutting-edge training facilities across ten acres, including digitally enabled classrooms, hostels, a digitised operations centre, and its own maintenance facility, all designed to ensure high operational efficiency and safety standards. Sunil Bhaskaran, Director of Aviation Academy at Air India, said, "The new FTO is a strategic initiative to significantly expand our training infrastructure and build a self-reliant ecosystem of qualified pilots for both Air India and the Indian aviation industry. This order of 34 trainer aircraft will support the development of South Asia's largest FTO, contributing to India's aviation infrastructure and supporting the government's vision for an Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Archer-DX © Piper

Cessna SkyCourier receives Canadian type certification

The Cessna SkyCourier has been awarded type certification by TCCA
© Textron Aviation

Textron Aviation Inc. has announced that the Cessna SkyCourier, its twin-engine large utility turboprop, has been awarded type certification by Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA). This certification paves the way for the aircraft to support operations in some of North America's most remote regions. The first SkyCourier in Canada – a freighter variant – is set for delivery this year to Air Bravo Corporation. Based in Ontario, Air Bravo has provided passenger, cargo and air ambulance services from Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Barrie and Meaford since 2001. The Cessna SkyCourier offers versatility for air freight, passenger transport and specialised missions. Designed for efficiency, it can be operated by a single pilot and easily reconfigured to suit different operational needs, ensuring strong returns on investment. Available in freighter, passenger, and combi configurations, as well as with a gravel kit for added adaptability, the aircraft is ideal for challenging environments. The 19-passenger variant features separate crew and passenger doors, a spacious baggage compartment, and large windows for natural light and scenic views. The freighter variant includes a flat-floor cabin that accommodates up to three LD-3 shipping containers with a 6,000-pound payload capacity. Both variants are equipped with a large cargo door and single-point pressure refuelling for quicker turnaround times. Powered by two Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-65SC turboprop engines and featuring McCauley C779 heavy-duty four-blade aluminium propellers, the SkyCourier delivers exceptional performance and reliability, even under demanding load conditions.

Air Canada boosts A220 fleet with five additional aircraft

Air Canada has placed a firm order for five additional A220-300 aircraft, marking the fifth anniversary of its first A220 delivery in December 2019. The order follows an initial 2016 commitment for 45 A220-300s and a 2022 re-order for 15 more. With this new addition, Air Canada's total firm orders for the A220-300 now stands at 65. John Di Bert, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Air Canada, stated: "The A220 has exceeded our expectations over the past five years, enabling us to open new routes and optimise existing ones with an aircraft that offers the right economics for our growth strategy. It is also very popular with our customers. We are pleased to add five more of these aircraft, built in Mirabel, Quebec, just a short distance from our Montreal headquarters, further supporting Canada's aerospace industry." Air Canada became the North American launch operator for the A220-300 in January 2020 and has since deployed the aircraft to over 70 destinations. Assembled in Mirabel, Quebec, the A220 plays a crucial role in Canada's renowned aerospace sector. The A220 combines the longest range, lowest fuel consumption and widest cabin in its class, carrying 100 to 150 passengers over distances of up to 3,600 nautical miles (6,700 km). Powered by Pratt & Whitney's latest-generation GTF engines, the aircraft offers a 25% reduction in fuel consumption and carbon emissions per seat. The A220 can already operate with up to 50% sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), with Airbus aiming for 100% SAF compatibility by 2030. As of November 2024, Air Canada's fleet includes 134 Airbus aircraft, including the A320 family, A330 family and A220-300 models, with an additional 26 A321XLRs on order.

Air Canada has ordered five additional Airbus A220s *© Airbus*

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

AerCap signs sale-and-leaseback deal with TAAG

AerCap Holdings N.V. has finalised a sale-and-leaseback agreement for a new Boeing 787-9 aircraft with TAAG Angola Airlines, the national carrier of Angola. The aircraft is set to be delivered in February 2025. Aengus Kelly, CEO of AerCap, expressed excitement about introducing the 787 to TAAG as part of its fleet modernisation efforts. He noted that the aircraft would enhance TAAG's network across Africa, Europe, and Asia, while improving fuel efficiency. Nelson de Oliveira, CEO of TAAG, highlighted the deal's significance in modernising its fleet, improving sustainability, and boosting operational efficiency. AerCap is a global leader in aviation leasing, serves around 300 customers globally, and provides a range of fleet solutions. TAAG Angola Airlines operates a network of 12 domestic and 11 international destinations and is recognised for its service excellence.

Representatives from AerCap and TAAG Angola Airlines © AerCap

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

GA Telesis to acquire AAR's landing gear overhaul business

GA Telesis has announced the signing of a definitive agreement to acquire AAR's landing gear overhaul business and wheels and brakes business unit. Upon completion, the acquired operations will be integrated into the GA Telesis MRO Services Division under Group President Pastor Lopez and rebranded as GA Telesis Landing Gear Services. This acquisition will enhance GA Telesis' expertise in overhauling landing gear systems for commercial and military aircraft, including Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier, and Embraer platforms. The addition of specialised wheel and brake repair services will further bolster the company's capabilities within the aviation sector. The deal will also introduce High-Velocity Oxy-Fuel (HVOF) coating capabilities to GA Telesis' portfolio, enabling advanced surface treatments that improve the longevity and durability of critical aircraft components. These advancements align with GA Telesis' mission to deliver innovative aftermarket solutions for the aviation industry.

© GA Telesis to acquire AAR's landing gear overhaul business

Abdol Moabery, President and CEO of GA Telesis, expressed enthusiasm about the expansion of the company's services, emphasising its commitment to delivering greater value to aviation partners. "This acquisition allows us to grow the GA Telesis Ecosystem™ and continue providing innovative solutions to our customers worldwide." The transaction requires regulatory approvals, including a CFIUS review, and is expected to close in early 2025.

Sabena Technics signs milestone deal with Regio Lease

© Sabena Technics

Sabena Technics has announced a landmark agreement with Regio Lease for the transfer of its borescope inspection activities, including tools and resources, to Sabena Technics. This move positions the company as a leading European provider of aircraft engine and auxiliary power unit (APU) borescope services. This strategic development significantly enhances Sabena Technics' capabilities, enabling it to offer a wider and more diverse range of certified services, including boro-blending support. Customers will benefit from expanded service offerings designed to deliver greater value and meet evolving industry demands. Regio Lease will continue to collaborate with Sabena Technics in Blagnac to support its own customers, ensuring high standards of service and safety while contributing to the growth of this essential aviation sector. With a strengthened, highly experienced, and flexible team, state-of-the-art tools, and an extended Scope of Approval covering major engines and APUs, Sabena Technics provides comprehensive inspection services under EASA Part 145 and FAA certifications, guaranteeing top-tier compliance and expertise in engine borescope inspections.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

StandardAero secures multi-year MRO contract with US-Bangla Airlines

StandardAero has been chosen by US-Bangla Airlines, the largest private airline in Bangladesh, to deliver maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services for its Pratt & Whitney Canada PW127M turboprop engines. These engines power US-Bangla's fleet of ATR 72-600 regional aircraft. StandardAero is the world's largest independent Pratt & Whitney Canada-authorised PW100 Designated Overhaul Facility (DOF). The non-exclusive, multi-year agreement will see StandardAero support US-Bangla's PW127M engines from its Turboprop Engine MRO Centre of Excellence (COE) in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Canada. StandardAero operates two PW100 overhaul locations, in Summerside, and Gonesse, France, and runs six PW100 service centres across North America, South America, Africa, and Australasia. With 40 years of experience supporting PW100 engines, StandardAero became the first independent MRO provider for this engine in 1984. StandardAero leverages six decades of turboprop MRO experience to offer tailored engine support solutions, including component repair, rental engines, field services, and engine condition trend monitoring (ECTM) as a CAMP Systems Designated Analysis Centre (DAC). US-Bangla Airlines, known for its premium service standards, reliability, and on-time performance, is Bangladesh's largest airline by market share. It transports over 2.5 million passengers annually, using its ATR fleet for regional connectivity and feeding its international operations with Boeing 737-800 and A330-300 aircraft. This partnership is expected to enhance US-Bangla's operational efficiency while ensuring continued service excellence.

Etihad Engineering completes first 12-year check on Boeing 787

© Etihad Engineering

Etihad Engineering has successfully completed its first 12-year check on a Boeing 787 Dreamliner for LOT Polish Airlines, the flag carrier of Poland. A 12-year check is one of the most comprehensive heavy maintenances checks an aircraft can undergo. Over 300 personnel worked on the check, completing around 1,600 routine and non-routine tasks in under 60 days. This effort required more than 500 tools and over 1,100-part numbers. The check included the full replacement of the landing gear, the disassembly and reassembly of critical components, extensive structural inspections, and system overhauls, covering avionics, hydraulics and engines. Daniel Hoffmann, CEO of Etihad Engineering, commented: "A 12-year check on the Boeing 787 demands exceptional precision, planning, and execution. Successfully completing our first 12-year check on a B787 highlights the expertise and diligence of our team in handling complex and large-scale aircraft maintenance. We are honoured by the trust that LOT Polish Airlines has placed in us and remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety for all our global customers." The aircraft is the first in a series of LOT Polish Airlines' B787s scheduled for 12-year checks. The next aircraft in the programme is currently undergoing heavy maintenance at Etihad Engineering's advanced MRO facility in Abu Dhabi.

HAECO renews line maintenance contract with EVA Air

EVA Air has extended its line maintenance contract with HAECO until 2026 *© HAECO*

HAECO has announced the extension of its line maintenance contract with EVA Air until the end of 2026. The renewal includes non-technical services such as cabin cleaning at Hong Kong International Airport, further strengthening the long-established partnership between HAECO and EVA Air, which began in 2002. HAECO, a global provider of line maintenance services, offers a broad range of high-quality line maintenance, cabin and AOG recovery solutions designed to improve the service quality and efficiency of its airline partners. With a network of stations in Hong Kong and 17 cities across the Chinese Mainland, HAECO supports over 140 airlines and handles around 200,000 flight movements annually. HAECO has been providing line maintenance for EVA Air for over 300 monthly flights in Hong Kong. The renewed contract covers various aircraft types and models, including both passenger and cargo aircraft such as the Airbus A321 and A330, and the Boeing 787, 777, and 777F.

FINANCIAL NEWS

MTU Aero Engines assumes ownership of 3D.aero

MTU Aero Engines (MTU) has announced that it is assuming ownership of 3D.aero, a Hamburg-based specialist in automation and measurement technology. With a team of around 40 experts, 3D.aero focuses on high-precision surface inspection, painting automation, and system engineering for aviation. MTU has collaborated with 3D.aero on various projects in recent years, integrating innovative technologies that have enhanced efficiency and reduced costs in aircraft maintenance. Michael Schreyögg, Chief Programme Officer at MTU Aero Engines AG, emphasised the strategic value

FINANCIAL NEWS

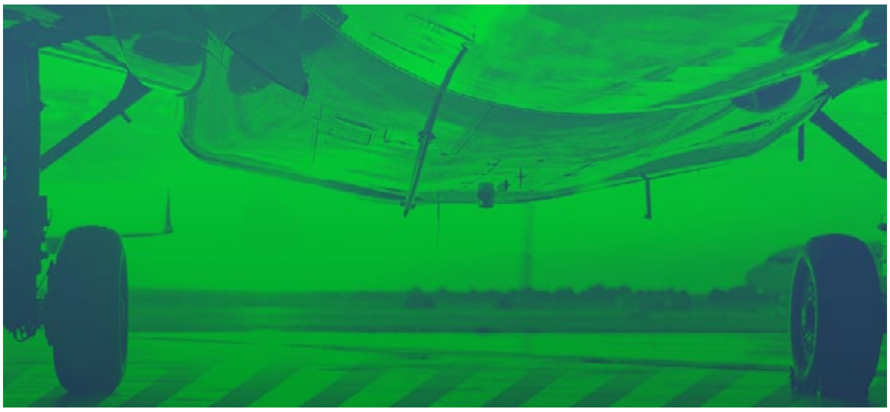
of the acquisition, stating that retaining 3D.aero's expertise in-house will drive advancements in automation and benefit MTU's customers and partners. Currently, three 3D.aero systems are operational at MTU, with plans for further deployment. The transfer of ownership strengthens 3D.aero's ability to scale its solutions across the aviation industry. Managing Director Sönke Bahr, who will continue to lead the company alongside his co-founders, highlighted the benefits of MTU's global network, which provides valuable market access to aviation OEMs and maintenance providers. Beyond aviation, 3D.aero will continue to develop and market its painting automation solutions for other sectors, including construction and agricultural machinery, commercial vehicles, rail transport and general mechanical engineering. MTU acquires 3D.aero from its previous shareholders, Ce iX GmbH, IT Concepts GmbH, and ESPACE 2001 S.A. The purchase price remains undisclosed.

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise reports strong performance in 2024

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE), a global aviation services company, has released its business transactions update for the full-year 2024, highlighting significant achievements across its capital and engineering divisions. DAE Capital demonstrated robust activity throughout the year, acquiring a total of 83 aircraft, with 30 owned and 53 managed. It also sold 68 aircraft, comprising 19 owned and 49 managed assets. The division finalised 233 lease agreements, extensions, and amendments, including 190 for owned aircraft and 43 for managed ones. Notably, 17 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft were placed on long-term leases with Turkish Airlines, Eastar Jet and Hainan Airlines. DAE Capital also entered definitive purchase agreements to acquire 36 aircraft from various counterparties for a total consideration of US$1.6 billion and successfully priced a US$497.2 million two-tranche aircraft ABS for a managed asset client. DAE Engineering achieved remarkable milestones, recording over 1.5 million man-hours of work and completing more than 300 aircraft checks during the year. The division expanded its hangar capacity by 30%, increasing the number of bays to 22, including one capable of accommodating the Airbus A380. Additionally, DAE Engineering strengthened its relationship with Spirit AeroSystems and Joramco, introducing further shop capabilities to enhance service offerings in 2024. These achievements underline DAE's commitment to driving growth, operational excellence, and innovation across its business lines while continuing to provide world-class aviation solutions to its clients.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

TP Aerospace strengthens ties with MJets Air

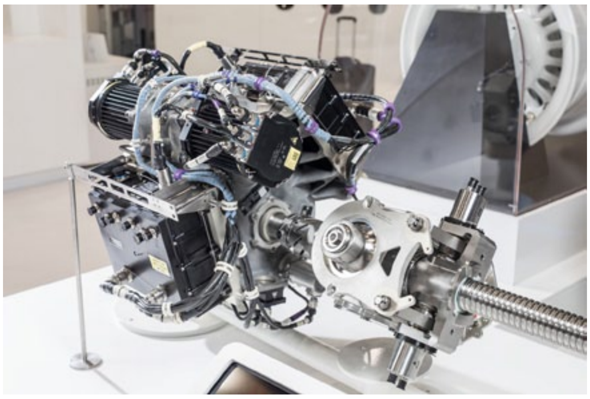


© TP Aerospace

TP Aerospace has secured a new all-inclusive agreement with Malaysian freighter operator MJets Air, further cementing its footprint in the Asia Pacific region. MJets Air, a specialist freighter operator and a key entity within the MMAG Aviation Consortium—part of the publicly listed MMAG Holding Berhad—has opted for TP Aerospace's comprehensive cycle flat rate (CFR) programme. This agreement covers both the current and future fleet of MJets Air's Boeing 737CL and 737NG aircraft. The CFR programme, a fully integrated exchange service, offers a plug-and-play cost-per-landing model. This fixed-rate solution provides MJets Air with complete cost transparency for their wheel and brake operations, enhancing operational efficiency. TP Aerospace's Kuala Lumpur MRO facility, established in 2018, will primarily support MJets Air under this agreement. The facility underscores TP Aerospace's commitment to the region and its ability to provide high-quality maintenance and service solutions. MJets Air, renowned for its air cargo operations, also delivers a range of services beyond freighter activities. With its own fleet and a robust cargo terminal hub, the company is strategically positioned to advance Malaysia's role as a vital regional transhipment centre for e-commerce and air cargo.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Woodward to acquire Safran Electronics & Defence NA



Woodward to acquire Safran Electronics & Defence © Adrien Daste / Safran

Woodward has announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the Safran Electronics & Defence electromechanical actuation business based in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The acquisition includes intellectual property, operational assets, talent, and long-term customer agreements for horizontal stabilizer trim actuation (HSTA) systems, which are crucial for aircraft stabilisation and ensuring safe, efficient flight, notably for the Airbus A350.

"We are confident that this important business will continue to thrive under Woodward's leadership and commitment to innovation. We look forward to supporting a smooth and efficient transition for our customers." said Franck Saudo, CEO of Safran Electronics & Defense. "With our eyes riveted on accelerated value creation and the preparation of the next generation of aircraft, the transaction announced today is another important milestone towards the closing of the acquisition by Safran of Collins Aerospace's actuation and flight control activities." The transaction is expected to close in mid-2025, once all customary terms and conditions of the agreement are met and regulatory requirements are fulfilled.

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

Embraer signs contract for two C-390 Millennium aircraft

C-390 Millennium aircraft © Embraer

Embraer has signed a new contract with an unnamed customer for the acquisition of two C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft. This deal includes a comprehensive package comprising training, support, and spare parts, ensuring optimal operation and maintenance of the aircraft. The C-390 Millennium will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the customer, enabling missions such as troop and vehicle transport, humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and medical evacuation. The aircraft's versatility and adaptability underline its appeal to military and humanitarian operations globally. This new agreement brings the total number of countries adopting the C-390 Millennium to ten, joining nations such as Brazil, Portugal, Hungary, South Korea, and Sweden. The C-390 is recognised as a next-generation military airlift solution, offering advanced multi-mission capabilities and designed for interoperability in diverse operational scenarios. Since its induction into the Brazilian Air Force in 2019, followed by the Portuguese Air Force in 2023 and Hungary in 2024, the C-390 has amassed over 15,500 flight hours, achieving a mission capability rate of 93% and mission completion rates exceeding 99%. These figures affirm the aircraft's exceptional reliability and productivity. The C-390 can carry a payload of 26 tons, surpassing many medium-sized military transport aircraft. It boasts a maximum speed of 470 knots and operates efficiently on both temporary and unpaved runways, including packed earth, soil, and gravel. With its adaptability, the C-390 performs a variety of tasks, from cargo and troop transport to firefighting and air-to-air refuelling. The KC-390 variant further enhances operational flexibility by functioning as both a tanker and a receiver for aerial refuelling.

Spain orders 25 new Eurofighter jets

The Spanish government has signed a contract with the NATO Eurofighter and Tornado Management Agency (NETMA), based in Munich, for the acquisition of 25 Eurofighter aircraft. Known as the Halcon II programme, this deal includes 21 single-seat and four twin-seat Eurofighters, which will replace part of the Spanish Air and Space Force's F-18 fleet. This contract, following a 2022 order for 20 fighter jets, will increase the Spanish Eurofighter fleet to 115 aircraft. The first of the new aircraft is expected to be delivered in 2030. The additional Eurofighters will enhance Spain's air-power capabilities, strengthen its position within NATO and ensure a robust industrial presence across Europe. The deal will also contribute significantly to the Spanish aerospace industry, securing thousands of jobs, both directly and indirectly. All Spanish Eurofighters are assembled, tested and delivered at the Airbus Getafe site in Madrid, with over 16,000 jobs created across Spain in the manufacturing and support processes. Major national defence and technological companies are involved in the production of these advanced aircraft. Approved by Spain's Council of Ministers in September 2023, the acquisition includes not only the aircraft and engines but also essential support services. The Halcon programme significantly upgrades Spain's airpower, with the new fleet featuring advanced avionics, E-Scan radar, and enhanced weapon systems capable of deploying Brimstone III and Full Meteor missiles. The new Eurofighters will join the Spanish Air Force from 2026 onwards, alongside the current fleet of 70 Eurofighters. The aircraft will be stationed at Morón, Los Llanos and the future operating base at Gando in the Canary Islands.

Eurofighter Halcon II jet © Airbus

Embraer expands African reach with A-29 Super Tucano deal

A-29 Super Tucano © Embraer

Embraer has signed a contract to deliver four A-29 Super Tucano light attack and advanced trainer aircraft to an undisclosed customer in Africa. These versatile aircraft will support a broad range of missions, including border surveillance, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), close air support, counterinsurgency operations, and advanced flight training. Renowned for its multi-mission capability, the A-29 Super Tucano offers exceptional operational flexibility and availability. Its robust airframe allows it to operate from unpaved runways in harsh environments, making it suitable for armed reconnaissance, close air support, light attack, and advanced training missions. With over 290 orders globally and more than 570,000 flight hours logged, including 60,000 in combat, the aircraft has established itself as the global leader in its class. In 2024, Embraer secured additional sales of the Super Tucano to the Portuguese Air Force (A-29N), the Uruguayan Air Force and the Paraguayan Air Force. These recent acquisitions underscore its reputation as an efficient, reliable, and cost-effective solution for air forces worldwide. Designed with state-of-the-art technology, the A-29 Super Tucano features advanced systems for precise target identification, weapons integration, and communication. Its human-machine interface avionics enhance pilot effectiveness, while the robust airframe ensures high reliability in austere environments with minimal infrastructure. Additionally, the aircraft's straightforward maintenance design ensures low life cycle costs and maximises operational availability.

OTHER NEWS

Engine lessor **Aquila Air Capital** (Aquila) has released that **Wafra Inc.** (Wafra), a New York-based, global alternative asset manager, has completed the acquisition of its platform from Warburg Pincus. Wafra entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a controlling interest in Aquila on October 18, 2024. Since then, Wafra has received all customary regulatory approvals to complete the transaction. "We are excited to close our acquisition of Aquila Air Capital and launch the next phase of its growth in partnership with Al and the entire Aquila team," said Edward Tsai, Managing Director, Wafra. "The demand fundamentals for Aquila's business in particular, and aviation equipment finance more broadly, are strong. Aquila is well positioned to continue successfully serving its global customer base." **ATLAS SP Partners**, the warehouse finance and securitised products business majority owned by **Apollo funds**, provided a credit facility to support the acquisition of Aquila and fund its future growth.

AVITRADER AVIATION NEWS PUBLICATIONS

AviTrader Publications Corp.
Suite 305, South Tower
5811 Cooney Road
Richmond, BC
Canada V6X 3M1

Publisher
Peter Jorssen
Tel: +1 604 318 5207

Editor
Heike Tamm
editor@avitrader.com
Tel: +34 (0) 971 612 130

Advertising Inquiries
Tamar Jorssen
VP Sales & Business Development
tamar.jorssen@avitrader.com
Phone: +1 (778) 213 8543

Advertising Inquiries "International"
Malte Tamm
VP Sales International & Marketing
malte.tamm@avitrader.com
Phone: +49 (0)162 8263049

For inquiries and comments, please email:
editor@avitrader.com

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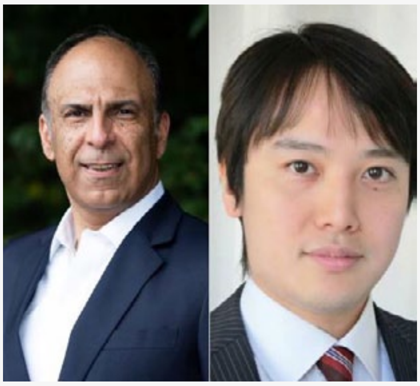

Mike Cazaz (l) and Toshinori (Tony) Kondo (r)

• Werner Aero has announced the retirement of its founder, president, and CEO, **Mike Cazaz**. After an illustrious 32-year career leading the company, Cazaz stepped down at the end of December 2024. Since founding Werner Aero, Cazaz had been instrumental in transforming the company into a globally recognised brand in the aviation industry. Renowned for its dedication to quality, innovation, and customer service, Werner Aero has become a trusted partner for airlines, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) organisations, and leasing companies worldwide. Effective January 1, 2025, **Toshinori (Tony) Kondo**, the current Executive Vice President, will succeed Cazaz as CEO. Kondo brings a wealth of aviation expertise and a strong record of leadership to guide the company into its next phase of growth and development. Reflecting on his tenure, Cazaz remarked, "I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved at Werner Aero over the past three decades. This has been an extraordinary journey, and I am deeply grateful to our dedicated team, loyal customers, and partners for their unwavering support. I have complete confidence in Tony's leadership and the bright future that lies ahead for Werner Aero." Kondo shared his enthusiasm for his upcoming role, stating, "I am honoured to build upon Mike's legacy and lead this exceptional organisation. Together with our talented team, we will continue to deliver the highest standards of service and innovation to meet the evolving demands of the aviation industry."

• IBC Advanced Alloys Corp. (IBC) has appointed **Terena White** as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Corporate Secretary, effective January 1, 2025. White, who has served as IBC's Corporate Controller since September 30, 2019, succeeds **Toni Wendel**, who is retiring. Wendel has held the CFO position since June 2019 and will continue to provide consulting support to IBC during a transitional period. White brings extensive financial expertise to her new role. Before joining IBC, she served as Purchasing Controller at Faurecia USA, a prominent automotive technology company. Prior to that, she held various financial roles, including Accounting Manager at PMG, a joint venture between the powder metal divisions of Plansee and Mitsubishi Materials Global, where she worked for six years. Additionally, the company has announced the departure of **Ben Rampulla** as President of IBC's Engineered Materials division and Chief Technology Officer (CTO), effective December 1, 2024. Rampulla's departure follows the closure of IBC's Engineered Materials division. He will continue to provide consulting services to the Company during a transitional period. These leadership changes reflect IBC's strategic direction and commitment to ensuring a smooth organisational transition.

Dr Johannes Bussmann will take the helm at MTU Aero Engines in 2025 *© MTU*

• **Dr Johannes Bussmann** has been appointed as the next CEO of MTU Aero Engines AG. The decision was unanimously made by the supervisory board of the DAX-listed company during an extraordinary meeting held on December 17. Bussmann's contract will have a term of five years. Bussmann is expected to assume his new role during 2025. He is currently serving as CEO of TÜV Süd AG. Previously, the aerospace engineer, who holds a doctorate in the field, led Lufthansa Technik for seven years as its CEO, overseeing maintenance, repair and overhaul operations. Bussmann has also been a member of the MTU Supervisory Board since 2024 but will resign from this position as he transitions to his new role. He succeeds **Lars Wagner**, who announced in October that he would not seek another term as CEO after his mandate expires at the end of 2025. Wagner plans to take on a new challenge as CEO of Airbus's commercial aircraft division. Dr Bussmann holds a degree in aerospace engineering and a doctorate in combustion technology from RWTH Aachen University. He became CEO of TÜV Süd AG in early 2023, having previously spent over 20 years in various leadership roles at Lufthansa Technik. Between 2012 and 2015, he served as Chief Human Resources and Production Officer before stepping into the CEO position. During his tenure, Bussmann was instrumental in the 2017 establishment of EME Aero, an engine MRO joint venture between MTU and Lufthansa Technik, located in Rzeszów, Poland.

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THE AIRCRAFT AND ENGINE MARKETPLACE

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

Commercial Engines

CFM Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) CFM56-5B3/3	Now - Lease	FTAI Aviation LLC	Mark Napoles	mnapoles@ftaiaviation.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				
(2) 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

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@ftaiaviation.com	+1 786-785-0777

Aircraft and Engine Parts, Components and Misc. Equipment

Description		Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(2) GTCP331-200ER, (2) GTCP131-9A,	Now - Sale	Setna IO	David Chaimovitz	david@setnaio.com	+1-312-549-4459
(1) GTCP131-9B					
(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
(3) A340 LG Shipset, (1) B777 LG Shipset (2) B737 LG Shipset,		GA Telesis		landinggearsales@gatelesis.com	
(3) 767 LG Shipset, (1) A320 Shipset, (5) A330 LG Shipset, (1) A330 Shipset					
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
(4) 131-9B, (2) APS3200 "C", (1) 85-129H, (1) 331-350					
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				