

## Weekly Aviation Headline News



### Despite placing major A321neo order, flydubai continues to show faith in Boeing's 737 MAX

There have been several talking points at the Dubai Airshow this year, but the main one was the signing of an MoU for 150 Airbus A321neos on the second day, with an option for a further 100 of the narrow-body jets, from flydubai, which currently operates an all-Boeing fleet. The order is valued at approximately US\$24 billion at current list prices and deliveries will be due to commence in 2031. This is the first order the Gulf carrier has placed with Airbus and will automatically make it one of the world's leading operators of the A321neo. While this was seen as a major blow to the US Planemaker, Boeing bounced back the next day with the announcement of an order from flydubai for 75 737 MAX narrow-body variants. In an interview, CEO Ghaith Al Ghaith voiced confidence in Boeing's recovery from recent crises but told Reuters news agency that the Airbus jets had been chosen mainly for their extra range and size. "Boeing to me is almost like my home. And I'm very close with

the leadership in Boeing," he said, adding that he had seen the planemaker's dynamics improve in recent weeks and months. "My prediction is that they will come out of this crisis, which I think is almost behind them, even stronger," he said. Airbus has grabbed the lion's share of the larger narrow-body aircraft segment of the market in recent years as sales of the A321neo have exceeded sales of the largest available Boeing equivalent, the 737 MAX 10, which is likely to enter service next year after certification delays. All in all, it would be fair to say that Airbus outperformed Boeing in terms of the number of aircraft ordered at the Dubai Airshow, but from a financial aspect, Boeing did very well, having secured an order from Emirates for 65 777-9s, valued at approximately US\$38 billion. This takes Emirates total order for the 777 -8 and -9 variants to 270 aircraft. Interestingly, Emirates has been in discussion with Boeing over the feasibility of an even larger variant,

a stretched 777-10, which may turn out to be a portent of the demise of the 777-8. Results from this year's Dubai Airshow has been different for Boeing after a superb performance in 2023 when Airbus secured only 86 aircraft orders compared to 295 for Boeing. At the end of the fourth day, while Boeing may have secured firm orders for 163 aircraft compared to 233 for Airbus, the order from Emirates for wide-body 777s valued at US\$34 billion is appreciably more lucrative than Airbus' deal with flydubai for 150 A321neos valued at US\$24 billion. Other notable orders for Airbus include 40 A350s for Air Europa, 15 A330neo, seven A350-1000s and three A350Fs for Etihad Airways, ten A320neos for Buraq Air, and six A350-900s for Ethiopian Airlines. For Boeing, additional orders include 11 737 MAXs from Ethiopian Airlines, nine 737 MAXs from Air Senegal, and 3 787 Dreamliners from Gulf Air.

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**AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS**

**Air China Cargo becomes newest A350F Freighter operator**

Air China Cargo has signed a purchase agreement for six A350F aircraft, becoming the first operator in mainland China to select Airbus' latest-generation freighter. The decision marks a strategic step for the Beijing-based carrier as it seeks to modernise its fleet and reinforce its long-term resilience in the global cargo market. Wang Hongyan, Vice President of Air China Cargo, noted that the addition of the A350F will support more efficient operations across the carrier's mixed fleet. He explained that the aircraft will strengthen reliability, streamline maintenance, and help the airline manage risks as it continues its steady expansion. As China's only cargo airline flying the national flag, Air China Cargo occupies a central role in the country's logistics network. Since June 2025, the airline has operated dedicated freighter services across North, East, South, and Southwest China. Its global reach includes 25 all-cargo routes that link key regions in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East. This air network is supported by more than 1,500 international trucking routes, extending its ability to move cargo swiftly across borders and continents. The A350F has been engineered to meet the evolving demands of the air freight sector, from express shipments to general and specialist cargo. The aircraft will carry up to 111 tonnes and offer a range of 8,700 kilometres, enabling long-haul operations with improved efficiency. Powered by Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-97 engines, the A350F delivers up to 40% lower fuel burn and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared with older freighters, giving airlines a clear path towards cleaner operations.

**Willis Lease confirms option for 30 additional LEAP engines**

Willis Lease Finance Corporation (WLFC) has reaffirmed its plan to exercise options for 30 CFM International LEAP spare engines, following the announcement made earlier this year. These options stem from WLFC's 2019 agreement for up to 60 LEAP engines – the largest order in the company's history. Combined with a 2017 order, the latest commitment makes WLFC the largest independent lessor of LEAP spare engines, with a total of 70, excluding units acquired through financing arrangements. The order covers LEAP-1A engines for Airbus A320neo aircraft and LEAP-1B engines for the Boeing 737 MAX family. "Willis Lease is proud to expand our LEAP spare engine portfolio," said Austin Willis, CEO of WLFC. "This order underscores our confidence in the LEAP engine's performance and reliability, as well as our commitment to supporting the next generation of fuel-efficient aircraft." WLFC now manages a portfolio of more than 350 owned or overseen engines, including CFM LEAP and CFM56 models serving the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320 families. With more than 4,000 aircraft delivered to date,

**Emirates places US\$38bn order for 65 more Boeing 777-9s**



Emirates has ordered 65 more Boeing 777-9 aircraft

© Emirates

Emirates has announced a major order for 65 additional Boeing 777-9 aircraft powered by GE9X engines, valued at US\$38 billion at list prices. The agreement was unveiled on the opening day of the Dubai Airshow 2025 and represents one of the most significant commitments of the event. With this latest order, Emirates' total Boeing backlog rises to 315 wide-body aircraft. This includes 270 Boeing 777Xs, ten Boeing 777 freighters and 35 Boeing 787s. The airline has also increased its orderbook with GE Aerospace to 540 GE9X engines, incorporating the 130 units confirmed as part of the new deal. The order reinforces a long-term commitment to the US aerospace sector and supports hundreds of thousands of high-value manufacturing jobs across the country over the lifespan of the programmes. The new agreement also signals robust backing for Boeing's feasibility study into the 777-10, a larger variant of the 777X family. Emirates has secured options allowing it to convert its latest 777-9 order into either the 777-10 or the 777-8, depending on future requirements. HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, said the airline is already the world's largest operator of the Boeing 777 and is deepening its long-standing partnership with both Boeing and GE through this additional commitment. He noted that the order reflects confidence in the aircraft programme and in US aerospace manufacturing, reaffirming Emirates' strategy of investing in a modern, efficient and high-capacity fleet to support its global growth ambitions.

**Ethiopian Airlines commits to 11 more Boeing 737 MAX jets**



Ethiopian Airlines commits to order 11 additional Boeing 737 MAX airplanes

© Boeing

Boeing has released that Africa's largest carrier, Ethiopian Airlines, has committed to acquire 11 additional 737 MAX aircraft. The agreement, covering 11 737-8 jets and signed during the Dubai Airshow, will support Ethiopian Airlines' plans to broaden both its regional and international networks while further strengthening its Addis Ababa hub. The airline already relies on the 737 MAX family for operations across Africa, the Middle East, India and Southern Europe, where high utilisation, swift turnarounds and dependable performance are essential. The added aircraft will enhance the carrier's fleet flexibility and provide additional capacity as demand continues to rise across key markets. Brad McMullen, Boeing's Senior Vice President of Commercial Sales and Marketing, said the renewed commitment highlights Ethiopian Airlines' industry leadership within Africa. He noted that the agreement deepens a partnership of nearly eight decades between Boeing and the airline, as well as with the wider region. He also remarked that Boeing's efficient and versatile aircraft will continue to support Ethiopian Airlines as it works to strengthen connectivity across the continent and beyond. Ethiopian Airlines already operates the largest fleet of Boeing aircraft in Africa and holds the continent's biggest backlog of 737 MAX, 777X and 787 Dreamliner jets. The latest order further reinforces the airline's strategy of building a modern, fuel-efficient fleet capable of supporting long-term growth and expanding its global footprint.

**AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS**

CFM LEAP engines have experienced the fastest ramp in commercial aviation history. Advanced technologies like composite fan blades and ceramic matrix composites deliver an engine that's 15% more fuel efficient, with 15% lower carbon emissions than prior-generation CFM56 engines. Backed by advanced health monitoring systems and an open MRO ecosystem, CFM LEAP engines offer mature reliability and enable high asset utilisation for narrow-body aircraft.

**Saudia Group selects GENx engines in major deal with GE Aerospace**

Saudia Group, one of the largest aviation conglomerates in the MENA region, has signed a strategic agreement with GE Aerospace to equip Saudia, the Kingdom's national carrier, with GENx-1B engines for its 2023 order of 39 Boeing 787-9 and 787-10 aircraft. The agreement covers engine supply, a multi-year maintenance, repair, and overhaul programme, and spare engines. It also includes a range of capability-building initiatives—delivered through Saudia Technic, the Group's maintenance and engineering arm—aimed at expanding and localising aerospace expertise in the Kingdom through technical training and knowledge transfer. His Excellency

**Bristow adds Airbus H160s for offshore missions in Africa**

Airbus Helicopters has welcomed Bristow Group as the latest operator of the Airbus H160, marking an expansion of the type's presence in the offshore energy sector. Bristow will introduce up to five H160 helicopters into its fleet, with all aircraft leased from Milestone Aviation Group, to support offshore operations across Africa. "Bringing these new Airbus H160 helicopters into our



Bristow Group becomes the latest operator of the Airbus H160 helicopter © Airbus

Africa operations further enhances our ability to deliver safe, reliable and efficient services to our valued customers in the energy sector," said Chris Bradshaw, President and CEO, Bristow Group. "The introduction of the H160 underscores Bristow's commitment to maintaining the most capable and modern fleet as we continue to support our clients' growing and diversified missions across the region." Milestone Aviation's Chief Executive Officer, Pat Sheedy, added that the company is proud to be the first lessor to place H160s into Bristow's fleet. He highlighted Milestone's continuing investment in new-technology medium and super-medium helicopters to ensure operators have access to fuel-efficient and in-demand aircraft for mission-critical operations worldwide. He also emphasised the strength of Milestone's partnerships with Bristow and Airbus, expressing confidence in future collaboration. With this latest agreement, the H160 further consolidates its position as a next-generation aircraft for offshore transport, combining advanced technology, operational efficiency and enhanced safety features tailored to the requirements of the energy sector.

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**AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS**

Engr. Ibrahim Al-Omar, Director General of Saudia Group, said the partnership with GE Aerospace would transform the Group's long-haul capability, strengthen Saudi Arabia's air connectivity, and accelerate the localisation of high-technology aviation expertise. He noted that developing in-country maintenance capabilities for engines previously serviced abroad would keep investment, skills, and value within the Kingdom, supporting the ambitions of Saudi Vision 2030. The GENx family, built with advanced materials and cutting-edge technologies, marks a significant step forward in modern propulsion, offering extended time-on-wing and high reliability. Since entering service in 2011, GENx engines have accumulated more than 70 million flight hours and now power two-thirds of all 787 aircraft in operation. GE Aerospace's relationship with the Saudi aerospace sector spans over 40 years. The company continues to work with Saudi partners to help deliver Vision 2030 by developing local talent and strengthening technical capabilities. GE Aerospace and its joint ventures currently power the Kingdom's four largest commercial carriers and support the world's largest F110 fleet outside the United States.

**Bahrain flag carrier Gulf Air finalises Boeing 787 order**



Gulf Air increases its Boeing 787 Dreamliner order

© Boeing

Gulf Air and Boeing have finalised a firm order for 15 Boeing 787 Dreamliners, with options for three additional aircraft, as the Bahrain-based carrier advances its international expansion plans. The agreement adds three more 787s to the airline's commitment made in July and brings its total order book for the type to 17 wide-body jets. The deal was signed on the sidelines of the Dubai Airshow by Martin Gauss, Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Air, and Brad McMullen, Boeing's Senior Vice President of Commercial Sales and Marketing. The signing marks another important chapter in the long-running partnership between the two companies, reflecting Gulf Air's confidence in Boeing's flagship long-haul aircraft. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner is central to Gulf Air's long-haul operations, connecting passengers to more than 50 destinations worldwide. Known for its strong fuel efficiency, extended range and modern cabin environment, the 787 offers both economic advantages and improved comfort for travellers. Gulf Air already operates 10 Dreamliners and is well placed to extend its network further across Asia, Europe and the United States as additional aircraft join the fleet.

**ABL Aviation completes last delivery of 15 A220 aircraft to Air France**



ABL Aviation has delivered the final A220-300 aircraft to Air France

© ABL Aviation

ABL Aviation has completed the delivery of the fifteenth and final Airbus A220-300 to Air France, fulfilling a long-term mandate involving 15 aircraft and marking a significant milestone in the partnership between the two companies. The achievement underscores a relationship built on innovation, disciplined execution and mutual trust. The aircraft, MSN 55393, is powered by two Pratt & Whitney PW1521G-3 engines and forms part of Air France's wider fleet renewal strategy. The A220-300 offers notable reductions in fuel burn and carbon emissions, contributing to the airline's environmental objectives while delivering improved operational performance. Its flexible range and quieter, more comfortable cabin also enhance the passenger experience across Air France's short and medium-haul network. ABL Aviation's Founder and Chief Executive, Ali Ben Lmadani, remarked that reaching the fifteenth delivery represents a proud moment for the company.

He indicated that the entire programme — from the first aircraft to the last — demonstrates what can be achieved through alignment, rigorous planning and a shared long-term vision. He also noted the company's appreciation for Air France's trust and emphasised the importance of supporting the airline's fleet modernisation with one of the world's most efficient narrow-body aircraft types. Throughout the mandate, ABL Aviation has worked closely with Air France and its investor partners to structure and deliver each of the 15 aircraft using tailored financing solutions and stringent execution processes. The completion of the programme highlights the company's ability to manage complex, multi-year transactions while ensuring consistent delivery standards. This final handover strengthens ABL Aviation's position as one of the most active asset managers of the Airbus A220 family. By combining cross-border financing expertise with hands-on portfolio management, the firm continues to build its reputation as a leading player in global aircraft leasing and investment management.

**AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS**

**Avolon and CFM International sign order for 100 LEAP-1A engines**



Andy Cronin (l), CEO of Avolon and Gaël Méheust (r), President and CEO of CFM International © Avolon

Avolon, a major global aviation finance company, has placed an order for 100 new LEAP-1A engines from CFM International at the Dubai Airshow. The engines will power 50 Airbus A320neo family aircraft already in Avolon's order book, reinforcing the lessor's long-term investment in next-generation, fuel-efficient technology. The LEAP-1A incorporates advanced materials such as composite fan blades and ceramic matrix composites, enabling a step change in performance. The engine delivers 15 per cent better fuel efficiency and 15 per cent lower carbon emissions compared with previous-generation CFM56 engines, contributing to more sustainable airline operations. Avolon has been a CFM customer since 2010 and currently manages a fleet of 99 A320neo aircraft powered by LEAP-1A engines. The lessor also holds firm orders for a further 163 LEAP-1A-equipped aircraft, reflecting strong and sustained demand from airline customers worldwide. As of September 30, 2025, Avolon's portfolio included 149 A320neo family aircraft, with an orderbook totalling 347. Andy Cronin, CEO of Avolon, said the latest order reflects the company's long-term commitment to lowering emissions while supporting growing fleet requirements. He noted that the partnership with CFM International is central to meeting passenger demand, airline replacement cycles and environmental targets through 2030 and beyond. Gaël Méheust, President and CEO of CFM International, welcomed the renewed commitment. He said the order demonstrates confidence in the LEAP engine family and highlights the partnership's enduring strength. He added that CFM will continue to deliver products that provide the efficiency, reliability and sustainability airlines require as global air travel continues to expand.

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CFM International is a 50/50 joint company between GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines.

**Etihad becomes latest A330 customer**

Etihad Airways (Etihad) has placed a firm order for six A330-900 aircraft, becoming the latest airline to join the A330neo customer base. The carrier has also confirmed orders for seven additional A350-1000s, bringing its total for the type to 27, and three more A350F freighters, increasing its A350F commitment to ten aircraft. The agreement was signed during the Dubai Airshow, where Etihad also announced plans to lease nine A330-900s from Avolon, further strengthening its medium- and long-haul fleet as well as its cargo capabilities. Antonoaldo Neves, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, said the combined order supports the airline's strategy across multiple market segments. He noted that the A330neo offers an ideal balance of efficiency and flexibility for regional and mid-range expansion, while the A350-1000 continues to deliver strong performance on long-haul services. The addition of the A350F provides a significant boost to Etihad Cargo at a time of sustained global demand. Neves added that Etihad's collaboration with Airbus remains central to the airline's fleet modernisation plans, helping build one of the most advanced and fuel-efficient widebody fleets in the world.



Etihad Airways A330neo, A350-1000, A350F

© Etihad Airways

**AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS**

**Air Europa backs fleet renewal with major A350-900 deal**

Spanish airline Air Europa has signed a memorandum of understanding with Airbus for up to 40 A350-900 aircraft, setting the foundation for the carrier's long-haul fleet renewal. The announcement was made during the Dubai Airshow and marks one of the airline's most significant strategic commitments in recent years. The arrival of the A350 will accelerate the replacement of Air Europa's current long-haul competitor fleet and support profitable expansion on its core Latin American routes. The aircraft's efficiency, long-range capability and class-leading economics are expected to strengthen the airline's position across these high-demand markets. Passengers will also benefit from a step change in cabin comfort, with the A350 offering a quieter interior, improved air quality and a more spacious layout. "This order is a strategic milestone in Air Europa's fleet development, accelerating its profitable growth by renewal of the current wide-body fleet," said Juan José Hidalgo, President of Air Europa. "The A350-900 is a game-changer for key destinations in Latin America. It provides an exceptional cabin experience and the operational performance and economics needed to expand the airline's network without compromise, delivering the highest standards in air travel." At the end of October 2025, the A350 Family had won over 1,400 orders from 64 customers worldwide.



Rendering of an Airbus A350-900 in Air Europa livery

© Airbus

**New Embraer orders signal fresh growth for Air Côte d'Ivoire and Helvetic Airways**



Image of Air Côte d'Ivoire Embraer E175 aircraft

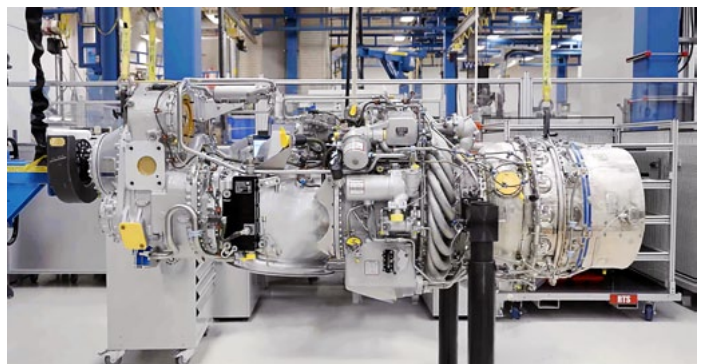
© Embraer

Air Côte d'Ivoire, the national airline of Côte d'Ivoire, has placed a firm order for four Embraer E175 aircraft, with options for eight more. The jets will feature 76 seats across two classes—12 in Business and 64 in Economy Class—to deliver a smooth and efficient onboard experience. The first E175 is due in the first half of 2027, and the order will appear in Embraer's Q4 2025 backlog. The airline will operate the aircraft on domestic and regional routes as it refreshes its fleet and widens its network. Chosen for its longer range, faster performance and improved comfort over turboprops, the E175 will also support cargo needs and sharpen operational efficiency. These aircraft will help feed Air Côte d'Ivoire's Abidjan hub, raise frequencies and tighten regional links. The move follows the airline's new long-haul service to Paris Charles de Gaulle, with the E175 set to improve onward connectivity through the hub. Meanwhile, Swiss carrier Helvetic Airways has ordered three Embraer E195-E2 jets, with rights for five more. Deliveries start at the end of 2026. Each aircraft

will offer 134 Recaro-equipped seats in a single-class cabin designed for comfort and streamlined operations. The order positions Helvetic Airways to expand its E2 fleet from 12 to as many as 20 aircraft, reinforcing its role as a prominent European operator of Embraer's latest-generation E-Jets.

**First PW127XT-S engines arrive to power D328eco**

Deutsche Aircraft has marked a major step forward in the development of its next-generation regional turboprop, the D328eco, with the arrival of the first PW127XT-S development engines from Pratt & Whitney Canada (P&WC). Delivered to the company's headquarters in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, the engines will power the programme's first test aircraft, known as TAC 1, and move the aircraft closer to its planned entry into service in 2027. Their installation ushers in a pivotal phase of ground evaluations and flight testing that will define the certification campaign. The D328eco is a comprehensive evolution of the acclaimed Dornier 328 platform. While it preserves the strengths that made the original aircraft successful, the new variant has been reshaped to meet the demands of modern regional aviation. Deutsche Aircraft has prioritised stronger operating economics, improved environmental performance and broader mission flexibility. As a result, the D328eco delivers up to 14% lower fuel consumption per seat and offers 25% more passenger capacity. Its excellent short-field capability positions it well for remote, island and northern locations where runway lengths and weather conditions can be limiting. The addition of upgraded avionics and re-engineered systems brings operators a safer, more connected and more efficient flight deck. The PW127XT-S engine, built in Quebec, is the newest development in Pratt & Whitney Canada's PW100 family, a powerplant line that has supported regional operators for more than four decades. Designed for greater durability, reduced maintenance requirements and improved time on wing, the PW127XT-S aligns with Deutsche Aircraft's goal of offering an aircraft with lower lifecycle costs and reduced environmental impact. This collaboration between German engineering and Canadian propulsion expertise highlights the D328eco's international character and its emerging role in supporting regional mobility and economic growth across diverse markets.



Pratt & Whitney Canada has delivered the first PW127XT-S development engines to Deutsche Aircraft

© P&WC

**AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS**

**New ATR 72-600s to strengthen Air Congo's regional network**

ATR has confirmed that Ethiopian Airlines will lease two factory-new ATR 72-600 aircraft for operation by Air Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo's national carrier, in which Ethiopian Airlines holds a 49% stake. The aircraft will enter service in February 2026. The agreement marks a fresh step in ATR's growth across Africa, as Ethiopian Airlines — the region's most influential aviation group — selects advanced, fuel-efficient aircraft to improve regional links throughout DR Congo. The lease follows the partnership announced at the Farnborough International Airshow in July 2024, where both parties committed to developing ATR maintenance capability in Ethiopia. This move will establish Ethiopian Airlines as a regional MRO hub for ATR operators across the continent. "With the arrival of our new ATRs and the development of our MRO capabilities to support them, Ethiopian Airlines is ready to offer a complete ATR solution, making it easier for airlines in Africa to have choices in serving regional connections across the continent," said Mesfin Tasew, CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group. "We are proud to contribute our share in strengthening regional mobility in Africa, and to bring the comfort, convenience and speed of air travel to more communities."



ATR 72-600

© ATR

**CDB Aviation leases four A320neos to Estonia's Marabu Airlines**



Marabu Airlines Airbus A320neo

© CDB Aviation

During the Dubai Airshow 2025, CDB Aviation announced, the signing of lease agreements for four Airbus A320neo aircraft with a new airline customer in the EMEA region: Estonian leisure carrier Marabu Airlines (Marabu). Headquartered in Tallinn, Marabu is an emerging force in the German leisure market, operating from key bases in Hamburg, Leipzig and Nuremberg. The airline offers travellers an extensive selection of flights to popular seasonal and holiday destinations across Europe, North Africa and the Mediterranean, positioning itself as a competitive choice for sun-seeking passengers. Founded in 2022, Marabu has quickly established itself as a young, energetic airline with a strong digital culture and a focus on operational

agility. Since launching services in April 2023, it has carried more than two million passengers from Germany to leading Mediterranean destinations. The carrier currently operates a modern fleet of eight Airbus A320neo aircraft, each fitted with the latest technology and configured with 180 seats across two classes—Economy and Business. The addition of four leased A320neos from CDB Aviation will further strengthen Marabu's fleet as it continues to scale its network and meet growing demand for affordable, customer-focused leisure travel. The A320neo's efficiency, reliability and lower environmental impact make it a natural fit for Marabu's strategy as the airline expands its footprint across the region.

**Riyadh Air orders 120 LEAP-1A engines for incoming A321neo fleet**

Riyadh Air has placed a firm order for 120 CFM International LEAP-1A engines to power the 60 Airbus A321neo aircraft it ordered last year. The agreement, which includes spare engines, was signed at the Dubai Airshow by Adam Boukadida, Chief Financial Officer of Riyadh Air, and Stéphane Cueille, CEO of Safran Aircraft Engines, the parent company of CFM International. Senior executives from both organisations, including Riyadh Air CEO Tony Douglas and Safran CEO Olivier Andriès, were present to witness the ceremony. Riyadh Air is a new premium international airline based in Saudi Arabia, launched in 2023 as part of the country's wider strategy to diversify its economy and strengthen its global connectivity. The A321neo fleet will form a core part of the airline's early expansion, and the selection of the LEAP-1A engine signals a focus on efficiency, long-term durability and sustainable operations. The LEAP-1A engines selected by Riyadh Air incorporate the latest high-pressure turbine durability kit, designed to extend engine time on wing in the demanding hot-weather conditions typical of the Middle East. The technology offers improved operational resilience while delivering the fuel savings and performance benefits for which the LEAP engine family is known. "We are excited to partner with CFM as we open a new chapter in our company's history," said Adam Boukadida. "Powering our new fleet with LEAP engines is a major asset for our operations, providing outstanding fuel efficiency, lower noise and emissions, and enhanced durability."



Stéphane Cueille (l), CEO of Safran Aircraft Engines and Adam Boukadida (r), CFO of Riyadh Air  
© CFM International

**MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS**

**Wizz Air extends line maintenance partnership with FL Technics**

Wizz Air has renewed its long-standing co-operation with FL Technics, reinforcing a partnership shaped by consistent performance, trust and shared ambitions for regional growth. The extended agreement secures the continuation of line maintenance services at two of Wizz Air’s most strategically important bases: Bucharest (OTP) and Cluj-Napoca (CLJ). These hubs remain central to the airline’s operations in Central and Eastern Europe, supporting high-frequency routes and sustained fleet expansion. The renewal signals a clear alignment between Wizz Air’s long-term development plans and FL Technics’ growing presence across Europe. After more than ten years of collaboration, both companies are preparing for a deeper integration of services, strengthened operational coordination and expanded technical capability. The agreement reflects a mutual commitment to delivering reliable aircraft availability as Wizz Air continues to scale its operations across the region. Saulius Bajarūnas, Chief Operating Officer of FL Technics, noted that the company’s decade-long experience with Wizz Air has given it precise insight into the airline’s operational needs. He indicated that FL Technics supports the carrier wherever possible and added that both organisations hold a shared view of Romania as a strategically significant market. He suggested that each intends to make substantial investments in future development within the country, reinforcing its status as a vital aviation hub.



Wizz Air Airbus A320neo

© FL Technics

**Vallair completes on-time redelivery of first A320 for Air Corsica**



Vallair has redelivered an Airbus A320 after a scheduled C-Check to Air Corsica

© Vallair

Vallair has announced the punctual redelivery of the first of two Airbus A320 aircraft undergoing scheduled C-Checks for Air Corsica, marking another successful step in the long-standing collaboration between the two companies. Vallair continues to support Air Corsica with dependable base-maintenance services designed to ensure safety, efficiency and uninterrupted operations across the airline’s fleet. The second A320 has now arrived at Vallair’s Montpellier facility for its planned heavy maintenance visit, extending the latest phase of cooperation. Gilles Fossecave, CEO of Vallair MRO in Montpellier, expressed pride in the company’s ongoing relationship with the airline. He emphasised the team’s dedication to delivering high-quality maintenance work and highlighted the trust Air Corsica places in Vallair as it continues to expand its network across the Mediterranean. He added that the organisation aims to remain the airline’s preferred MRO partner through consistent performance and customer-focused service. Jean-Luc Moine, Technical Director at Air Corsica, praised Vallair’s workmanship and the professionalism of its teams. He noted that the airline is fully satisfied with the standard of the maintenance performed and the timely return of the first aircraft, reinforcing confidence in the partnership. Air Corsica, founded in 1989 by the Corsican Assembly to give the island direct control over its air transport, holds a primary Public Service mission across twelve routes linking the island’s four airports—Ajaccio, Bastia, Calvi and Figari—with Marseille, Nice and Paris-Orly. The airline is widening its operational focus to serve more Mediterranean destinations. Its fleet of 14 aircraft, including four A320neos, three A320ceos and seven ATR72-600s, supports a network of 35 annual or seasonal routes, carrying around 2.3 million passengers each year.

## MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

### Emirates and Safran to build new aircraft seat facility in Dubai

Emirates and Safran Seats have signed a MoU to establish a new manufacturing and seat-assembly facility in Dubai. The partnership marks the first industrial cooperation of its kind in the region and represents a major step in expanding the UAE's aerospace capability. The new facility will initially focus on producing Business- and Economy-Class seats for Emirates' extensive cabin-retrofit programme, with plans to expand into line-fit seat production for future aircraft. Once operational, the site will also serve other Safran Seats customers, bringing additional production capacity and advanced expertise to the Middle East. By localising this capability, the facility aims to meet surging global demand for aircraft seats while applying the latest manufacturing technologies to enhance efficiency, quality and turnaround times. The move positions Dubai as a growing centre for aviation engineering and high-value industrial activity. His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, described the agreement as a strategic milestone for the emirate. He said the cooperation will establish Dubai as a genuine aerospace manufacturing hub, create skilled jobs and build a supply chain capable of supporting Emirates as well as exporting to other carriers. He noted that the venture will directly benefit Emirates' fleet retrofit programme and future cabin-interior needs. Safran has been a longstanding partner in Emirates' fleet projects, supplying premium seating across both retrofit and new-aircraft programmes, including the incoming A350 fleet. The new Dubai facility is viewed as the first step toward creating a wider aerospace-manufacturing cluster in the city. Safran plans to complete the facility by the fourth quarter of 2027, delivering an industrial footprint of roughly 20,000 to 25,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Production will ramp up in phases, beginning with the assembly of up to 1,000 Business-Class seats per year.

### Collins Aerospace, Emirates broaden landing gear MRO partnership

Collins Aerospace, an RTX business, and Emirates, the world's largest international airline by revenue passenger kilometres, have expanded their comprehensive long-term agreement for maintenance, repair, and overhaul services on the main landing gear of Emirates' A380 fleet. The amended agreement introduces an enhanced support programme that increases overhaul service availability, ensuring smoother and more reliable A380 operations as the fleet

continues to play a central role in the airline's network. As part of the extended partnership, Collins Aerospace will maintain its use of MRO facilities in the UAE and Miami to carry out scheduled overhaul work. The company will also provide specialised training for Emirates' maintenance teams, enabling them to perform selected tasks on-site at the Emirates Engineering facility in Dubai. This blended support model is designed to strengthen in-house capability while preserving access to Collins' global expertise. Matt Maurer, Vice President and General Manager of Landing Systems at Collins Aerospace, said the extension reinforces the company's commitment to value-added support. He explained that the enhanced MRO programme provides Emirates with greater autonomy and scheduling flexibility, helping the airline meet operational demands and further improve aircraft availability. Collins Aerospace provides landing gear solutions for a safe and comfortable landing in the most demanding conditions. With decades of experience leading the aviation industry, the company has developed an array of innovative landing gear products and offers exceptional customer service found on most of the leading commercial transports including the world's largest airliner, the A380.

### SalamAir secures new heavy-maintenance deal with Joramco

SalamAir, Oman's low-cost carrier, has signed a new maintenance agreement with Joramco during the Dubai Airshow 2025. Under this partnership, Joramco will carry out C-Checks for the airline's seven Airbus A320 aircraft, strengthening SalamAir's ability to maintain high operational readiness as its fleet and route network expand. The agreement aims to enhance SalamAir's heavy-maintenance planning by ensuring dedicated capacity, expert engineering oversight, and streamlined inspection cycles. As the airline prepares to welcome additional aircraft over the coming years, timely and high-quality base maintenance remains essential to sustaining stable and dependable operations. Steven Allen, Chief Commercial Officer of SalamAir, stated: "Joramco will play a key role in supporting the heavy- and long-cycle-maintenance needs of our fleet. As SalamAir continues to grow in line with Oman Vision 2040, having a trusted partner that can provide reliable base maintenance capacity is essential. With our network expanding across the region, from key GCC cities to South Asia, Africa and beyond, our aircraft are constantly in motion, connecting more passengers to more destinations than

ever before. This agreement gives us the confidence that our fleet is maintained to the highest standards, ensuring we deliver safe, dependable operations across our network. As we prepare for further growth in the coming years, securing strong technical support is vital, and this partnership ensures SalamAir remains ready to serve its expanding network with consistency and reliability." With SalamAir targeting a fleet of 25 aircraft by 2028, the partnership with Joramco reinforces its commitment to building a robust maintenance framework that supports long-term growth, operational reliability, and the wider development of Oman's aviation and logistics sectors.

### King Aerospace lands FAA maintenance deal

Aircraft modification and maintenance specialist King Aerospace has secured a United States government contract to coordinate and carry out depot-level maintenance for the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAAs) fleet of Beechcraft Model 300/360 King Air turboprops. King Aerospace (KAI), based in Addison, Texas, will act as the prime contractor. King Aerospace Commercial Corporation (KACC) will serve as the principal subcontractor, supported by additional FAA Part 145-certificated repair stations in the region to provide greater operational flexibility. "This new opportunity is a strong endorsement of our expert operational management and dedicated maintenance programmes, as well as our decades of experience coordinating complex logistics and on-site repair needs," said King Aerospace President Jarid King. "We look forward to providing years of exemplary service to our customer." The contract covers scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, phase inspections and AOG (aircraft on ground) response. King Aerospace will also deliver technical and engineering support for the FAA's King Air fleet, based at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (MMAC) and operating from Will Rogers Airport (OKC) in Oklahoma City—around 45 minutes' flying time from Ardmore. Business Development Manager Rob Burchett highlighted the company's extensive King Air experience, including nearly a decade of maintenance support for the U.S. Army's C-12 fleet, which flies more than 300 hours a month. The FAA currently operates 17 King Air Model 300 aircraft for tasks including the testing and verification of enroute NAVAIDs and instrument landing systems at airports nationwide. The agency is expected to receive its first new-build King Air 360 in 2027.

**MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS**

**Dedienne Aerospace scales up Dubai hub for 2026 move**

Dedienne Aerospace will significantly expand its Dubai operation in 2026 with a move to a larger site within the Jebel Ali Free Zone. The new 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> facility is designed to meet rising demand across the Middle East and Africa and aligns with Dubai’s fast-developing aviation ecosystem. The expanded hub reflects the company’s long-term regional commitment and supports its ambition to serve as a central pillar in the MEA aviation supply and maintenance network. The project centres on delivering greater value to customers by increasing capacity, strengthening on-site resources and broadening inventory levels. The larger site will allow Dedienne Aerospace to maintain a wider, immediately available stock of aerospace maintenance equipment and ground support equipment, ensuring faster access for operators. A substantially expanded service zone, backed by field-service teams positioned across the region, will help reduce turnaround times, improve aircraft availability and create more predictable support for airlines, MROs and lessors. This enhanced capability is expected to drive higher operational efficiency, particularly as regional fleets continue to expand. The new facility will also deepen support for key market growth areas in the Middle East, Africa and Turkey. With fleets ramping up across these regions, operators are seeking reliable, in-region access to specialised tooling and long-term servicing programmes. Dedienne Aerospace, as an official licensee for major OEMs, will strengthen support for programmes such as the GE9X and Boeing 777X, the Rolls-Royce Trent XWB, the LEAP and CFM56 engine families, and additional Boeing and Collins Aerospace tooling that is expected to enter the market in the coming years. The expansion underscores a strong commitment to the UAE and the wider MEA region. The Dubai hub is being scaled for the 2025–2035 horizon, providing localised licensed-tooling coverage, increased technical capability and additional customer-facing teams. Its location within JAFZA ensures direct access to both port and airport infrastructure, while proximity to Dubai South positions Dedienne Aerospace at the heart of the emirate’s emerging aviation cluster.



© Dedienne Aerospace



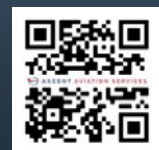
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**MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS**

**AIR ONE International Holdings launches AIR ONE Technics**



Celebrating the launch of AIR ONE Technics' new location at the Mohammed bin Rashid Aerospace Hub in Dubai South © AIR ONE

AIR ONE International Holdings (AIR ONE) has established AIR ONE Technics, a UAE-based company dedicated to providing line maintenance and continuing airworthiness management services for the group's fleet. Located at the MBR Aerospace Hub in Dubai South, AIR ONE Technics will support the group's technical operations across the United Arab Emirates. The new company is led by Chief Executive Officer Ayrat Gilmutdinov, an aviation executive with extensive strategic and operational experience, known for his focus on innovation, process optimisation, and data-driven decision-making. Alex John has also joined as Director of Supply Chain & Logistics, bringing more than 35 years of expertise in aviation materials and logistics management with major Middle Eastern carriers, including a strong track record in building efficient, compliant, and technology-enabled supply chain systems. Gilmutdinov said the launch of AIR ONE Technics reflects the group's commitment to safety, quality, and operational reliability — principles that underpin how AIR ONE serves its customers. AIR ONE Technics sits within AIR ONE International Holdings, a global aviation group with activities covering aircraft operations, commercial management, and technical support in key international markets.

**Elevate MRO forges strategic partnership with StandardAero**

Elevate MRO, part of Elevate Aviation Group, has expanded its capabilities with a comprehensive engine overhaul service delivered through a strategic partnership with StandardAero. This new offering supports engines across business and commercial aviation, reinforcing the company's commitment to maintenance solutions that meet the sector's shifting demands. As the call for efficient, dependable engine performance grows, the partnership gives Elevate MRO direct access to leading overhaul expertise, modern facilities, and OEM-authorized support. Together, the two companies provide a streamlined engine service built on safety, efficiency, and cost control. "Our expansion into engine overhaul services marks a significant milestone for Elevate MRO," said Jim Slack, President at Elevate MRO. "With this partnership, we are able to offer our clients trusted, high-quality engine maintenance solutions that ensure performance and reliability across a wide range of aircraft performance." The expanded service includes detailed engine inspections, component repairs, parts replacement, and full system testing to ensure peak performance. With advanced technical capability and OEM-approved processes, customers will benefit from rigorous quality standards and full regulatory compliance.



© Elevate MRO

**FINANCIAL NEWS**

**ST Engineering exits STARCO in RMB680.5 million deal**

Singapore Technologies Engineering has confirmed that its aerospace subsidiary, ST Engineering Aerospace (ST Engineering), signed an agreement on November 14, 2025, to divest its entire stake in Shanghai Technologies Aerospace Company (STARCO). The deal transfers all equity interests held by the group — amounting to 49% of the company and its corresponding paid-up registered capital — to China Eastern Airlines Corporation (CEA). Once

the transaction is completed, ST Engineering will no longer retain any shareholding in STARCO. CEA, which already owns the remaining 51%, will move to full ownership and take complete control of the joint venture. The sale marks the end of a long-running partnership between the two companies within the Chinese maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) market. CEA has agreed to purchase the 49% stake for a cash consideration of RMB680.5 million, equal to approximately SG\$124.6 million. The payment will be made across two instalments. The first tranche, valued at RMB506.7 million (around SG\$92.8 million), will be settled upon the completion of the divestment. The second tranche of RMB173.8 million (around SG\$31.8

million) is due no later than December 31, 2026, and will be backed by a bank guarantee to ensure certainty of payment. The joint venture with CEA was established in 2004 for an initial 20-year term. Following the extension of this agreement in 2024, both partners have now agreed to conclude their partnership to focus on their respective growth plans. This decision brings to a close a successful collaboration that has benefited both companies. ST Engineering values the strong working relationship it has enjoyed with CEA and looks forward to continuing to support the airline as a valued customer in the years ahead. US\$1.00 = SG\$1.30 = RMB 7.11 at time of publication.

**MILITARY AND DEFENCE**

**Colombia confirms €3.1 billion deal for Saab Gripen fleet**



Saab has signed a contract for Gripen E/F jets with the Government of Colombia © Saab

Saab has finalised a major defence contract with the Colombian Government, securing an order for 17 Gripen E/F fighter aircraft valued at €3.1 billion (US\$3.6 billion). Under the agreement, deliveries are scheduled to run from 2026 through to 2032. The package comprises 15 single-seat Gripen E jets and two dual-seat Gripen F aircraft, supported by a suite of weapons, equipment, training programmes and long-term services. Alongside the aircraft contract, Saab and the Colombian Government have also signed two offset agreements that set out the foundations for an extensive collaboration across multiple sectors. These arrangements are designed to advance military, industrial and social projects throughout Colombia. According to the framework, the initiatives will encompass work in aeronautics, cyber security, public health, sustainable energy solutions and water purification technologies. The intention is to pair national capability-building with broader societal benefits, ensuring the investment generates value beyond defence modernisation alone. Saab's President and CEO, Micael Johansson, noted that Colombia's decision to acquire the Gripen E/F represents a significant enhancement

of the country's air defence posture. He indicated that Saab views the deal as the beginning of a long-term partnership aligned with Colombia's security ambitions. He also suggested that the collaboration is expected to support national innovation efforts and create new opportunities for Colombian industry and communities.

**Morocco orders ten H225M helicopters to renew puma fleet**

The Kingdom of Morocco has signed a contract with Airbus Helicopters for ten H225M helicopters, marking a major modernisation step for the Royal Moroccan Air Force. The new aircraft will be configured for combat search and rescue operations and will replace the service's ageing Puma fleet, which has been in operation for more than four decades. Bruno Even, CEO of Airbus Helicopters, said the selection of the H225M reinforces the long-standing relationship between Airbus and Morocco. He noted that the aircraft continues to gain strong momentum worldwide and is recognised as a benchmark for demanding missions in challenging environments. The order further strengthens the H225M's reputation as a leading platform for combat search and rescue and special operations. The Royal Moroccan Air Force's H225M fleet will be fitted with a double hoist installation, a searchlight and a Safran Euroflir 410 electro-optical system to support complex missions. The helicopters will also be capable of carrying machine guns and equipped with an electronic warfare suite to enhance survivability during high-risk operations. The contract includes a support and service package, which will provide Morocco with a comprehensive set of connected services designed to ensure reliable operations, efficient maintenance and long-term fleet availability.



H225M helicopter

© Airbus Helicopters / Anthony Pecchi

**EDGE and Leonardo move closer to Abu Dhabi defence joint venture**



EDGE Group and Leonardo have reached a key milestone toward their joint venture in the UAE © Leonardo

Following the Memorandum of Understanding signed in June between EDGE Group and Leonardo, confirming their shared intention to establish a joint venture in Abu Dhabi, both organisations have now taken another clear step towards making the project a reality. They have completed a preliminary assessment covering technology-transfer activities, market potential and the key principles for the venture's governance. With this progress secured, the partners will now work towards launching the JV in 2026. The latest agreement was signed at the Dubai Airshow 2025. EDGE Group would hold a 51% stake in the joint venture, with Leonardo owning the remaining 49%. The activities under review include design, development, testing, industrialisation and production, sales and leasing, through-life support, and training for the JV's products within the United Arab Emirates. The partnership also covers IP licensing and the development of a skilled local workforce. The portfolio being considered will draw on a wide range of Leonardo's technologies, spanning sensors, system integration, and platforms, and will be marketed within the UAE and to selected export markets. EDGE's Managing Director and

CEO, Hamad Al Marar, noted that the latest milestone reflects the pace at which both sides are moving and demonstrates what can be achieved when two industry players align behind a smart, forward-looking strategy. He emphasised that collaboration across air, land, sea, and electro-optics would allow the partners to shape tailored solutions built on deep experience, expertise, and innovation, with the UAE serving as a hub for reaching established and emerging markets.

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

**Lufthansa Technik Defense secures P-8A sustainment deal**



One of the German Navy's P-8A Poseidon aircraft © Lufthansa Technik

Boeing and Lufthansa Technik Defense have signed a multi-year contract to provide comprehensive technical sustainment services for the German Navy's expanding fleet of eight P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. The first aircraft was delivered earlier this month. The agreement covers almost every segment of Lufthansa Technik's global MRO portfolio, including aircraft maintenance, engine support, component supply, operations management and technical training. With decades of experience maintaining the Boeing 737—the platform on which the P-8A is based—Lufthansa Technik brings near-unmatched expertise to the programme. "This new contract expands our military MRO portfolio to include its first weapon-bearing aircraft system and further strengthens our long-standing and trusted partnership with the German Armed Forces," said Michael von Puttkamer, Vice President Special Aircraft Services & Defense at Lufthansa Technik. "The company plays a vital role in ensuring the operational readiness of this new weapon system and, in the spirit of Germany's Zeitenwende, contributes to strengthening national defence capabilities."

Lufthansa Technik will support the German Navy from the outset of P-8A operations, with its Hamburg headquarters becoming a core location for line maintenance and base maintenance activities. Germany now joins New Zealand and India as Lufthansa Technik Defense's third P-8 customer. To secure reliable spare parts availability amid global supply-chain challenges, Lufthansa Technik will provide total component support, giving the Navy access to its dedicated pool of P-8 commercial spares. Open-loop exchanges will allow immediate replacement of unserviceable components, minimise downtime and boost fleet readiness. The company will also manage the supply of consumables and expendables, including bearings, fasteners and lubricants. To extend engine life and maintain performance in the demanding maritime environment, Lufthansa Technik will conduct detailed engine condition monitoring on the P-8A's CFM56-7B engines. Early detection of degradation and defects will help avoid unscheduled removals, unnecessary inspections and keep the Poseidon fleet operating efficiently and economically.

**T-7 partnership poised to transform RAF training**

Saab, Boeing and BAE Systems have signed a letter of intent to collaborate on the Royal Air Force's next fast-jet trainer programme, proposing the T-7 as the backbone of a modernised training system. The agreement also positions the three companies to pursue future international pilot-training opportunities together. "Together, Boeing with Saab and now BAE Systems will offer innovative training solutions to best prepare RAF pilots for the future, including advanced fourth-, fifth- and sixth-generation fighters," said Bernd Peters, Vice President of Business Development & Strategy at Boeing Defense, Space & Security. "This collaboration enhances the best of our technological capabilities, strengthens the transatlantic industrial base and offers opportunities for cooperative development." The 2025 Strategic Defence Review confirmed the requirement for a new UK Advanced Jet Trainer. BAE Systems will lead the initiative, which will include final assembly in the UK and create high-value skilled jobs. The partners aim to deliver an integrated training system combining live and synthetic environments alongside advanced mission systems, while also exploring opportunities to expand the UK supply chain. At the centre of the proposal is the T-7A Red Hawk, selected by the U.S. Air Force in 2018 as its next-generation pilot-training platform. Designed as an integrated live-virtual-constructive (LVC) system, the T-7A delivers a multi-generation leap in capability. Its flexible architecture enables rapid adaptation to new technologies and mission needs, preparing pilots to fly the world's most advanced multi-role fighters, fast-jets and bombers.



T-7 jet

© Saab

OTHER NEWS



© FAI Air Ambulance

**FAI Aviation Services DMCC** (FAI), the Dubai-based subsidiary of Germany's air ambulance operator **FAI rent-a-jet GmbH**, has entered into a cooperation agreement with **Medcare Royal Speciality Hospital** in Al Qusais, a premium healthcare facility within the Aster DM Healthcare Group. The partnership marks FAI's first collaboration of this kind in the region, uniting its international air ambulance expertise with Medcare Royal's established local medical capabilities. The agreement was signed in Dubai by Barbara Baumgartner, Managing Director of FAI Aviation Services DMCC, and Dr Shanila Laiju, Group Chief Executive Officer of Medcare Hospitals & Medical Centres. Under the deal, Medcare Royal Speciality Hospital will supply ICU flight doctors and specialist medical teams to support FAI's air ambulance operations. Both organisations will also develop joint training and clinical readiness programmes to uphold world-class standards of patient care and operational efficiency. The partnership is expected to streamline medical logistics,

reduce response times and enhance coordination for patients requiring urgent or critical air transfers. It supports the UAE's ambition to further strengthen its air ambulance infrastructure and advance its position as a global destination for high-quality medical tourism. Barbara Baumgartner stated: "We are pleased to sign this first-of-a-kind collaboration with MRSH, which strengthens FAI's link between air and ground medicine in the UAE. By partnering with Medcare Royal Speciality Hospital, FAI is utilising local medical talent who understand cultural and patient needs."

**OTHER NEWS**

**Vallair** and **AeroX**, a specialist in advanced in-flight connectivity solutions, have announced a strategic alliance to accelerate the installation of Starlink satellite communication systems across commercial aircraft fleets. Starlink will enable passengers to access high-speed internet worldwide, including in regions that traditionally lack reliable coverage. As part of the agreement, Vallair will reserve dedicated night-shift modification capacity at its state-of-the-art maintenance centre in Châteauroux, France. This arrangement will allow for the swift installation and integration of Starlink antenna systems on both narrow-body and wide-body aircraft operated by AeroX's customers across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. By carrying out upgrades overnight, airlines can enhance onboard connectivity without affecting scheduled flight operations. AeroX Chief Executive, Aaron Grigsby, said the partnership offers customers a fast, reliable and centralised modification solution located in the heart of Europe. He noted that working with Vallair will enable airlines to adopt Starlink with minimal downtime and improved operational efficiency. The alliance reinforces both companies' commitment to advancing the passenger experience, including uninterrupted streaming, online gaming and cloud-based work capabilities. It also supports the next generation of real-time operational data transfer, enhanced crew communications and improved Electronic Flight Bag (EFB) performance reliability.



Vallair and AeroX have forged a strategic alliance to install Starlink satellite connectivity across commercial fleets © Vallair



Swissport is expanding its e-commerce capacity at Liege Airport with a new import hub © Lemon Queen

**Swissport**, the aviation services provider, is expanding its European e-commerce network with a new 5,500 m<sup>2</sup> second-line warehouse at **Liege Airport** (LGG) in Belgium. Built for import parcel handling, the facility strengthens Swissport's logistics capabilities in one of Europe's fastest-growing cargo hubs. Dedicated solely to high-volume import parcel processing, the warehouse offers a throughput capacity of up to 300 tonnes per day. With this addition, Swissport's total e-commerce footprint in Liege rises to 9,000 m<sup>2</sup>, allowing the company to meet growing demand for swift, reliable and sustainable cross-border e-commerce logistics. The operation supports fully integrated import handling, from cargo collection and shuttling to breakdown, scanning, sorting and final loading for last-mile delivery. "Liege has established itself as one of Europe's most important cargo hubs, particularly for online retail," said Dirk Goovaerts, CEO Continental Europe, Middle East, Africa, India & Global Cargo Chair, Swissport. "With this investment, we are enhancing our ability to deliver fast, data-driven and sustainable logistics solutions for our airline and integrator partners. It's another step in building scalable capacity where our customers need it most." Swissport's Liege facility

integrates customers' Warehouse Management Systems (WMS) directly with its CargoSpot platform, offering real-time visibility, accuracy and data integrity. The site is fully bonded and built for cross-dock operations that prioritise safety, efficiency and on-time performance.

**Air Canada** has unveiled its most extensive cabin renewal programme to date, covering **Air Canada mainline**, **Air Canada Rouge**, and **Air Canada Express**. This multi-year investment reshapes the onboard experience with refreshed interiors, next-generation technology, and thoughtful touches shaped by passenger and employee feedback. Central to the upgrade is the industry's most comprehensive fast, free Wi-Fi service, sponsored by Bell. All Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft currently flying for Air Canada's mainline operation will shift to Air Canada Rouge by 2026. Their renewed cabins will offer 12 Business Class seats, 18 Preferred extra-legroom Economy seats, and 147 Standard Economy seats. Every seat will recline, include personal on-demand entertainment, and provide fast, free Wi-Fi for Aeroplan Members. To support this move, Air Canada will open a new Rouge crew base in Vancouver, offering greater choice for leisure travellers in Western Canada. Meanwhile, all Airbus A320 and A321 aircraft will remain at Air Canada mainline, where they will be updated to the airline's latest cabin standards. These upgrades include redesigned seating, the newest in-flight entertainment systems, and enhanced fast, free Wi-Fi. The refreshed interiors reflect Air Canada's new design ethos—modern, accessible, and warmly Canadian. The initiative is already progressing, with 15 Airbus A321s now flying in the updated layout. Air Canada will also continue expanding its A220 fleet, a Quebec-built aircraft known for comfort, efficiency, and advanced technology. Another 26 Airbus A220-300s are on order, with the new design standard—featuring Airbus' larger XL overhead bins—set to appear on deliveries from March 2026. The uplift extends to regional travel as well. From 2026, Air Canada Express aircraft operated by Jazz, including the Embraer E175 and Mitsubishi CRJ-900, will receive the new cabin design. Next-generation Wi-Fi is already being deployed, with 55% of the fleet equipped. This complements ongoing upgrades to 25 De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft, which will receive fully redesigned cabins featuring new seating, refreshed interiors, and, on routes from Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, next-generation fast, free Wi-Fi.



Air Canada elevates the North American travel experience with a comprehensive fleet upgrade © Air Canada

OTHER NEWS

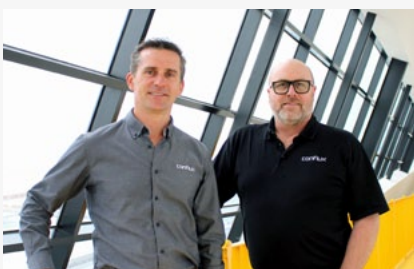
**ASI Global** (ASI) has entered an exclusive memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Tata Projects** to work together on emerging opportunities linked to aircraft maintenance facility development across India. ASI's sister company, Aircraft Support Industries, is a well-established provider of aviation infrastructure solutions. Tata Projects, meanwhile, stands among India's most admired sustainable, technology-led engineering, procurement, and construction firms. Together, they bring complementary strengths to a sector experiencing rapid change. The agreement allows both companies to identify and pursue opportunities created by India's fast-growing need for aircraft maintenance hangars and supporting infrastructure. Demand is rising from commercial airlines, independent MRO providers, business aviation operators, and the defence sector. As a result, the partnership offers a structured path to deliver solutions that address capacity pressures across the country. Moreover, the collaboration is not limited to aviation. The companies will also evaluate broader avenues where their combined expertise offers clear advantages. ASI's well-established engineering capabilities, including its proven 'Stressed Arch' system, can support large-span, cost-efficient structures. These applications extend to airport terminals, exhibition and conference halls, sports centres, and bulk-storage facilities. Through this strategic alliance, both organisations aim to deliver advanced, efficient, and future-ready infrastructure that meets India's evolving needs.



Representatives from ASI Global and Tata Projects at the MoU signing © ASI Global

The **Lufthansa Group** has formally declared its interest in joining the privatisation process of **TAP Air Portugal**, submitting its letter of intent to Parpública, the Portuguese state holding company, within the required deadline. While the initial plan involves acquiring a minority stake, the broader objective is to forge a long-term partnership that secures TAP's future as Portugal's national carrier. Carsten Spohr, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Deutsche Lufthansa AG, said: "The Lufthansa Group welcomes the Portuguese government's privatisation process. Our goal is to strengthen Portugal's global connectivity, preserve TAP's Portuguese identity, and ensure the airline's sustainable growth. TAP Air Portugal is of great strategic importance to the European aviation industry. As a long-standing partner in the Star Alliance and with our extensive investments in Portugal, we continue to see the Lufthansa Group as the best partner for TAP and for Portugal." The Lufthansa Group has operated in Portugal for more than 70 years. Its airlines currently run over 280 flights a week to and from the country and employ more than 400 skilled professionals. With a new Lufthansa Technik facility for engine and component repair under development in Santa Maria da Feira near Porto, the workforce is expected to reach 1,000 by 2030. A partnership with TAP would strengthen Lisbon's role as an Atlantic hub within the Lufthansa network, enhancing links between Europe and key regions including South America, Africa, and North America.

INDUSTRY PEOPLE



Dan Woodford (l) and Michael Fuller (r)

- Conflux Technology, a global specialist in advanced heat-exchange innovation, has announced that **Dan Woodford**, formerly Chief Commercial Officer, assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer on November 7, 2025. On the same date, founder and long-standing CEO **Michael Fuller** moved into a full-time position as Executive Chairman, where he will con-

centrate on governance, corporate strategy and the company's technical roadmap. "Elevating Dan Woodford to CEO builds on our international strategy and positions Conflux for its next phase of growth," said Michael Fuller. "As Executive Chairman, I will continue to guide our long-term strategy and ensure continuity of our technical direction." The transition supports Conflux's broader growth strategy as it scales production to meet rising global demand for its advanced heat-exchange solutions. Customers across aerospace, energy, automotive and industrial sectors are seeking faster delivery, greater efficiency and superior thermal-management capability—areas where Conflux continues to push the boundaries of performance through additive manufacturing and proprietary design expertise. During his tenure as Chief Commercial Officer, Woodford delivered sustained

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commercial acceleration, achieving 100% annual sales growth for three consecutive years in key target markets. He expanded the company's order book, secured major production programmes and led the establishment of Conflux's operations in the United Kingdom, strengthening its position in Europe and broadening its global footprint. Founder Michael Fuller transformed Conflux from an ambitious concept into an advanced manufacturing enterprise recognised internationally for its breakthroughs in thermal management. Under his leadership, the company evolved from a bootstrapped start-up to a profitable, fast-growing innovator backed by multiple rounds of growth capital. The leadership shift marks the beginning of a new chapter, built on a strong foundation of technical excellence and commercial momentum.

### Commercial Jet Aircraft

Aircraft Type	Company	Engine	MSN	Year	Available	Sale / Lease	Contact	Email	Phone
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	

### Commercial Engines

CF34 Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) CF34-10E6	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
CFM Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(3) CFM56-5C4	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
(1) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Lease				
(2) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Sale / Lease	GA Telesis		engines@gatelesis.com	
(2) CFM56-7B26	Now - Sale / Lease				
(1) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Sale	BBAM	Steve Zissis	info@bbam.com	+1 787 665 7040
(1) CFM56-7B26	Now - Lease				
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