

Weekly Aviation Headline News

“Australia’s distance from the rest of the world should never stand in the way.”
Vanessa Hudson, CEO Qantas Airways”



Rendering of Qantas' Airbus A350-1000ULR

© Qantas

Qantas Chooses London for Dawn of Project Sunrise Non-Stop UK Flights

Australian carrier to commence record-breaking 20-hour non-stop flights to London Heathrow – could add AU\$400 million in annual revenue.

At an event in Toulouse, France on Wednesday June 17, Qantas Airways announced that London Heathrow will be the first destination for the world’s longest non-stop commercial flight, a roughly 20-hour trip from Sydney that will eliminate the traditional stopover on the “Kangaroo Route”. The Australian carrier intends to start selling tickets in February 2027 and the first flights will commence in the following October. These non-stop flights will form part of the company’s “Project Sunrise” initiative, which will also involve non-stop flights to New York using modified Airbus A350-1000ULR jets capable of flying up to 22 hours with 238 passengers on board. The announcement is part of a fleet overhaul that began in 2017 when Qantas challenged Airbus and Boeing to develop planes capable of ultra-long-haul, non-stop routes from Australia. “Australia’s distance from the rest of the world should never stand in the way,” Hudson said, before unveiling one of the modified Airbus jets, fresh from the paint shop and yet to have its Rolls-Royce XWB-97 engines installed. The name Project Sunrise is a nod to past history and the airline’s double-sunrise endurance flights during World War Two, which remained airborne long enough to

see two sunrises. The current aim is to reduce what was once a five-day trek on the “Kangaroo Route” to London to a single hop of between 19 to 21 hours, depending on the route chosen and winds. Qantas will use polar routes approximately 25% of the time, especially during the northern winter. It is a major gamble for Qantas, involving billions of dollars in aircraft, cabin upgrades and research into passenger health on ultra-long flights. In order to be successful, the carrier will have to convince travellers to pay more to avoid layovers, while minimising the discomfort from long flights. Qantas has participated in academic research on jet lag, exercise, hydration, lighting and mealtimes, Hudson commented that Qantas hopes to replicate the roughly 20% premium it has achieved across all four cabins on Perth-London flights versus one-stop routes. Because of current disruption in the Middle East, flights from Perth to London have been rerouted via Singapore and are taking between 24 and 25 hours. “We will return our network to where it was prior to the war when things settle down,” Hudson said, without giving a timeframe. Qantas has estimated Project Sunrise could add more than A\$400 million (US\$283 million) a year to

earnings. Airbus won the Project Sunrise order in 2019 after an intense battle with Boeing’s 777X, and earlier this month, Airbus carried out the first test flight for one of 12 modified A350-1000ULR planes ordered by Qantas. The 238-seat planes feature an extra rear-centre fuel tank helping to increase the range by 1,000 nautical miles (1,852 km) to 10,000 nautical miles. Flights are so long that much of the fuel is used merely to carry the weight of the remaining fuel. Half of the 12 new jets will serve the ultra-long-haul London and New York markets, while the remainder are likely to be used to replace Boeing 787s on other long-haul routes such as Perth-London or Auckland-New York, freeing those aircraft to open new routes, Hudson said. Chicago has long been on Qantas’ watch list among other destinations. According to Reuters news agency, the first aircraft is due for delivery in April 2027, about five years later than originally expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain delays. Reuters also reported this month that Qantas is in talks to buy 20 more wide-body jets from Airbus or Boeing, with the smaller A350-900 or more Boeing 787s under consideration.

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AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Loganair takes delivery of ATR 72-600

Azorra has delivered the first of two ATR 72-600 aircraft to Loganair, the UK's largest regional airline, marking the start of a new customer partnership and further expanding Azorra's presence across the UK and European regional aviation markets. The twin-engine turboprop will support Loganair's extensive route network, helping to enhance air connectivity for communities across the UK, particularly in regions where reliable regional air services are essential. Luke Farajallah, Chief Executive Officer of Loganair, said the aircraft will provide additional operational flexibility as the airline continues to adapt its network and respond to passenger demand. "These ATR 72-600 aircraft provide valuable flexibility as we evolve our network and meet demand across our markets," said Farajallah. "We are pleased to partner with Azorra and appreciate the team's collaborative approach throughout the transaction."



Azorra has delivered the first of two ATR 72-600s to Loganair

© Azorra

K2 Aviation expands portfolio with two Boeing 737-800 freighters



K2 Aviation has completed the acquisition of two Boeing 737-800 Boeing converted freighters (BCFs) from Aircastle, marking the entry into the dedicated freighter aircraft sector. The aircraft are currently leased to ASL Airlines and operated by ASL Airlines Belgium and ASL Airlines France. The transaction also establishes a new customer relationship for K2 Aviation, further strengthening its presence in the European aviation market. Karl Ryan, Managing Partner of K2 Aviation, welcomed the deal, describing it as an important step for the Dublin-based aircraft leasing and investment company. The acquisition strengthens K2 Aviation's asset portfolio while broadening its exposure to the air cargo market, a sector that continues to play a vital role in global supply chains and e-commerce logistics. K2 Aviation offers a full range of in-house management, investment and structuring capabilities, enabling it to

K2 Aviation closes acquisition of two Boeing 737-800 BCF's with Aircastle

© Boeing

manage aircraft portfolios across multiple international jurisdictions. Supported by an experienced leadership team and a clear long-term strategy, the company is well positioned to navigate the evolving aviation sector and pursue attractive investment opportunities worldwide.

Aergo reshapes portfolio with Airbus transactions

Aergo Capital (Aergo) has announced the sale of two Airbus A321-200 aircraft to FTAI Aviation, alongside the acquisition of an Airbus A320-200neo on lease to Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), further demonstrating its active portfolio management strategy. The two Airbus A321-200 aircraft, bearing manufacturer serial numbers 4099 and 4148, are currently on lease to Air Transat. The aircraft have been sold to FTAI Aviation, a leading integrated provider of aftermarket power and maintenance services for the world's most widely used commercial jet engines. FTAI Aviation owns and maintains commercial jet engines, with a particular focus on the CFM56 and V2500 engine platforms. Through its proprietary portfolio of products, including the Module Factory and a PMA procurement partnership, FTAI Aviation delivers cost savings and operational flexibility to airlines, lessors and MRO providers worldwide. In a separate transaction, Aergo has also acquired one Airbus A320-200neo, bearing manufacturer serial number 7277, which is currently on lease to SAS. The aircraft was previously owned by SDH Wings and serviced by Avilease. These transactions reflect Aergo's continued commitment to optimising its portfolio through strategic disposals and targeted acquisitions, while maintaining exposure to modern, in-demand aircraft assets leased to established airline operators.



A321-200 in Air Transat livery

© Aergo Capital

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Avincis expands H145 fleet with Airbus deal

Avincis, Europe’s largest emergency aerial services operator, has signed a new agreement with Airbus Helicopters for up to 15 additional H145 helicopters, reinforcing its commitment to critical aviation services across the continent. The aircraft will be deployed throughout Avincis’ extensive European network, enhancing operations in the Nordic region, Italy and Spain. The new helicopters will primarily support Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS), while also serving other specialist missions, including offshore transportation. The investment forms part of Avincis’ ongoing fleet modernisation strategy, ensuring its crews have access to advanced technology capable of operating in demanding environments. John Boag, Chief Executive Officer of Avincis Group, said the H145 remains the ideal platform for the company’s mission-critical operations due to its reliability, performance and versatility. He noted that the additional aircraft will help Avincis continue delivering high-quality aerial emergency services while supporting specialised offshore transport activities across its European territories. Boag also highlighted the company’s intention to strengthen its long-standing partnership with Airbus as it prepares its fleet for future operational requirements. Airbus Helicopters welcomed the agreement, describing the H145 as a highly adaptable multi-mission aircraft. Matthieu Louvot, Chief Executive Officer of Airbus Helicopters, said the deal demonstrates the helicopter’s ability to perform a wide range of roles, from life-saving emergency medical missions to supporting offshore wind and energy sector transportation. He added that Airbus remains focused on providing Avincis with efficient and dependable aircraft capable of meeting complex operational challenges. The agreement further strengthens a partnership between two major players in the emergency aviation sector. Avincis is recognised as one of the world’s leading aerial emergency services operators, delivering essential aviation support to civil authorities and organisations. Its services help save lives, protect communities and support environmental protection initiatives.



H145 helicopter

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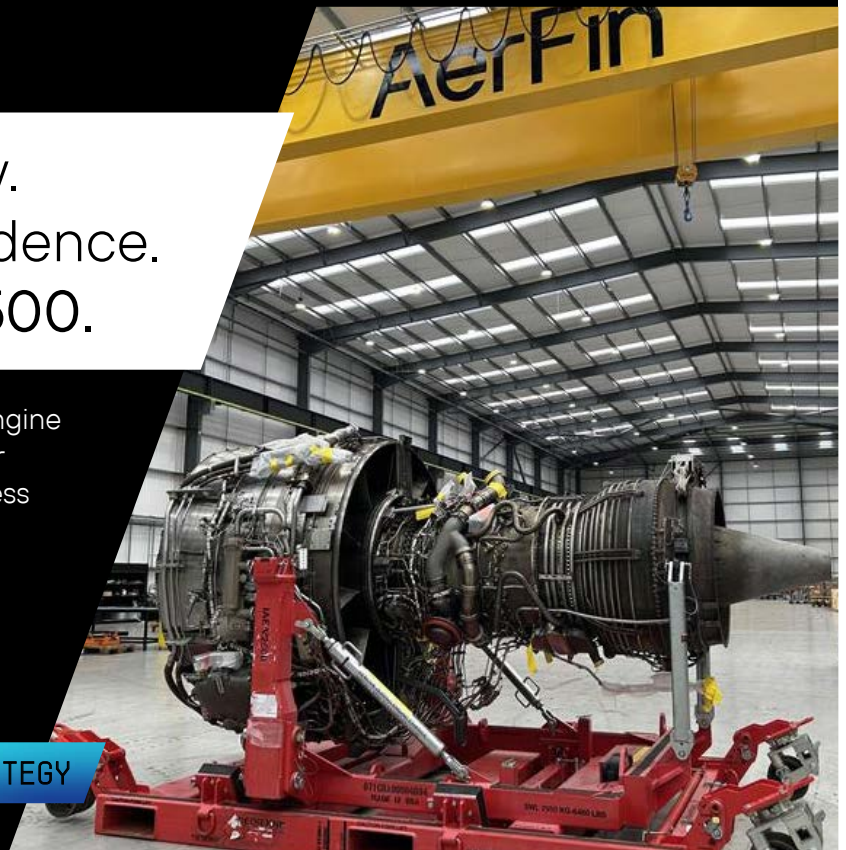
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AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Airbus Helicopters receives order for H145 helicopters from Armenia



Armenia has ordered six H145 helicopters

© Airbus Helicopters

Airbus Helicopters and the Republic of Armenia have signed a contract for the purchase of six H145 helicopters. The agreement, finalised during French President Emmanuel Macron’s state visit to Yerevan, has now entered into force, marking a significant step in strengthening ties between France and Armenia. The multi-role helicopters will be used for transport missions and represent Armenia’s first contract with Airbus Helicopters. The acquisition supports the modernisation of the country’s rotorcraft fleet with one of the most versatile and dependable platforms in its class. The H145 is recognised for its strong performance in high-altitude and hot-weather conditions, making it well suited to Armenia’s mountainous terrain. The five-bladed variant also offers greater payload capacity, enhanced passenger comfort and simplified maintenance requirements.

Cathay Group to lease Airbus A330P2F

The Cathay Group is continuing to strengthen its cargo operations with Air Hong Kong signing a long-term lease agreement for an Airbus A330P2F converted freighter. The move follows Cathay Cargo’s recent order for two additional Airbus A350F freighters and forms part of a broader strategy to expand capacity, enhance network flexibility and reinforce Hong Kong’s position as the world’s busiest air cargo hub. The additional aircraft will be operated by Air Hong Kong, the Cathay Group’s dedicated all-cargo airline, primarily serving routes across the Chinese Mainland and other regional destinations on behalf of Cathay Cargo. The freighter will provide extra capacity for customers while supporting the continued growth of regional cargo services. Cathay Director Cargo Dominic Perret said the investment reflects the group’s commitment to expanding its cargo network and strengthening Hong Kong’s role as a leading global logistics gateway. He noted that the A330P2F will complement the future Airbus A350F fleet, giving Cathay Cargo greater flexibility to develop its regional operations and offer more options to freight forwarding partners. The aircraft is scheduled to join Air Hong Kong’s fleet in the fourth quarter of 2026 under a long-term lease agreement with Air Transport Services Group (ATSG) through its leasing subsidiary, Cargo Aircraft Management (CAM). Once delivered, it will join Air Hong Kong’s existing fleet of 14 A330 freighters, which currently provide express cargo services for DHL Express. Air Hong Kong Chief Operating Officer Agatha Lee said the additional aircraft will allow the carrier to capitalise on opportunities created by Hong Kong International Airport’s Three-Runway System, supporting further regional expansion and the development of Hong Kong’s aviation sector. The fleet addition forms part of the Cathay Group’s wider investment programme, which exceeds HK\$100 billion (US\$13 million) and covers aircraft, cabin upgrades, lounges and digital innovation. The group has more than 100 new aircraft on order, including narrow-body, regional and long-haul wide-body passenger aircraft, as well as next-generation freighters, underscoring its long-term commitment to growth across both passenger and cargo markets.



Air Hong Kong A330 freighter

© Air Hong Kong

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

FL Technics wins FAA approval for Punta Cana MRO



Punta Cana aviation MRO hub

© FL Technics

FL Technics has received approval from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to begin providing MRO services for US carriers at its new facility in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The FAA issued the Part 145 Repair Station Certificate after a detailed, multi-stage review of the hangar, which is located in the Free Trade Zone next to Punta Cana International Airport. The new facility gives FL Technics direct access to North American air traffic routes and strong links to key US East Coast aviation centres. The Punta Cana site spans 20,000 m² and is equipped to provide base maintenance for both older and newer aircraft models, including Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 aircraft. FL Technics is also building a local workforce in Punta Cana, supported by experienced specialists from its international network. At launch, local employees will work alongside aviation experts transferred from other company sites, bringing advanced technical skills and proven working practices to the new hangar. Ongoing training and on-site mentoring will help employees maintain high safety and quality standards as operations begin.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Bell completes first MV-75 wings



Bell has completed the first two wing structures for the MV-75 Cheyenne © Bell Textron

Bell Textron has completed assembly of two wing structures for the MV-75 Cheyenne, marking a key step in the development of the next-generation tiltrotor aircraft. The wings will be integrated into the first two MV-75 test aircraft, moving the programme into the next stage of its build process. Bell said the milestone reflects progress in production readiness, affordability and aircraft design maturity. The tiltrotor wing is a central structural element of the MV-75, providing the aircraft's backbone with high strength, optimised stiffness and improved survivability. Bell said the wing is one of its core areas of expertise, supported by decades of tiltrotor manufacturing experience. All major wing components are produced within Bell's own facilities, including composite wing skins and spars, the tailored aluminium substructure and final assembly work. This in-house capability gives the company greater control over quality, sequencing and production efficiency. Culley Shafer, Director of Operations in Amarillo at Bell, said the company had applied lessons learnt from decades of V-22 wing production to the MV-75 from the start. "After decades of building V-22 wings, we have learnt new ways to do things better, faster and smarter by implementing these lessons into the design upfront," said Shafer. "The team is constantly evolving, making adjustments, refining sequencing and implementing engineering changes to keep raising the bar on quality, safety and efficiency." The first MV-75 wing, completed in February, was produced with 90% fewer labour hours than the first V-22 wing build. Bell then achieved a further 40% reduction in labour hours on the second wing, underlining its focus on manufacturing efficiency and cost control. With both wing structures complete, Bell is now integrating system provisions. The next assembly phase will involve mating the wings with the fuselage, which is being built at the Wichita Assembly Center, and the nacelle, which is also progressing through assembly.

Setna iO expands A319 teardown portfolio

Setna iO (Setna) has completed the acquisition of one Airbus A319-100 airframe formerly operated by easyJet, further expanding its aircraft teardown programme. The aircraft is one of three ex-easyJet A319-100s acquired as part of the transaction. The airframe will be dismantled at ecube's facility in St Athan, Wales. Components will then be channelled through Setna's repair network, including Setnix, Setna Parts Lab, Landing Gear Technologies (LGT) and Zulu Global, for piece-part repair and recertification. "This A319 acquisition is an exciting addition to our portfolio," said Vinnie Beltrano, Partner and Chief Operating Officer. He added: "The aircraft will provide a valuable supply of high-demand material, supporting our long-term piece-part repair and sales strategy. Setna is uniquely positioned to repair a substantial proportion of these components through our in-house MRO network, while our global Setna iO sales team ensures parts are delivered to airlines, lessors and MROs efficiently and on schedule. This level of vertical integration gives us greater control over the supply chain, reduces turnaround times, improves material availability and enables us to remain highly competitive on pricing."



Setna has added an A319 airframe to its teardown portfolio

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MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

HAECO joins partners on US\$360m Vietnam maintenance hub

HAECO Group has agreed to form a joint venture with Sun Group, Toyota Tsusho and Japan Airlines to establish a new maintenance facility at Van Don International Airport in Vietnam. The US\$360 million project forms part of HAECO's long-term growth strategy in Asia. It will strengthen Vietnam's maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) capabilities by introducing international standards, proven systems and operational best practices for domestic and international airline customers. Subject to government and regulatory approvals, the new facility will span around 170,000 square metres, making it one of Vietnam's largest aircraft maintenance hangars. The centrepiece will be a four-bay wide-body hangar, designed with additional flexibility to accommodate narrow-body aircraft maintenance in the mid-bays. The development will also include a multi-storey administration and support building, annex facilities, engineering spares and materials storage, a power station, canteen and training rooms. Together, these assets will create an integrated base maintenance hub designed to support efficient operations and future expansion. The project is expected to create more than 1,000 highly skilled jobs while supporting a sustainable local talent pipeline through structured training and capability development programmes. HAECO has already begun recruiting and training Vietnamese personnel at its Xiamen facilities in preparation for future roles at the new site. As the facility progresses, HAECO plans to integrate advanced digital tools, technology-enabled processes and AI-supported applications into daily operations. This will provide local employees with opportunities to develop expertise in modern aviation support and related technologies. Once operational, the addition of the Van Don facility will expand HAECO's network to 31 wide-body hangar bays and 10 narrow-body hangar bays. The company expects to deliver around 10 million base maintenance man-hours annually while creating a further 2,000 jobs in local communities, supported by training through its world-class training centres.



HAECO and partners plan landmark Vietnam MRO centre

© HAECO

Airbus opens new A320 assembly line in Toulouse



A320-family final assembly line at the Jean-Luc Lagardère facility in Toulouse

© Airbus

Airbus has officially opened its second modernised A320-family final assembly line (FAL) at the Jean-Luc Lagardère facility in Toulouse, strengthening its ability to meet growing demand for single-aisle aircraft and support future production increases. The new line was inaugurated by Airbus Chief Executive Officer Guillaume Faury and Lars Wagner, CEO Commercial Aircraft at Airbus, alongside French Transport Minister Philippe Tabarot, Airbus executives and employees. Faury described the opening as a significant milestone for the company's commercial aircraft division. He said the facility would provide the flexibility and capacity needed to support strong demand for the A321neo while helping Airbus progress towards its target of producing 75 A320 Family aircraft per month. He added that the new line would work alongside Airbus' assembly sites in Hamburg, Mobile and Tianjin to maintain high-quality aircraft deliveries for customers worldwide.

The launch follows recent production expansions in Mobile, United States, and Tianjin, China. With the new Toulouse line now operational, Airbus has completed its plan to establish ten final assembly lines for the A320 Family across its global manufacturing network by 2026. The network now comprises four assembly lines in Hamburg, two in Mobile, two in Tianjin and two in Toulouse. Airbus said this global footprint is designed to support increasing production rates while providing greater operational resilience and efficiency. Located within the former A380 Jean-Luc Lagardère building, the new facility sits alongside the first Toulouse A320 Family line, which opened in July 2023. The site makes use of existing infrastructure while incorporating advanced manufacturing technologies, including digital production controls, automated logistics systems, and robotics. These features are intended to streamline workflows, improve efficiency and enhance workstation ergonomics. The first assembly line currently employs around 700 people. As the second line gradually reaches full production capacity, the combined workforce at the Jean-Luc Lagardère site is expected to grow to nearly 1,500 employees, further reinforcing Toulouse's role as a key hub in Airbus' global manufacturing network.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

JetZero breaks ground at aircraft factory in North Carolina

JetZero has started work on a vast new manufacturing and final assembly campus in Greensboro, North Carolina, laying the foundations for large-scale production of its next-generation aircraft. The new facility will span eight million square feet across more than 600 acres and is expected to become one of the largest aerospace manufacturing sites in the United States. The project has secured the largest state-level incentive package ever awarded to a startup in North Carolina, reflecting the scale of the investment and its anticipated economic impact. Over the next decade, JetZero plans to create around 14,500 jobs and invest approximately US\$4.7 billion in the region, positioning Greensboro as a key centre for future aerospace production. The campus will manufacture the JetZero Z4, an all-wing aircraft designed to serve the largely untapped commercial middle-market segment. The aircraft is expected to accommodate up to 250 passengers and offer a range of 5,000 nautical miles. According to the company, the innovative design could deliver up to 50% greater fuel efficiency than conventional airliners while offering an enhanced passenger experience. Importantly, the aircraft is being developed to operate within existing airport infrastructure, allowing airlines to adopt the type without requiring major airport modifications. JetZero CEO and co-founder Tom O’Leary said the company shares North Carolina’s ambition to become a global aerospace hub. He noted that growing industry demand for more efficient aircraft has created the ideal opportunity to introduce a new generation of all-wing designs capable of reshaping commercial aviation. Beyond passenger operations, JetZero is also developing military variants of the Z4. Proposed versions include an aerial refuelling tanker and military transport aircraft. The company believes the all-wing configuration could provide either twice the operational range or twice the payload capacity of current platforms, offering significant advantages for future US military missions.



JetZero will produce the Z4 all-wing aircraft in Greensboro, North Carolina

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Alaska breaks ground on new Portland hangar

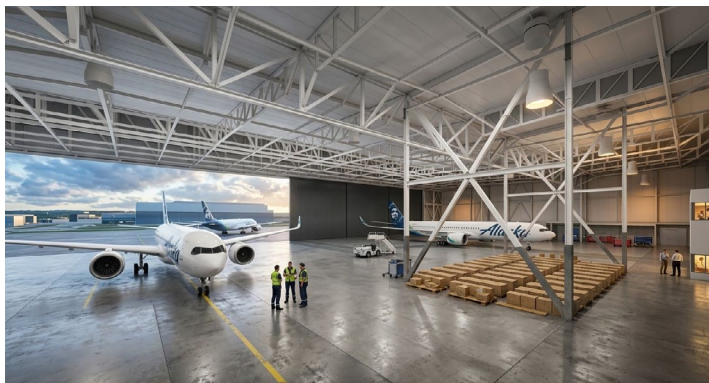


Image of Alaska Airlines’ new hub in Portland

© Alaska Airlines

Alaska Airlines has marked the ceremonial ground-breaking of a new maintenance hangar in Portland, Oregon. Following final permitting approvals, the facility will be built next to the airline’s existing Horizon Air operations centre and maintenance hangar at Portland International Airport (PDX). The project will add around 125,000 ft² of indoor aircraft maintenance space for the mainline fleets of Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines. A further 60,000 ft² will house offices, engine, machine and sheet metal workshops, alongside support facilities. Once completed, the hangar will enable maintenance teams to work on up to three narrow-body aircraft or two wide-body aircraft simultaneously. This will help return grounded aircraft to service more quickly while easing demand on Alaska’s primary maintenance bases in Seattle and other hubs. The investment underlines Alaska Airlines’ long-term commitment to Portland and the nearly 3,000 Alaska Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines and Horizon Air employees based in the region. The facility is expected to create more than 100 highly skilled roles for maintenance technicians, engineers and service professionals. Alaska Airlines has served Portland since 1979 and remains the city’s largest carrier, operating more than 130 daily departures this summer. The new hangar further strengthens the airline’s recent investment programme at PDX.

and Horizon Air employees based in the region. The facility is expected to create more than 100 highly skilled roles for maintenance technicians, engineers and service professionals. Alaska Airlines has served Portland since 1979 and remains the city’s largest carrier, operating more than 130 daily departures this summer. The new hangar further strengthens the airline’s recent investment programme at PDX.



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MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Safran, Brussels Airport break ground on engine facility extension

Brussels Airport and Safran have begun construction of a major extension to the Safran Aircraft Engine Services Brussels facility, reinforcing the airport's position as a leading European aerospace and maintenance hub. The project will add more than 15,000m² of new infrastructure dedicated to the maintenance of aircraft engine modules, helping Safran meet rising global demand for engine repair and overhaul services. The expansion builds on the maintenance centre inaugurated in 2024, which specialises in servicing CFM LEAP engines used on the Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX families. Once completed, the new facility will allow Safran to separately maintain individual engine modules, each containing thousands of components. This approach is expected to accelerate repair turnaround times, improve operational efficiency and increase maintenance capacity. The development will include a workshop covering almost 12,000m², more than 3,000m² of office space and a multi-storey car park with 380 spaces. By 2028, the site is expected to process up to 1,500 engine modules annually, significantly strengthening Safran's global maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) network. Around 250 additional jobs will be created, adding to the highly skilled aerospace workforce already based at Brussels Airport. Safran's decision to expand in Brussels reflects both its long-standing presence at the airport and the expertise that has been developed on-site over many years. For Brussels Airport, the project represents another milestone in the growth of its aeronautical ecosystem. The airport continues to attract major industrial and aviation investments, reinforcing its role as a strategic economic engine for Belgium and an important centre for aerospace activity in Europe. As airlines worldwide seek greater maintenance capacity to support growing fleets and new-generation aircraft, the expanded Safran facility will play an increasingly important role in keeping engines in service while supporting the long-term development of both the company and Brussels Airport.



Ground-breaking at Brussels Airport

© Brussels Airport

Delta rolls out Finlets across 240 Boeing 737s



Delta Air Lines will equip its B737-900ERs and B737-800s with Finlets

© AirTeamImages

Delta Air Lines will install Vortex Control Technologies' (VCT) Finlet modification package across its Boeing 737-800 and 737-900ER fleet, covering 240 aircraft. Finlets are aerodynamic devices fitted to the aft fuselage that optimise airflow, reduce drag and improve fuel efficiency. By minimising flow separation and enhancing pressure distribution, the technology lowers fuel burn and cuts carbon emissions. Delta's decision follows an extensive evaluation programme, including flight testing, operational analysis and computational fluid dynamics (CFD) assessments of its 737NG fleet. The airline concluded that the modification offers a practical way to improve aircraft performance while supporting long-term efficiency goals. Gil Morgan, Chief Executive Officer of VCT, said the deployment marks a major milestone for the company, highlighting the technology's ability to improve fuel efficiency, reduce emissions and strengthen airline operating economics. The initiative

supports Delta's broader sustainability strategy. With around 90% of the airline's carbon emissions linked to jet fuel consumption, efficiency upgrades such as Finlets are expected to play an important role in reducing environmental impact while enhancing operational performance.

Nasmyth reaches key Rolls-Royce milestone with Sri City launch

Nasmyth Group (Nasmyth) has reached a major milestone in delivering its previously announced Rolls-Royce contract. The company has established its new facility in Sri City, completed the installation of equipment, built its workforce, and successfully passed its AS9100D quality management system audits in May 2026. The achievement marks a pivotal stage in Nasmyth's global aerospace growth. The purpose-built facility, now fully operational and AS9100D certified, fulfils key commitments to one of the world's leading aerospace OEMs and positions the company at the centre of critical international engineering programmes. Nasmyth Group, together with parent company Sigma Advanced Systems Ltd, will supply a broad range of high-precision, safety-critical components

and assemblies for Rolls-Royce aerospace programmes through its expanding manufacturing investments in the UK and India. The partnership builds on an established relationship and reflects continued confidence in Nasmyth's ability to operate as a globally integrated manufacturing platform. Through its UK-India operating model, the company combines local expertise with global capability to support the aerospace sector. As Nasmyth continues to expand its international presence, investments such as Sri City underline a wider strategic shift. Backed by Sigma Advanced Systems, the Group is moving further into the core of the aerospace supply chain, taking on larger and more complex programme responsibilities that demand both scale and engineering excellence.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

EPCOR and Air Canada sign new APU support agreement



EPCOR will support Air Canada's GTCP131-9A APU fleet

© Airbus

EPCOR B.V., part of the Air France Industries KLM Engineering & Maintenance

(AFI KLM E&M) centre of excellence for Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) repairs, com-

ponents, asset management services and predictive maintenance, has signed a new long-term agreement to support Air Canada's GTCP131-9A APU fleet. The agreement marks a new chapter in the long-standing partnership between the two companies, expanding their collaboration to include support for an additional APU platform. Under the contract, Air Canada will become one of EPCOR's key customers for the GTCP131-9A APU, which is installed across the Airbus A320 family of aircraft. The deal reflects EPCOR's continued commitment to supporting Air Canada's fleet expansion and modernisation programme, coinciding with the introduction of the airline's new Airbus A321XLR aircraft. Josh Vanderveen, Vice President, Maintenance at Air Canada, said: "Air Canada is pleased to continue and expand its long-standing partnership with EPCOR, building on more than a decade of collaboration. This new agreement reinforces our commitment to reliability and operational excellence across our Airbus A320 fleet, helping us continue to deliver world-class service to our customers."

FINANCIAL NEWS

Norwegian moves to build Nordic travel powerhouse

Norwegian has agreed to acquire Nordic Leisure Travel Group (NLTG), a leading Nordic provider of hotels and leisure travel experiences, in a deal designed to create a larger, more integrated travel group across the region. The transaction will bring together some of the best-known names in Nordic travel, including Ving, Spies, Tjäreborg, Globetrotter and Sun-class Airlines, alongside Norwegian and Widerøe. By combining NLTG's strength in package holidays, hotels and leisure travel with Norwegian and Widerøe's airline networks, the group aims to offer customers a broader and more joined-up travel proposition. Together, Norwegian and Widerøe currently carry around 27 million passengers a year. With NLTG added to the group, the combined business is expected to serve approximately 30 million customers annually. It will operate close to 160 aircraft, alongside extensive tour operating and hotel activities. The acquisition will create a vertically integrated Nordic travel company covering both leisure and business travel. Customers will be able to book individual flights through Norwegian and Widerøe, while also gaining access to complete holiday packages through Ving in Norway and Sweden, Spies in Denmark, Tjäreborg in Finland and Globetrotter. For travellers, the deal is expected to mean a wider choice of destinations, easier booking processes and a smoother end-to-end travel experience. For the companies involved, the single-ownership structure is intended to support closer coordination, unlock synergies, sharpen performance and create stronger customer value. The transaction also includes NLTG's profitable own-brand concept hotels in destinations such as Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Thailand and Türkiye. These hotels are expected to benefit from a stronger flow of customers through the enlarged group's combined airline and tour operations. Norwegian said the acquisition will add a new hotel and leisure experience business with its own established brands. The deal is also expected to increase annual group operating revenue by almost 50%, underlining the scale of the shift for Norwegian as it moves deeper into the packaged travel market.



© Norwegian

FINANCIAL NEWS

KKR expands aircraft leasing investment with Altavair

KKR has committed a further US\$1.4 billion in equity to expand its global commercial aircraft leasing portfolio with Altavair, building on two existing partnerships. The investment will be funded primarily through KKR's infrastructure and asset-based finance strategies. Since forming their strategic partnership in 2018, KKR-managed funds have committed more

than US\$8 billion to aircraft leasing and lending transactions. Together, KKR and Altavair have acquired 188 aircraft and engine assets and leased them to 67 passenger and cargo operators worldwide. The latest commitment reflects confidence in the long-term growth of aircraft leasing, driven by rising air travel demand and airlines' need for greater liquidity

and fleet flexibility. It also strengthens Altavair's ability to support airlines facing significant fleet financing requirements in the years ahead. KKR has invested more than US\$12 billion in the aviation sector since 2015, with holdings including Altavair, AV AirFinance, Atlantic Aviation, KKR DVB Aviation Capital and K2 Aviation.

Air France-KLM secures €1bn credit facility

Air France-KLM has signed a new €1 billion (US\$1.16 billion) multi-purpose credit facility with a syndicate of 12 international banks, further strengthening the group's financial flexibility and liquidity position. The facility can be drawn and repaid at the group's discretion and has an initial maturity date of June 2028. It also includes a one-year extension option, subject to lender approval, which could extend the facility until June 2029. The new financing will be used to refinance existing financial instruments, including those linked to potential mergers and acquisitions activ-

ity from the second half of 2026, subject to the completion of relevant transactions. The facility complements Air France-KLM's existing liquidity resources and diversified funding structure, supporting the group's broader financing strategy. Alongside bond issuances, it will help the airline group manage future debt and hybrid instrument redemptions while simplifying its balance sheet. By combining the credit facility with capital market funding, Air France-KLM aims to diversify its financing sources and optimise the timing and pricing of future transactions by taking advantage of

favourable market conditions. The agreement was secured on attractive terms, reflecting the confidence of the group's banking partners in Air France-KLM's financial performance and credit profile. The facility will not affect the group's gross debt position or its net debt-to-current EBITDA ratio, which stood at 1.5x at the end of March. Maintaining leverage between 1.5x and 2.0x remains a key financial objective for the group as it continues to strengthen its balance sheet while retaining the flexibility to support future growth and strategic opportunities.

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

France backs next-generation A400M mission upgrade

Airbus Defence and Space has signed a contract with OCCAR (Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation), acting on behalf of the French Directorate General of Armaments (DGA), to develop new capabilities for the A400M military transport aircraft. The upgrades, known as the Parallel Mission System (PMS), will equip French Air and Space Force A400Ms with enhanced multi-mission capabilities for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) operations. "The A400M is a true Swiss Army knife for the armed forces that operate it. It has the capabilities and potential to continue broadening the scope of its missions," said Jean-Brice Dumont, Executive Vice President Air Power at Airbus Defence and Space. "With this development, the French Air and Space Force will gain an aircraft capable of serving as a tactical airborne command and control tool." The PMS programme centres on integrating a new onboard mission system, alongside tactical situational awareness consoles installed in the cargo hold. These systems will allow crews to monitor multiple sensors and coordinate missions more effectively. The programme also includes the integration of an optronic sensor. The new mission system is designed to support additional sensors and communications equipment, while also enabling the management of drones and missiles launched from the aircraft's cargo hold. Ultimately, crews will be able to coordinate collaborative combat missions involving ground forces, helicopters such as the Tiger and Caracal H225M, and fighter aircraft. Following the development phase, the first French A400M equipped with the new system is scheduled for installation in 2027, with flight testing planned for 2028. Several aircraft within the French Air and Space Force fleet will then be retrofitted to accommodate the PMS kit. Airbus Defence and Space is also studying further enhancements for the A400M, including long-range electronic jamming, a mothership capability for deploying drones and missiles in flight, an increase in payload capacity to 40 tonnes, and aerial firefighting capabilities. These developments are expected to further broaden the A400M's operational role and ensure it continues to meet the evolving requirements of armed forces worldwide.



French A400M tactical flight

© Airbus

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



EY has launched a new aviation managed services engagement with aircraft lessor K2 Aviation © EY

EY has launched a new aviation managed services engagement with global commercial aircraft lessor **K2 Aviation**, in collaboration with **Cloudcards Software**, marking a key step in the expansion of its avia-

tion-focused managed services offering. The partnership will support back-office data, records and workflow management throughout the aircraft lifecycle. Services will cover lease, technical and operational data support, onboarding and administration, as well as ongoing managed operations. Working alongside Cloudcards Software, EY will combine structured operational delivery with technology-enabled processes to improve the management of aviation leases and records. The approach is designed to enhance data accessibility, reduce operational complexity and promote greater consistency across day-to-day activities. As aircraft portfolios continue to expand and data requirements become increasingly complex, the industry is placing greater emphasis on scalable and reliable support models. The new engagement reflects a broader shift towards integrated solutions for managing aviation data and documentation. Niamh Tobin, Head of Aviation Finance at EY Ireland, said: "This collaboration is an important step for K2 as it continues to scale. By partnering with EY, K2 can stay focused on its core commercial priorities, supported by a lean team, while having access to the capabilities and capacity needed to grow at pace."

OTHER NEWS

TEKEVER, a global leader in AI-powered autonomous systems, is supporting **Phoenix Heli-Flight** as the aviation operator begins a new contract to provide wildfire detection services across Canada. The contract builds on a partnership that began in 2023, when TEKEVER and Phoenix Heli-Flight started working together to develop advanced uncrewed aerial capabilities for wildfire detection and response in Alberta. Following a successful evaluation programme, Phoenix Heli-Flight will deploy TEKEVER's AR3 uncrewed aerial system, equipped with specialist sensor technology, to support the detection and monitoring of wildfire activity. The capability combines TEKEVER's long-endurance aircraft, advanced payload integration and Nova Maps software platform to deliver timely, actionable intelligence from the air. Alberta has faced severe wildfire seasons in recent years, with major incidents placing significant pressure on communities, critical infrastructure and emergency services. Against this backdrop, the deployment highlights the growing role of uncrewed aircraft in complementing existing aviation, ground and emergency response resources. By helping operators identify potential threats earlier, enhance situational awareness and make better-informed decisions, the technology supports a more effective response in complex and rapidly evolving environments. Phoenix Heli-Flight is a multi-role aviation operator with extensive experience supporting industrial, emergency response and wildfire operations across Alberta. Combining Phoenix's local operational expertise with TEKEVER's autonomous systems, sensor integration and real-time intelligence capabilities will enable a more persistent and data-driven approach to wildfire detection and monitoring. The contract comes as TEKEVER continues to expand its international footprint and strengthen its global operations. Together, these developments underline the company's growing role in supporting defence, security, emergency response and environmental monitoring missions worldwide.



The TEKEVER AR3 VTOL is a long-endurance UAV designed to support a wide range of demanding land and sea operations © TEKEVER

Technip Energies, Airbus, Safran and Tereos have joined forces to create Rebound, a new joint venture that aims to develop one of Europe's largest sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production facilities at the Port of Dunkirk in northern France. The proposed plant will use alcohol-to-jet (AtJ) technology to convert advanced ethanol derived from agricultural and forestry residues into sustainable aviation fuel. With an expected annual output of around 160,000 tonnes, the facility is set to play a significant role in supporting the aviation sector's decarbonisation efforts while strengthening Europe's energy resilience. The four partners have committed to funding the project's development phase, covering engineering studies and other activities required ahead of a potential Final Invest-

ment Decision (FID). SAF is widely regarded as the aviation industry's most effective tool for reducing carbon emissions. Demand is expected to grow rapidly under the European Union's RefuelEU Aviation regulation, which will gradually increase SAF blending requirements to 6% by 2030 and 70% by 2050. Technip Energies will lead project development and engineering activities, drawing on its experience in large-scale industrial projects and technology deployment. Airbus and Safran will participate as industrial partners, helping to facilitate future fuel offtake agreements and potentially becoming SAF customers. Tereos, one of Europe's leading ethanol producers, is expected to supply the advanced ethanol feedstock required for production. Together, the partners bring

expertise across the entire SAF value chain, from feedstock sourcing and fuel production through to aircraft operations. The project has already reached a key milestone with the allocation of an industrial site by the Port of Dunkirk. The location offers strong logistics capabilities for transporting raw materials and finished products, while also supporting a streamlined permitting process. The next phase will include technology selection, permitting work, pre-FEED and FEED studies, finalisation of feedstock and offtake agreements, and securing financing for construction. The joint venture remains subject to customary approvals and closing conditions and is expected to be formally established during the second half of the year.

OTHER NEWS

Qantas will launch the world's first non-stop flights between Sydney and London in October 2027, featuring the new Airbus A350-1000ULR. This will mark the first time the Kangaroo Route has been operated direct from Australia's east coast. The announcement coincides with the unveiling of Qantas' first Airbus A350-1000ULR at Airbus' Toulouse facility. Developed under Project Sunrise, the aircraft is designed to push the boundaries of ultra long-haul travel. The new service will reduce journey times by up to four hours compared with current one-stop flights and will complement Qantas' existing Perth-London and Sydney-Singapore-London operations.

Purpose-built for Project Sunrise, the A350-1000ULR features an additional 20,000-litre fuel tank, enabling flights of more than 16,000 kilometres and up to 22 hours non-stop. Qantas has ordered 12 aircraft, each configured with 238 seats across four cabins. Pilot, cabin crew and engineering training is already under way ahead of the aircraft's arrival next year. By the time the full fleet is delivered, more than 360 pilots and 1,200 cabin crew will be qualified to operate the aircraft. Following Sydney-London, Qantas plans to introduce non-stop services between Sydney and New York, with launch details due to be announced next year.

INDUSTRY PEOPLE



Andrew Littledale

Jazeera Airways has appointed **Andrew Littledale** as its new Chief Financial Officer, effective July 1, 2026. A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (FCMA), Littledale brings more than 25 years of international finance leadership experience, including senior executive roles within the aviation sector. Welcoming Littledale to the airline, Chief Executive Officer **Barathan Pasupathi** highlighted his extensive aviation finance expertise and strong track record in financial strategy, business transformation and capital management. Pasupathi said Littledale's experience would play a key role in supporting Jazeera Airways' growth plans, strengthening the business and delivering long-term value for shareholders, customers and employees.



Paola Torri

American Airlines has appointed **Paola Torri** as Director of Operations for Mexico and Canada, a newly created leadership position aimed at supporting the airline's continued growth and operational strength across two of its most significant international markets. Torri assumes the role as part of a wider leadership transition across the region, building on the foundations laid by the late **Tony**

Gutiérrez and **José María Giraldo**, who has since moved into a senior leadership position in the United States. Torri brings more than 25 years of experience with American Airlines, most recently having served as People Business Partner for International, based in Mexico City, where she supported teams across Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States. She will remain based in Mexico City and report to **José A. Freig**, Vice President of International and Inflight Dining Operations.



Dr Pierre Dominique Prümm (l) and Dag Jessel (r)

German airline Condor is expanding its Executive Management Board with two senior appointments aimed at strengthening its commercial and financial leadership. Effective August 1, 2026, **Dr Pierre Dominique Prümm** will join Condor as Chief Commercial Officer. In this role, he will oversee Network & Partnerships, Revenue Management, Cargo, Sales and E-Commerce. At the same time, **Dag Jessel** has been appointed Chief Financial Officer, effective July 6, 2026. He will succeed **Björn Walther**. Condor said the expanded management structure will support sustainable long-term growth and provide a stronger foundation for the airline's next phase of development. Dr Prümm brings

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 [Linked in](#)
editor@avitrader.com
Tel: +34 (0) 971 612 130

Advertising Inquiries
Tamar Jorssen [Linked in](#)
Central, North & South America
tamar.jorssen@avitrader.com
Phone: +1 (778) 213 8543

Advertising Inquiries "International"
Malte Tamm [Linked in](#)
Europe, Middle East & Asia
malte.tamm@avitrader.com
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more than 20 years of aviation leadership experience. He most recently served as Executive Board Member for Aviation and Infrastructure at Fraport, where he was responsible for the operational and strategic core business of Frankfurt Airport. His career has focused on strategy, business development, growth, customer orientation and major infrastructure projects. Jessel brings broad international experience as a CFO and Managing Director across industrial and service-sector companies. He has also led several international growth and transformation programmes. He maintains long-standing links to aviation, having held senior roles at Lufthansa, including Director Finance & HR North Asia and positions in Mergers & Acquisitions. His wider aviation experience also includes cost management, process optimisation and engineering-related responsibilities.

THE AIRCRAFT AND ENGINE MARKETPLACE

Commercial Jet Aircraft

Aircraft Type	Company	Engine	MSN	Year	Available	Sale / Lease	Contact	Email	Phone
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
(1) CFM56-5C4	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
(1) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717

(1) CFM56-7B26					
(1) CFM56-7B26E					

(2) CFM56-7B26	Now - Sale / Lease	GA Telesis		engines@gatelesis.com	
(1) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Sale / Lease				

(1) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Sale	BBAM	Steve Zissis	info@bbam.com	+1 787 665 7040
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(1) CFM56-7B26	Now - Lease				
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(1) CFM56-7B26/3	Now - Lease				
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(4) CFM56-5B6/P	Now - Sale				
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(3) CFM56-5B5/P	Now - Sale				
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LEAP Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) LEAP-1B	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717

(1) LEAP-1B28	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
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(1) LEAP-1B27					
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Commercial Engines

PW Small Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(2) PW150A	Now - Sale/Lease/Exch.	Willis Lease	David Desaulniers	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950

(1) PW127M	Now - Sale/Lease/Exch.				
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PW1000 Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) PW1100G-JM	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717

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THE AIRCRAFT AND ENGINE MARKETPLACE

Aircraft and Engine Parts, Components and Misc. Equipment

Description	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(2) GTC331-200ER, (2) GTC131-9A, (1) GTC131-9B Now - Sale	Setna IO	David Chaimovitz	david@setnaio.com	+1-312-549-4459
(1) A321 Enhanced Landing Gear 2020 OH				
(3) A340 LG Shipset, (1) B777 LG Shipset (3) B737 LG Shipset, (11) A320 LG Shipset, (1) B757 LG Shipset, (1) 767 Shipset	GA Telesis		landinggearsales@gatelesis.com	
(3) 131-9A, (9) 131-9B (Max compliant) (1) 331-500, (1) PW901, (1) 131-9B	GA Telesis		apu@gatelesis.com	+1-954-849-3509
Engine stands: CF6-80C2, 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			

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