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Weekly Aviation Headline News

Gebremariam will be replacing Campbell Wilson, who resigned in April and whose notice period ends on September 30. Air India has not said when Gebremariam will formally take charge.

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Tata's Air India turns to outsider Gebremariam to restore confidence in carrier

Country's second-largest and flag carrying airline faces challenges after fatal 2025 crash, an ageing fleet, a need for modernisation, and a ban on using Pakistani airspace

Having originally shortlisted Air India commercial chief Nipun Aggarwal and Vinod Kannan, former CEO of Vistara, now at Singapore Airlines, as a potential replacement for Current CEO Campbell Wilson who resigned in April, it has been announced that the new CEO of Air India will be Tewolde Gebremariam. India's second-largest carrier is roughly 75% owned by Tata and the remainder is owned by Singapore Airlines. Gebremariam is seen as something of a "change leader" with special skills in crisis management. He joined Ethiopian Airlines in 1985 in the cargo unit and rose to run Africa's largest airline group. In 11 years as CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, it is understood that he turned it into Africa's leading carrier, spending US$1 billion to build businesses around its Addis Ababa hub, including the continent's largest cargo terminal, an aviation university, maintenance hangars, a catering centre and a 1,000-room hotel. According to Reuters news agency, he was named African CEO of the Year in 2012. During his time there he was forced to deal with the drastic consequences of the Flight 302 737 MAX crash shortly after the plane took off from Addis Ababa in March 2019 and grounded the carrier's remaining jets well before regulators in both China and the USA. It was only a year later that Gebremariam was forced to negotiate the COVID-19 pandemic which wiped out most of Ethiopian Airline's passenger business. Without a state bailout, he turned to cargo, leaning on freighters and a cargo terminal built years earlier and converting passenger jets to carry freight. At Air India, Gebremariam inherits a larger, more complex company. The airline and its budget arm lost over US$2 billion last financial year. The carrier has cut international flights as Pakistan's airspace ban and the Iran war have lengthened routes and raised fuel costs. The airline is also awaiting a final report into last year's crash which killed 260 people on board a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Last month, Air India Chairman N. Chandrasekaran said the airline's turnaround could take up to a decade. Air India's other safety lapses include one of its Airbus jets completing eight passenger flights without a mandatory airworthiness permit. The airline's own investigation found "systemic failures" and an urgent need to tighten compliance, Reuters reported in December. Gebremariam has said Ethiopian thrived as a state-owned airline because successive governments let professionals run it. "The owners should not be managers," he said in a 2023 interview on the "Our Future Skies" podcast.

Tewolde Gebremariam to become Air India's new CEO


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AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Somon Air takes delivery of first 737 MAX

Somon Air has taken delivery of its first Boeing 737-8, becoming the first airline in Tajikistan to operate the 737 MAX as it advances its fleet modernisation and network expansion plans. The aircraft is the first of two 737-8s being leased from Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE). It will operate short- and medium-haul services across Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The new aircraft forms a key part of Somon Air's fleet renewal strategy, providing greater range and improved operating economics than previous-generation models. The airline said the 737-8 will support planned route expansion, including future services to London, Beijing and Guangzhou. Depending on configuration, the 737-8 can accommodate up to 210 passengers and has a range of up to 3,500 nautical miles (6,480 km). Boeing said the 737 MAX reduces fuel consumption and carbon emissions by 20% compared with the aircraft it replaces, supporting Somon Air's sustainability and fleet modernisation objectives.

The first B737 MAX for Somon Air © Boeing

NAM adds fifth Boeing 747 Freighter

An NAM B747-400BCF aircraft taxiing on the ground in Liege © NAM

Network Airline Management (NAM) has expanded its freighter fleet with the addition of a Boeing 747-400BCF, increasing its Boeing 747 fleet to five aircraft. The converted freighter entered service at the end of July 2026 and will operate from the company's hub in Liège, Belgium. The aircraft adds payload capacity, long-range capability and flexible main-deck loading, enabling NAM to support growing demand for general cargo, oversized freight and specialised shipments across its international network. Chief Executive Jonathan Clark said the additional 747-400BCF strengthens the airline's ability to meet rising customer demand while increasing operational flexibility, service frequency and capacity for both charter and scheduled cargo operations. With five Boeing 747 freighters now in service, NAM said it will continue to pursue fleet expansion as it seeks to strengthen its position in key air cargo markets and support its growing global customer base.

Daher delivers first TBM 980 in Brazil

Daher Aircraft (Daher) has delivered the first TBM 980 to a customer in Brazil, marking the introduction of its latest high-performance turboprop in one of the company's key growth markets. The aircraft was delivered to a Brazilian entrepreneur upgrading from a TBM 900. The customer selected the TBM 980 for its third-generation Garmin G3000 PRIME avionics, as well as its speed, efficiency and operational flexibility. The aircraft will support travel between multiple cattle ranches and farms across Brazil, including operations from semi-prepared airstrips. Brazil is a strategic market for Daher, which offers the six-seat, pressurised TBM 980 and TBM 960 alongside the 10-seat Kodiak 100 and Kodiak 900 utility aircraft. The country's vast geography and strong agribusiness, construction and mining sectors are driving demand for efficient regional air transport. To strengthen its local presence, Daher established Daher Aircraft Brasil in São Paulo last October, expanding customer support and technical services. Since then, the company has sold five TBM 980s and one TBM 960 in Brazil, signalling growing demand for its turboprop aircraft.


TBM 980 aircraft © Daher

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

FAA certifies Boeing 737-7


Boeing 737-7 airplane flying over snowy mountain background © Boeing

Boeing has received an amended type certificate (ATC) from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the 737-7, clearing the aircraft for entry into commercial service. The certification follows a multi-year programme conducted under FAA oversight, including extensive flight and ground testing, human factors evaluations and system safety assessments. The approval validates the aircraft's design and enables Boeing to offer the 737 MAX family to an additional market segment. The 737-7 is the longest-range variant of the 737 MAX family, with a range of up to 3,800 nautical miles (7,040 km). It is aimed at airlines operating from airports in high-altitude and hot-weather environments. The aircraft seats 135-160 passengers in a typical two-class configuration. The certification campaign included nearly 700 flight-test hours across 440 flights and around 350 ground-test hours, supported by tens of thousands of pages of documentation and extensive engagement with the FAA. Boeing said the aircraft delivers around a 20% reduction in fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions, while cutting the noise footprint by about 50% compared with the aircraft it is designed to replace. The 737 MAX family has accumulated more than 7,200 orders, with 2,360 aircraft delivered as of the end of June 2026.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Honda delivers first Elite II business jet in Brazil

HondaJet Elite II © Honda Aircraft Company

Honda Aircraft Company has delivered the first HondaJet Elite II in Brazil after the country's National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC) validated the type certificate for the latest version of the light business jet. The certification confirms the Elite II meets Brazilian safety and performance standards and clears the aircraft for registration and operation in the country. The Elite II is the latest variant of Honda Aircraft's light jet family and offers a maximum NBAA IFR range of 1,547 nautical miles. The aircraft also features increased fuel capacity and other performance enhancements, expanding its mission capability and enabling more direct city-pair connections across South America. The model includes new cockpit automation features aimed at reducing pilot workload, including an autothrottle system that automatically manages engine power to maintain the selected speed while improving operational efficiency and passenger comfort. The delivery marks the entry of the Elite II into the Brazilian market, one of the largest business aviation markets in Latin America.

Azorra adds A330-200 aircraft to portfolio

Azorra has acquired an Airbus A330-200 (MSN 1161) from TrueNoord, marking the latest addition to its wide-body portfolio. The aircraft is currently on lease to Maldivian Airlines, the flag carrier of the Maldives, adding a new airline customer and operating jurisdiction to Azorra's global portfolio. The transaction builds on Azorra's expansion into wide-body aircraft following acquisitions of Airbus A330s and Boeing 777-300ERs in 2023. Over the past three years, the lessor has actively managed the segment through lease extensions and aircraft transitions to new operators. Azorra's portfolio now comprises 194 owned and managed aircraft, including six wide bodies. The company said it continues to pursue opportunities offering strong long-term value and demand while maintaining a disciplined approach to portfolio management.


The A330-200 is leased to Maldivian Airlines © Azorra

Abelo acquires six turboprops

ATR 72-600 © ATR

Turboprop aircraft lessor Abelo has acquired four ATR 72-600 and two DHC8-400 turboprops managed by Aergo Capital. The six aircraft are on lease to Emerald Airlines, Binter Canarias, National Jet Express, Citilink and Philippine Airlines, adding five new operators to Abelo's portfolio and further diversifying its global customer base. "This transaction marks another milestone in our growth strategy, and we look forward to collaborating further with Aergo on future opportunities," said Stephen Gorman, Chief Executive of Abelo. "For Abelo, this acquisition represents a strategic expansion of our footprint, strengthening our position around key turboprop assets." Aergo Capital Chief Executive Paul Sheridan said the six turboprops were sold to Abelo on behalf of MUFG, DBJ and KDB under Aergo management.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Dviation wins Riyadh Air maintenance contract in Kuala Lumpur

Riyadh Air Boeing 787 Dreamliner © Boeing

Dviation Technics has been appointed as the line maintenance provider for Riyadh Air at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, supporting the Saudi carrier's launch into Southeast Asia. The appointment coincides with Riyadh Air's inaugural service between Riyadh and Kuala Lumpur, which began on July 31, with a three-times-weekly Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner operation powered by GEnx engines. Under the agreement, Dviation Technics will provide comprehensive line maintenance services to ensure the aircraft operates safely, reliably and efficiently. Kuala Lumpur is Riyadh Air's first destination in Southeast Asia. The airline, backed by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), is a key part of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 strategy to establish Riyadh as a global aviation hub. It plans to serve more than 100 destinations worldwide as it builds its international network.

EirTrade wins three new global authorisations

EirTrade Aviation Maintenance (EirTrade) has secured operational authorisations from the Bailiwick of Guernsey (2-REG), the Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands (CAACI) and the Bermuda Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA) for its expanding maintenance facility at Ireland West Airport Knock. The authorisations cover aircraft operations, transitions, parking and storage, enabling the company to support aircraft registered with the three overseas aviation authorities. The authorisations follow EirTrade's expansion of its EASA Part-145 capabilities in 2025 to include the Airbus A320neo powered by PW1100 engines and the Airbus A330. The company said the move responds to demand from airlines and lessors using the Guernsey, Cayman Islands and Bermuda aircraft registers. To obtain the approvals, EirTrade prepared maintenance organisation manual supplements, updated documentation, trained staff and authorised certifying personnel before successfully completing desktop and on-site audits by the three regulators. "The potential opportunities were realised immediately," said Jim Maguinness, Quality Manager – EirTrade Aviation. "We welcomed two aircraft into parking and storage programmes - one is 2-REG and the second is Cayman Reg. Both are new customers for EirTrade Aviation Maintenance Limited."

GetJet unit expands MRO footprint at Vilnius

GetJet Group's Airhub Aviation (Airhub) secured a site at Vilnius International Airport to expand its aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) operations. The company won the right to lease an 11,200 m² plot for 40 years through a land lease auction organised by Lithuanian Airports. Airhub plans to invest about €25 million to build an MRO hangar, which is expected to create more than 100 jobs once operational. The new facility forms part of GetJet Group's strategy to expand its in-house MRO capabilities, aiming to strengthen technical independence, improve operational flexibility and broaden services for airline customers. The site is adjacent to a 4,700 m² plot that GetJet Group previously secured under a long-term lease. The group is investing about €10 million between 2025 and 2029 to construct another hangar at that location. (€1.00 = US$1.15 at time of publication).

Rendering of Airhub's new hangar at Vilnius International Airport © GetJet

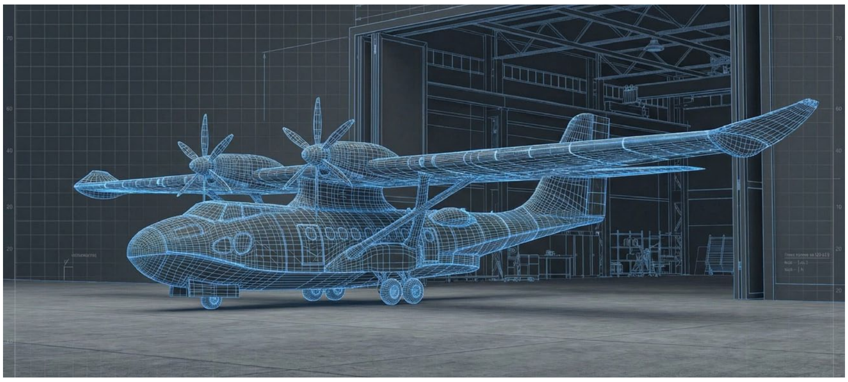
MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Lufthansa Technik increases Philippines MRO capacity

Rendering of the new facility at Clark International Airport © Lufthansa Technik Philippines

Lufthansa Technik Philippines has broken ground on a new wide-body MRO facility at Clark International Airport, marking a major expansion of its operations in the country. The new base maintenance centre will be built on a 157,000 m² site and will complement the company's existing facility at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport, around 100km away. Backed by an investment worth hundreds of millions of US dollars, the facility is scheduled to enter service in 2028 and is expected to create around 1,200 skilled jobs. The Clark site will significantly increase the company's base maintenance capacity and will include a paint shop and non-destructive testing workshops. During construction and ramp-up, Lufthansa Technik Philippines will leverage the expertise and operational processes developed over more than 25 years at its Manila facility. The expansion is aimed at meeting growing global demand for widebody MRO services. Lufthansa Technik Philippines currently specialises in the maintenance of Airbus A330, A340 and A380 aircraft, as well as the Boeing 777. The new facility will also add support for the Airbus A350 and Boeing 787.

Catalina plans Florida engineering hub


Digital image of Catalina SPAR amphibious aircraft © Catalina Aircraft Company

Catalina Aircraft Company has announced plans for a new Engineering and Technology Center (ETC) in Vero Beach, Florida, to support development of its Catalina SPAR amphibious aircraft. The multi-tenant facility will bring Catalina's design team together with aerospace and hardtech start-ups, providing shared access to digital engineering resources, a scale wind tunnel, wave tank, and 3-D printing and materials laboratories. Catalina said the centre would help accelerate aerodynamic, structural and amphibious hull development, as well as support the SPAR's planned FAA Part 25 certification. Leasing space and testing capacity to other companies is also expected to offset operating and equipment costs. "The Engineering and Technology Center gives us the infrastructure to design, build and test the Catalina SPAR right here in Vero Beach, while helping build out this region's broader aerospace ecosystem," said Bennett Biever, vice-president of business development. The Catalina SPAR is being developed as a multi-mission platform for applications including aerial firefighting, transport, patrol, humanitarian support and search and rescue. Catalina said the Vero Beach facility would build on the region's aviation heritage while strengthening the Treasure Coast as a centre for aerospace engineering and testing.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Atlas Air Worldwide

Atlas Air Worldwide (Atlas) has completed its previously announced strategic investment in Air Atlanta, acquiring a 49% minority stake in the Icelandic ACMI operator and expanding its global wide-body operating platform. As part of the transaction, Atlas subsidiary Titan Aviation Holdings acquired the aircraft owned by the Air Atlanta group and entered into a long-term leasing agreement under which Air Atlanta will continue to operate the fleet. Atlas said the partnership strengthens its access to wide-body capacity across key international markets while broadening its global operating platform. Air Atlanta said the deal positions both companies to build on their complementary capabilities and create additional opportunities for customers. Barclays and Morgan Stanley acted as financial advisers to Atlas, while Norton Rose Fulbright served as legal counsel.

Atlas has completed its investment in Air Atlanta © Atlas

Global Aviation Conference Frankfurt

September 29-30, 2026

Frankfurt, Germany

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FINANCIAL NEWS

CADE clears American Airlines' Azul investment

Brazil's Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE) has unconditionally approved American Airlines' planned US$100 million investment in Azul, clearing the US carrier to acquire a minority stake of around 8% in the Brazilian airline, according to The Rio Times. CADE's technical staff issued a favourable opinion on July 31, concluding that the transaction poses no competition concerns on routes between Brazil and the US. The decision will become final if no commissioner challenges or reviews the ruling within 15 days of its publication in Brazil's official gazette, the *Diário Oficial da União* (DOU). The investment forms part of Azul's Chapter 11 restructuring. In February, the airline announced amended equity investment agreements under which both American Airlines and United Airlines separately committed US$100 million, providing a combined US$200 million in fresh capital. The arrangement will leave the two largest US airlines each holding an approximately 8% stake in Azul. According to The Rio Times, the approvals also indicate CADE's willingness to permit minority foreign investments in Brazilian airlines, provided they do not confer disproportionate governance rights or raise competition concerns.

Qantas exits Jetstar Japan

The Qantas Group will divest its minority shareholding in Jetstar Japan © AirTeamImages

The Qantas Group and Japan Airlines (JAL) have signed a binding agreement that will see the Qantas Group exit Jetstar Japan through a share buyback, paving the way for a Japanese capital-led ownership structure for the low-cost carrier. The transaction, which remains subject to regulatory approvals, follows a memorandum of understanding announced in February 2026. Under the agreed structure, Development Bank of Japan (DBJ) will become a new shareholder, while JAL and Tokyo Century Corporation will retain their existing stakes. Qantas will divest its entire 33.32% shareholding, with the transaction expected to be completed by June 2027. Following the Group's exit, Jetstar Japan will rebrand under a new name, ending its use of the Jetstar brand as it seeks to strengthen its position as a Japanese low-cost carrier. The Group said the divestment will enable it to redirect capital towards its Qantas and Jetstar domestic and international operations in Australia. The airline added that there will be no changes to Qantas or Jetstar services between Australia and Japan, nor to existing codeshare arrangements with JAL. The share buyback is valued at JPY8.2 billion (US$52 million) and is expected to generate an estimated gain of about A$115 million (US$81 million) for the Qantas Group, largely in FY27. The gain includes one-off benefits from the release of historical foreign currency translation gains from equity reserves, together with sale proceeds on completion of the transaction. The Group will continue to recognise its share of Jetstar Japan's profits or losses until the deal closes.

Lufthansa Q2 profit hit by fuel, strikes

Deutsche Lufthansa AG reported an 8% increase in second-quarter revenue, but profit fell sharply as higher fuel costs and strike-related disruptions outweighed strong passenger demand. Revenue rose to €11.1 billion in the quarter from €10.3 billion a year earlier. Adjusted EBIT declined to €383 million from €870 million, while the adjusted EBIT margin narrowed to 3.4% from 8.4%. The airline group said fuel costs increased by about €750 million year over year, while strikes added at least €150 million in costs. Higher yields, particularly on Asian routes, where fares rose by more than 13%, partly offset the impact. Net income fell to €123 million from €1.0 billion a year earlier, reflecting the weaker operating result, valuation effects and one-off tax benefits recorded in the prior-year period. Adjusted free cash flow was negative €365 million, compared with positive €138 million a year earlier. Lufthansa's network airlines reduced capacity by 3% during the quarter, mainly due to six strike days in April and the optimisation of short-haul operations. Despite the lower capacity, the load factor edged up to 81.6%, while unit revenue increased 6.4%, supported by strong premium and Asian travel demand. Adjusted EBIT at the network airlines fell to €137 million from €627 million a year earlier. The decline included a €108 million reduction in equity income, primarily due to currency-related valuation effects on lease liabilities at ITA Airways. (€1.00 = US$1.15 at time of publication).

FINANCIAL NEWS

Willis Lease Q2 profit boosted by asset sales, expands AUM

Willis Lease Finance Corp. (WLFC) has reported its financial results for the second quarter (Q2) ended June 30, 2026, as the company continued expanding its asset management platform. Chief Executive Officer Austin C. Willis said the first half of 2026 focused on establishing Willis Aviation Capital, with assets under management (AUM) increasing 21% year over year. The company reported income from operations of US$34.0 million, an increase of 20.2%, while lease rent revenue rose 6.7% to US$77.1 million in the second quarter from US$72.3 million a year earlier, driven by a larger average lease portfolio. The company recognised US$7.5 million in long-term maintenance revenue during the quarter, compared with US$0.5 million a year earlier, reflecting the release of maintenance reserve liabilities at the end of lease terms. Gains on sales of leased equipment increased to US$32.0 million from US$27.6 million a year earlier. WLFC sold 21 engines and other parts and equipment during the quarter, compared with 14 engines, two airframes and other equipment in the prior-year period. In March 2026, the company's investment fund partnership with Liberty Mutual Investments commenced operations, followed by the launch of its partnership with Blackstone Credit & Insurance in April. The book value of lease assets owned directly or through joint ventures, including operating lease equipment, maintenance rights, notes receivable and investments in sales-type leases, stood at US$3.72 billion as of June 30, 2026. Assets under management, including on-balance-sheet assets, joint venture assets, third-party managed assets and managed fund portfolios, totalled US$4.4 billion on June 30, 2026.

Avolon launches US$1.5bn commercial paper programme

Avolon Holdings has established a US$1.5 billion commercial paper programme through its wholly owned subsidiary, Avolon Aerospace Leasing Limited (AALL), to diversify its funding sources and strengthen access to short-term capital. Under the programme, AALL may issue unsecured commercial paper notes with a total outstanding principal amount of up to US$1.5 billion. The notes will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Avolon and certain subsidiaries and will rank equally with the group's other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. Avolon said the programme will provide a flexible and cost-effective source of short-term funding alongside its existing revolving credit facilities. Proceeds may be used for general corporate purposes, including aircraft acquisitions and the repayment of existing debt. The notes and related guarantees will not be registered under the US Securities Act and may only be offered or sold in the United States under an applicable exemption from registration requirements.

ORIX Aviation to acquire AerFin in aftermarket expansion

Orix Aviation has agreed to acquired AerFin © *Shutterstock*

ORIX Aviation Systems Limited (ORIX Aviation) has agreed to acquire AerFin Limited, marking its entry into the aviation aftermarket sector. The transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals, is expected to complete by the end of 2026. The acquisition expands ORIX Aviation's capabilities beyond aircraft leasing and asset management into used serviceable material (USM), airframe and engine parts, strengthening its presence across the full aircraft lifecycle. Founded in 1991, ORIX Aviation owns and manages aircraft while providing asset management services to Japanese and international investors through its full-service operating lease platform. The addition of AerFin will extend its offering from leasing and asset management to end-of-life aircraft part-out and aftermarket solutions. ORIX Aviation also expects the deal to support AerFin's continued growth by broadening its customer reach. Founded in 2010, UK-based AerFin specialises in aircraft and engine disassembly, component management, maintenance, and the sale and lease of serviceable parts. The company supports airlines, maintenance providers and lessors across six continents, drawing on expertise in aircraft acquisition, inspections, inventory management and parts supply.

ITOCHU to join ACG ownership in US$1.95bn deal

© *ACG*

ITOCHU Corporation has agreed to acquire a stake in Aviation Capital Group (ACG), joining Tokyo Century in the ownership of one of the world's largest aircraft lessors through a new joint management structure. The Japanese trading house will acquire a 50% equity interest in TC Skyward Aviation U.S., Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Tokyo Century that holds its investment in ACG. The transaction, valued at approximately US$1.95 billion, is subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions. As part of the transaction, ITOCHU will also subscribe for ¥10 billion (US$63.3 million) in Bond-Type Class Shares to be issued by Tokyo Century, supporting the latter's financial position and strengthening the companies' long-term strategic partnership. The share subscription is expected to close during the second quarter of FY2026, while ITOCHU's investment in ACG is targeted for completion in the third quarter. ITOCHU said the investment reflects its expectation of sustained long-term growth in the aircraft leasing market, driven by rising global passenger demand, and reinforces aerospace as one of its priority growth sectors. Founded in 1989, US-based ACG is one of the world's leading aircraft lessors, owning and managing a fleet centred on new-generation aircraft. The company ranks ninth globally by aircraft owned and managed and leases aircraft to 90 airlines across 50 countries.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Honeywell Aerospace cuts 2026 outlook after spin-off on supply chain constraints

© Honeywell Aerospace

Honeywell Aerospace lowered its full-year 2026 guidance after reporting second-quarter results following its separation from Honeywell International, saying it had aligned its forecasts with the supply chain's demonstrated capabilities at the end of the second quarter despite continued strong customer demand. The company now expects full-year organic sales growth of 4%-5%, down from its previous forecast of 7%-9%. It also reduced its pro forma standalone adjusted EBIT guidance to US$4.35 billion-US$4.45 billion from US$4.65 billion-US$4.75 billion, implying flat to 3% year-on-year growth instead of the previously expected 7%-10%. Honeywell Aerospace initiated full-year pro forma standalone adjusted earnings per share guidance of US$7.60-US$7.90 and maintained its second-half free cash flow forecast of US$1.0 billion-US$1.5 billion. Chief Executive Jim Currier said the company's successful separation marked an important milestone and positioned Honeywell Aerospace to benefit from greater financial flexibility and operational improvements. While secular demand trends across its end markets remain strong, he said supply chain constraints continued to limit output growth during the quarter. Currier said the revised outlook reflected the supply chain's performance at the end of the second quarter, while the company was taking strategic and operational measures to accelerate growth and improve financial performance. He reaffirmed Honeywell Aerospace's commitment to meeting its 2030 targets. Second-quarter sales rose 5% year on year on both a reported and organic basis. Order backlog increased 9% to US$18.2 billion, while trailing 12-month orders climbed 8%, led by continued strength in Defence and Space. Adjusted EBIT fell 7%, including around US$100 million of separation-related costs and inventory obsolescence charges. Commercial Aftermarket revenue rose 8% to US$2.0 billion, supported by broad-based demand across the installed base, including higher business aviation flight hours. Commercial Original Equipment sales increased 6% to US$700 million as commercial air transport shipments aligned with higher customer production schedules. Defence and Space revenue rose 3% to US$1.8 billion, with stronger domestic demand partly offset by weaker international volumes due to supply constraints and the wind-down of a restricted government programme.

easyJet agrees £5.7bn take-over by US private equity firm Apollo

easyJet has formally agreed to a £5.7bn take-over by US private equity firm Apollo Global Management, according to *The Guardian*. The airline confirmed on Thursday that it had accepted Apollo's firm offer after rival bidder Castlelake withdrew from the race, ending the prospect of a bidding war. The deal values easyJet at £7.15 a share, based on an offer Apollo submitted last month. The airline had previously recommended a £5bn takeover proposal from Castlelake before Apollo entered the contest with a higher bid. The agreement was announced 24 hours before a deadline for the two bidders to submit final offers, with Castlelake opting not to increase its proposal. Under the terms of the takeover, easyJet founder Stelios Haji-Ioannou and his family will retain their stake under the new ownership structure. Other shareholders will be able to sell or transfer their holdings, subject to a maximum of 49.9%. An "EU Trust" shareholder group will retain a stake of up to 5%, in a structure intended to help the airline comply with EU rules governing foreign ownership. Apollo's holding will also be capped at 49.9%. The take-over is expected to be completed by the end of March 2027. Apollo has committed to retaining easyJet's UK and EU headquarters and has said it intends to support the airline's existing strategy and plans for long-term, sustainable growth. (£1.00 = €1.17 at time of publication).

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

Embraer wins Colombia KC-390 order

Embraer has confirmed that Colombia's Fuerza Aeroespacial Colombiana (FAC) has signed a contract to acquire two KC-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft, advancing the country's plans to modernise its airlift and aerial refuelling capabilities. The contract includes mission equipment, an integrated services and support package, and a comprehensive offset programme to meet Colombia's regulatory requirements. The KC-390 fleet will be capable of carrying out humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, cargo and troop transport, airdrop operations, and air-to-air refuelling missions. The aircraft will also feature full connectivity with Colombia's recently acquired Gripen fighter jets, enhancing operational readiness and interoperability, Embraer said.

KC-390 aircraft © Embraer

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY


© Teledyne Controls

Teledyne Controls (Teledyne) has launched its GroundLink Edge Computing Platform (ECP) and AppLink cloud service following **US Federal Aviation Administration** (FAA) Supplemental Type Certificate approval for the Boeing 737 series. The new platform enables airlines to remotely deploy, update and scale onboard software applications across their fleets without aircraft downtime, hardware modifications or aircraft-level certification for each new application. The system is managed by operators through Teledyne's AppLink cloud service. The initial Boeing 737 certification marks the first step in bringing the software-defined aircraft data platform to commercial fleets, with certification for other aircraft types set to follow. GroundLink ECP provides an open onboard edge computing environment, integrating 5G cellular, Wi-Fi, Ethernet and ARINC 429/717 interfaces with an ARINC 679- and OCI-compliant application server. Operators can remotely deploy and manage applications developed internally, by Teledyne or by certified third parties. "The launch of GroundLink ECP represents a transformative step forward for our customers and for the industry," said Mehrdad Radmehr, President of Teledyne Controls. "By giving operators direct control over onboard applications, ECP unlocks new ways to improve operations, support flight crews and accelerate innovation."

OTHER NEWS

AkzoNobel shareholders back Axalta merger

AkzoNobel shareholders have overwhelmingly approved all resolutions related to the proposed all-share merger with Axalta at an Extraordinary General Meeting, clearing a major milestone in the transaction. Shareholders endorsed the merger, changes to the Articles of Association, the share issuance linked to the deal, proposed board appointments and the remuneration policy. Axalta shareholders also approved the merger at a separate meeting. With shareholder approvals secured, the transaction moves to the next phase. Completion remains subject to regulatory clearances and customary closing conditions, with the merger expected to be finalised by the end of 2026 or early 2027. AkzoNobel CEO Greg Poux-Guillaume said the vote provides a clear mandate to create a stronger, more innovative global coatings leader. Supervisory Board Chair Ben Noteboom said the backing reflects shareholder confidence in the companies' growth ambitions and allows them to focus on completing the merger and unlocking its combined potential.

AkzoNobel shareholders have voted in favour of the intended merger with Axalta
© AkzoNobel

Global Aviation Conference Frankfurt 2026


Aerial view of Frankfurt

The aviation industry will gather in Frankfurt, Germany, on September 29-30, for the Global Aviation Conference Frankfurt 2026, a two-day event designed to connect airlines, airports, MROs, lessors, OEMs, technology providers and aviation service providers from around the world. Hosted at the Frankfurt Marriott Hotel, the conference will feature expert keynote presentations, executive panel discussions, an exhibition area with more than 40 exhibitors and dedicated networking opportunities focused on the industry's most pressing challenges and future opportunities.

This year's agenda will explore topics including:

- Sustainable aviation and SAF implementation
- Digital transformation and AI in airline operations
- Aircraft maintenance, MRO and aftermarket developments
- Airport innovation and operational excellence
- Fleet financing and leasing
- Passenger experience and customer engagement
- Workforce development and aviation resilience
- The future of global air travel through 2040

More than just a conference, the event will provide a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing and business development, bringing together senior executives and industry experts from across the aviation value chain.

INDUSTRY PEOPLE

Valentina Pilshchikova

• Vallair has appointed **Valentina Pilshchikova** as Director Asset Trading, placing the long-serving executive in charge of the company's aircraft and engine asset trading activities. Based in Luxembourg, Pilshchikova will oversee the development of new business opportunities, strengthen relationships with customers and partners, identify aircraft and engine acquisition and sales prospects, and work with internal teams to deliver tailored asset solutions. Pilshchikova joined Vallair in 2018 as a Purchasing Administrative Officer before progressing through roles including Material Sales & Market Analyst and Engine & Parts Trading Sales Manager. She brings more than 15 years of international commercial experience and over seven years in the aviation sector, supported by an engineering background. The Asset Trading division works with airlines, lessors, traders, MROs and other aviation partners to maximise the value of aircraft and engine assets throughout their lifecycle. Welcoming the appointment, **Pascal Parant**, Chief Commercial & Marketing Officer at Vallair Group, said: "At Vallair, we understand that every customer has different needs. Valentina has a special combination of technical and commercial awareness, and she is ideally placed to help airlines to maximise the value of their assets and provide flexible solutions that support their operations. For lessors and asset owners, she and her team combine technical expertise with market knowledge to help maximise the value of their investments. As an organisation, we aim to be a reliable, responsive and trustworthy partner for traders and MROs - focused on building long-term relationships and finding solutions that benefit everyone."

Matthew Clay

• Aircraft aftermarket solutions provider 3TOP Aviation Services has appointed **Matthew Clay** as Chief Financial Officer. Clay joins the company with senior finance leadership experience across the banking, insurance and aviation sectors. He will oversee 3TOP's financial strategy as the company pursues its growth and transformation plans. Chief Executive **Chris Emechete** said Clay's experience would support the company's expansion, strengthen its financial strategy and help accelerate growth. Clay said he was joining 3TOP at a time of strong momentum and looked forward to helping deliver the company's long-term ambitions.

Darren Naughton

• APOC Aviation has hired **Darren Naughton** as Vice President of Engines, expanding its leadership team as the aircraft parts and leasing specialist seeks to grow its global engine leasing and trading business. Naughton joins the company with 13 years of experience in aircraft and engine leasing, having held commercial, pricing and trading roles at aircraft and engine lessors. He will lead APOC's engines division, overseeing leasing, exchanges, teardowns and component sales while working with airlines, lessors, MRO providers and OEMs. The appointment comes as demand for green-time engine leasing continues to rise, driven by higher maintenance, repair and overhaul costs, labour shortages and ongoing supply chain constraints. APOC said it aims to capitalise on those market conditions by expanding its engine capabilities alongside its airframe, landing gear and component businesses. The company said its engine strategy will remain broad, focusing on disciplined asset management, customer partnerships and opportunities across different engine types and geographic markets.

Francesco Baccarani

• BeauTech Power Systems (BeauTech) has appointed **Francesco Baccarani** as Director Asset Management – APAC, strengthening its engine leasing and asset management capabilities across the Asia-Pacific region. Based in Singapore, Baccarani will support BeauTech's engine leasing and asset management activities, provide technical expertise and work closely with customers, lessors, airlines and industry partners. He joins the company with more than 20 years of aviation and powerplant management experience. Most recently, he served as VP Technical Engines at SGI Aviation, where he specialised in engine asset management, shop visit oversight, technical due diligence, pre-purchase inspections, engine redeliveries and fleet support. Baccarani has worked across a wide range of commercial aircraft engine platforms, including the PW4000, CFM56, V2500, CF6-80 and CF34 families. Earlier in his career, he held technical roles at IASG and Volare Airlines, focusing on engine troubleshooting, condition monitoring and maintenance management.

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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) CFM56-7B26	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717
(2) CFM56-7B26	Now - Sale / Lease	GA Telesis		engines@gatelesis.com	
(1) CFM56-5B4/P	Now - Sale	BBAM	Steve Zissis	info@bbam.com	+1 787 665 7040
(1) CFM56-7B26	Now - Lease				
(1) CFM56-7B26/3	Now - Lease				
(4) CFM56-5B6/P	Now - Sale				
(3) CFM56-5B5/P	Now - Sale				

GEnx Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(2) GEnx-1B74/75/P2	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950

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
(1) LEAP-1B27					

Commercial Engines

PW1000 Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) PW1133GA-JM	Now - Lease	Willis Lease	Jennifer Merriam	leasing@willislease.com	+1 (561) 349-8950
(1) PW1524G-3					
(1) PW1100G-JM	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717

V2500 Engines	Sale / Lease	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(1) V2500-A5	Now - Lease	Engine Lease Finance	Declan Madigan	declan.madigan@elfc.com	+353 61 291717
(1) V2533-A5	Now - Sale / Lease	GA Telesis		engines@gatelesis.com	

Aircraft and Engine Parts, Components and Misc. Equipment

Description		Company	Contact	Email	Phone
(2) GTCP331-200ER, (2) GTCP131-9A,	Now - Sale	Setna IO	David Chaimovitz	david@setnaio.com	+1-312-549-4459
(1) GTCP131-9B					
(1) A321 Enhanced Landing Gear 2020 OH					
(3) A340 LG Shipset, (1) B777 LG Shipset (3) B737 LG Shipset,		GA Telesis		landinggearsales@gatelesis.com	
(11) A320 LG Shipset, (1) B757 LG Shipset, (1) 767 Shipset					
(7) 131-9A, (9) 131-9B (Max compliant), (1) APS3200 "B", (1) APS3200 "C"		GA Telesis		apu@gatelesis.com	+1-954-849-3509
(2) 331-500, (1) PW901, (1) 131-9B, (1) 331-200, (3) 331-350					
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				