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Weekly Aviation Headline News

A350F © Airbus

Airbus may be targeting September for A350F maiden flight

plus could be backing down on return to office working after protests

According to industry sources and Reuters news agency, Airbus has tentatively set the first flight of its delayed A350F freighter for late September as it aims to loosen Boeing's grip on airborne trade. The schedule, which could extend into early October, leaves the European planemaker with a tight certification timeline as it aims to complete flight testing and achieve the first delivery to customers before the end of 2027. An Airbus spokesperson said it had nothing to add to its most recent predictions of a maiden flight before the end of this year, followed by first delivery in the second half of 2027. Originally launched in 2021 with a goal of entering service four years later, the dedicated freighter version of Airbus's A350 long-haul jet family aims to penetrate a corner of the aircraft market long dominated by Boeing. Airbus has sold 107 of the lightweight composite A350F cargo planes, compared with 38 of a smaller and older A330F model. In May it was reported that Airbus was facing delays in cargo doors built by Airbus in Spain for the new freighter.

Return-to-office working

On a different note, it is understood that Airbus has watered down a drive to reduce remote working after protests from unions including a series of strikes in its Spanish facilities. Many Spanish workers have been staging on-off strikes since July, and there have been sporadic protests in France and Britain over plans by Airbus to force white-collar staff to work on-site four days a week by September, rather than the current three. Now, managers have been told they can allow staff to maintain existing arrangements that allow them to work at home an average of two days a week, effectively suspending the bid to introduce a mandatory limit of one day, the people said. "Our objective remains the same: we aim for increased on-site presence to ensure better collective efficiency, knowledge transfer and faster decision-making," an Airbus spokesperson said, adding: "However, effective change requires listening to our people. Based on employee feedback, we have decided to implement this transition more gradually." The retreat on office-working deals a blow to a high-profile campaign led by CEO Guillaume Faury to draw staff back to the office as the industry seeks to meet record demand and prepare new products with thousands of relatively new staff. Faury told staff in June that home-working had been a lifeline during the COVID-19 pandemic when the priority was minimising contact — but that now the opposite was the case as Airbus sought to ensure skills were shared in person. "I count on all of you to support this," he said in the June memo, first reported by Bloomberg. Tens of thousands of people have left the aerospace industry since COVID-19 and between 25% and one third of Airbus's staff have joined the company in the past three years, according to French unions. In Spain, approximately 40% of Airbus's 14,000 workers have taken part in strikes over issues including teleworking, transport, paid leave and salary, according to unions. Production has not so far been affected by disruption to white-collar ancillary functions. Three Spanish unions have called for a three-hour stoppage on Monday to vote on a longer walkout. None of them was available for comment.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Textron Aviation delivers 500th Citation CJ4

Chessna Citation CJ4 © *Textron Aviation*

Textron Aviation has delivered the 500th Cessna Citation CJ4-series business jet, with the milestone aircraft going to a customer in the Philippines. The aircraft, a Citation CJ4 Gen2, marks more than a decade of deliveries for the company's largest light jet. The CJ4 is operated globally by owner-operators and fleet customers across missions ranging from business travel to special operations. "The Citation CJ4 has set the standard in its class for more than a decade, and with the Citation CJ4 Gen2 and the upcoming Citation CJ4 Gen3, we're continuing to invest in the innovation, technology and capabilities our customers value most," said Lannie O'Bannion, senior vice-president of sales and marketing at Textron Aviation. "Reaching 500 deliveries is a meaningful milestone that reflects the strength of the CJ4 platform and the trust customers around the world place in Textron Aviation." The milestone comes as Textron Aviation prepares for the next iteration of the aircraft, the Citation CJ4 Gen3. The manufacturer expects the new model to receive US Federal Aviation Administration certification this year. Two CJ4 Gen3 test aircraft have so far accumulated more than 880 flight-test hours.

CDB Aviation completes three A321neo deliveries to Jet2

Airbus A321neo aircraft in Jet2holiday livery © *AirTeamImages*

CDB Aviation has completed the delivery of three Airbus A321neo aircraft to UK leisure airline Jet2, supporting the carrier's ongoing fleet modernisation programme. The three A321-251NX aircraft join Jet2's fleet as the airline continues a renewal programme launched in March 2023. Jet2 has placed firm orders for 155 new A321neo aircraft. Featuring Jet2holidays livery, the newly delivered aircraft are configured with 232 seats in an all-economy layout. The transaction also adds Jet2 to CDB Aviation's customer base in the UK market. "The addition of Jet2 in a key market, such as the UK, is a testament to our commercial team's razor focus on meeting our customers' needs," said Gavan Daly, CDB Aviation's head of commercial for EMEA. "We are delighted that the Jet2 team opted to engage us in securing the leasing of these A321neo deliveries with Airbus."

Avora Aviation seals A320 sale-leaseback deal with FTAI

Dubai-based Avora Aviation has completed a sale-and-leaseback transaction with FTAI Aviation covering one Airbus A320, MSN 5931. The aircraft will be operated by Fly2Sky Airlines and is expected to enter service later in August 2026. The addition forms part of Fly2Sky's fleet renewal and restructuring programme for the year. Avora said the transaction also supports the development of its wider aviation platform, spanning aircraft leasing, trading and airline operations. The sale-and-leaseback is part of Avora's fleet and capital management strategy, allowing the company to release capital to support further growth across its aviation businesses.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

MACH OE adds first seed aircraft with United Airlines

MACH OE has placed two B737 MAX 9 aircraft with United Airlines *© AirTeamImages*

MACH OE, an open-ended aircraft fund, took delivery of two new Boeing 737 MAX 9 aircraft on July 29 and 30, 2026, placing both on long-term leases with United Airlines. The aircraft are the first of several targeted acquisitions planned in the coming months as MACH OE builds its seed portfolio. MACH OE was jointly established by Mercuria Investment Co. (MIC) and Airborne Capital Limited (ACL) as a new open-ended aircraft fund, as announced on January 15, 2026. The Development Bank of Japan Inc. joined as an anchor investor for the fund's first close, completed on April 30, 2026. MIC and ACL have also completed a strategic business alliance with Daiwa JPI Alternative Investments Co., Ltd. (DKAI), part of Daiwa Securities Group Inc. DKAI and Daiwa Asset Management Co., Ltd. will support MACH OE's growth through operational services and by introducing the fund to a broad range of potential investors. According to MHD research, MACH OE is the first open-ended aircraft fund of its kind launched by a Japan-based asset manager. It is expected to attract primarily institutional capital, including financial institutions, pension funds, corporations and educational institutions. MACH OE is targeting an aircraft portfolio of more than US$1 billion.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

FAI adds second Global 6000 of 2026 as long-range fleet grows

Bombardier 6000 jet © FAI

FAI rent-a-jet has added a Bombardier Global 6000 to its fleet, marking its second Global 6000 acquisition of 2026 as the German operator responds to growing demand for long-range charter capacity. The aircraft, D-AFAN (MSN 9471), was acquired just five weeks after the letter of intent was signed. It becomes the seventh Bombardier Global series aircraft operated by FAI and takes the company's all-Bombardier business jet fleet to 18 aircraft. The Global 6000 has logged just 900 flight hours and will be based at FAI's Nuremberg headquarters. It is available immediately for worldwide corporate charter operations. Offering a range of more than 6,000nm, the Global 6000 is capable of operating intercontinental missions connecting major business centres, including London-Dubai, Frankfurt-Singapore and Geneva-New York. The aircraft features a three-zone cabin accommodating up to 14 passengers and is equipped with Gogo Galileo high-speed inflight connectivity, supporting online working and entertainment during long-range missions. FAI has operated Bombardier Global aircraft since 2010, with the latest acquisition further expanding its long-range charter offering and its commitment to the Bombardier platform.

Stratos adds Air Transat as new client with A321-200 acquisition

Aircraft investment specialist Stratos has acquired an Airbus A321-200 on lease to Air Transat, adding the Canadian carrier as a new client within its growing serviced aircraft portfolio. The aircraft was acquired from a major lessor and further expands Stratos' managed fleet while bringing both a new airline and new investor client into its portfolio. Jamie Carter, EVP Commercial and Trading at Stratos, said the transaction demonstrated the company's continued ability to attract new airline and investor clients. "This acquisition, from a major lessor, continues to add not only new airline clients to our broad managed portfolio but also new investor clients, demonstrating how we are continuing to build on our already substantial track record of providing our investor clients with world-class underwriting and attractive above-market returns," Carter said. Stratos is an independent aircraft investment specialist and a top ten aircraft asset manager, providing aircraft acquisition, remarketing, servicing, advisory and capital-raising services to airlines, lenders and investors in the large commercial aircraft sector. To date, the company has placed, financed or sourced more than 260 new and used aircraft valued at over US$13bn, while raising or trading US$4.2bn in aircraft-backed debt. Stratos currently manages a fleet of 56 aircraft valued at approximately US$3bn.

Stratos has acquired another leased aircraft © Stratos

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

AMAC Aerospace Bodrum redelivers three Boeing 737s

BBJ 737 MAX © Boeing

AMAC Aerospace Turkey has redelivered three Boeing 737 aircraft following the completion of maintenance work at its facility in Bodrum. The first aircraft, a VIP Boeing BBJ 737-900 operated by a long-standing AMAC Aerospace customer, underwent a C-check. Work included the removal and reinstallation of the cabin, galley, aft cargo compartment, auxiliary fuel tank, fan blade and forward dry area, alongside fan blade lubrication and the replacement of 42 oxygen generators. A VIP Boeing BBJ 737 MAX was also redelivered following A1 and A2 inspections and out-of-phase maintenance. The scope included the removal and reinstallation of VIP seats and divans, engine washing and a borescope inspection of one engine. The flight management system (FMS) and enhanced ground proximity warning system (EGPWS) databases were also updated. The third aircraft, a commercial Boeing 737-800 belonging to another long-standing customer, underwent a C-check. The work included dry- and wet-area inspections and the removal and reinstallation of the auxiliary power unit (APU), galley, lavatory, forward and aft cargo areas, cabin ceiling and sidewalls. Inspections identified cracks in the vapour barrier and upper hinge box of the galley door, resulting in additional avionics modification work.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

STS gains CAR-145 C6 component maintenance approval in Dubai

© STS Aviation Services

STS Aviation Services has secured UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) approval for a CAR-145 C6 Equipment Rating at its Dubai CommerCity facility. Issued under GCAA CAR-145 approval UAE.145.0101, the rating authorises STS to carry out approved component maintenance activities within the C6 Equipment category. The permission expands the company's maintenance capabilities in Dubai as it continues to build its MRO presence in the Middle East. Located near Dubai International Airport, the CommerCity facility supports regional and international operators across the UAE, Gulf and wider Middle East. "Securing the GCAA CAR-145 C6 Equipment Rating at our Dubai CommerCity facility is an important step forward for our team and our customers," said Paul Curry, Vice-President and General Manager of STS Aviation Services Middle East. "This approval expands the work we can perform locally and allows us to deliver a broader range of component maintenance services from Dubai." Curry said the approval also reflected STS Aviation Group's continued investment in its Middle East operations and confidence in the regional market.

AAR adds three heavy maintenance lines with Miami MRO expansion

AAR Corp. has opened an expanded airframe MRO facility at Miami International Airport, adding more than 100,000 ft² of capacity and creating 200 full-time jobs. The aviation aftermarket specialist marked the expansion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, August 17. Built to support the maintenance requirements of a long-term commercial airline customer, the new facility will accommodate three heavy maintenance lines, with the first aircraft expected to be inducted this autumn. The project expands AAR's existing Airframe MRO operation at Miami International Airport and was developed in collaboration with the airport, Ryan Companies, HPM and federal, state and local partners. AAR said the additional capacity will generate 200 new full-time positions and provide wider economic benefits for Miami-Dade County. Recruitment is under way through the company's workforce development programmes and partnerships with local educational institutions. "The expansion of our Airframe MRO facility in Miami reflects both the strength of our operations and the confidence customers place in AAR to deliver quality and reliability," said John M. Holmes, Chairman, President and CEO of AAR. "We are excited to continue growing alongside our airline customers while enhancing our ability to meet their evolving maintenance needs."

Ribbon-cutting ceremony © AAR

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Omni selects Honeywell weather radar for entire AW139 fleet

AW139 helicopter © Leonardo

Offshore helicopter operator Omni Taxi Aereo (Omni) has selected Honeywell Aerospace's IntuVue RDR-7000 weather radar system for its entire fleet of 33 Leonardo AW139 helicopters, as it looks to strengthen safety and operational reliability across demanding offshore missions. Omni operates around 88 helicopters worldwide, with the AW139 accounting for a significant share of its fleet. The decision to equip all 33 aircraft, rather than a selected number, represents a substantial fleet-wide upgrade of the operator's weather detection capabilities. The RDR-7000 is designed to provide pilots with earlier and clearer warnings of hazardous weather, including turbulence, hail, lightning and wind shear. The system continuously scans the atmosphere to build a real-time picture of conditions along the aircraft's flight path. The technology is particularly suited to offshore operations, where rapidly changing weather and limited diversion options can increase operational complexity. "Safety is the foundation of everything we do at Omni, and that starts with giving our pilots the clearest possible picture of what's ahead," said Roberto Coimbra, CEO of Omni Taxi Aereo. "Upgrading our entire AW139 fleet with Honeywell Aerospace's radar technology is an investment in our crews, our passengers and the long-term reliability of our operations. It reflects the kind of partnership we look for: one that helps us operate with confidence, mission after mission." According to Honeywell, independent testing has shown that the RDR-7000 can help predict turbulence with up to 93% accuracy, providing pilots with additional time to adjust course and potentially reducing the likelihood of turbulence-related incidents by more than half. The fleet-wide deployment reinforces Omni's focus on improving situational awareness and operational resilience across its global offshore helicopter operations.

Airbus kicks off wing facility extension in Belfast

Construction has started on Airbus' Belfast wing facility extension © Airbus

Construction has started on a 6,221 m² extension to Airbus' Belfast wing facility as the manufacturer prepares to ramp up A220 production. The project forms part of a wider multi-million-pound investment plan for the site and is scheduled for completion in the first half of 2028. The extension will increase the facility's wing manufacturing footprint and advanced composite capabilities. It will house a third autoclave, alongside specialised wing tooling and cranage, to support the planned A220 production ramp-up to 13 aircraft per month by 2028. Alongside the extension, Airbus will continue to modernise the site's infrastructure, including a new security gate entrance, high-voltage electrical substations, a new office block, an expanded 650-space car park and new IT systems. "Enhancing our wing facilities is a direct investment in the future of A220 wing production here in Belfast, building the capacity required to meet the growing demand for this aircraft," said Anthony Rouse, Head of Airbus Belfast Plant and Site. "This commitment is also reflected in our ongoing skills development, including bringing onboard 40 new apprentices who will start in September this year. It's an exciting time for aviation in Northern Ireland and for the next generation of aerospace talent." Belfast is the exclusive global manufacturer of A220 wings and plays a central role in the programme. The site pioneered the patented Resin Transfer Infusion (RTI) manufacturing process used to produce the aircraft's advanced composite wings. According to Airbus, the technology makes the wing structure around 10% lighter than traditional aluminium equivalents, helping to reduce fuel burn and carbon emissions.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

HAECO, CALC plan Hong Kong engine support platform


The MoU signing ceremony between CALC and HAECO took place in Hong Kong © HAECO

HAECO and China Aircraft Leasing Group (CALC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop an engine lifecycle support platform in Hong Kong. The agreement establishes a strategic framework for the two Hong Kong-based companies to expand cooperation in high value-added aviation services, while supporting the city's development as an international aviation hub. Under the MoU, HAECO and CALC will explore the development of an engine quick-turn platform in Hong Kong, initially focusing on quick-turn services, hospital repairs and engine asset management. The partnership will also seek to optimise the use of used serviceable materials (USM) and enhance value across the aircraft lifecycle. The companies said the collaboration will combine HAECO's MRO expertise with CALC's aircraft asset management capabilities and commercial support, with the aim of strengthening regional aviation support, fostering innovation and improving supply chain resilience. "The timing of the partnership is significant. It brings together two Hong Kong-based companies with a shared ambition to support the industry's future growth and reinforce Hong Kong's position in the global aviation value chain," said Richard Sell, Chief Executive Officer of HAECO Group. "We look forward to working closely with CALC to create greater value for our customers, for the broader industry, while contributing to Hong Kong's development as an international aviation hub and a leading centre for aviation services."

StandardAero Adds Bombardier Global MRO at Van Nuys

© StandardAero

StandardAero has expanded its business aviation airframe maintenance capabilities at Van Nuys, California, adding support for select Bombardier Global aircraft. The company's Van Nuys MRO facility is now authorised to provide airframe inspections, repairs, structural work and avionics services for the Global Express, Global Express XRS, Global 5000, Global 6000 and Global 7500. The site specialises in long-range business jets and has supported Gulfstream operators for more than 25 years. StandardAero said it is investing in its existing workforce and additional tooling to support the expansion into the Global family. "Our Van Nuys site has decades of Gulfstream MRO experience, and we're excited to enhance our service offering by adding another large-cabin aircraft with the Global family," said Giovanni Spitale, president of StandardAero Business Aviation. StandardAero has already begun supporting Global operators at Van Nuys, including inspection and repair events, SpaceX Starlink installations on Global 5000 aircraft and BR710 engine line maintenance. The site is also supporting a multi-aircraft Global fleet operator. As a Rolls-Royce-authorised service centre for the BR710, which powers most of the Global family, StandardAero provides engine line maintenance at Van Nuys as well as in-field support through its Mobile Service Team. More than 1,200 Bombardier Global aircraft have been delivered worldwide, including over 600 in North America. The Van Nuys facility operates under FAA, EASA, AFAC and TCCA approvals. StandardAero also provides Global aircraft maintenance and modification services at its Springfield, Illinois facility, which offers FAA ODA and engineering support.

FINANCIAL NEWS

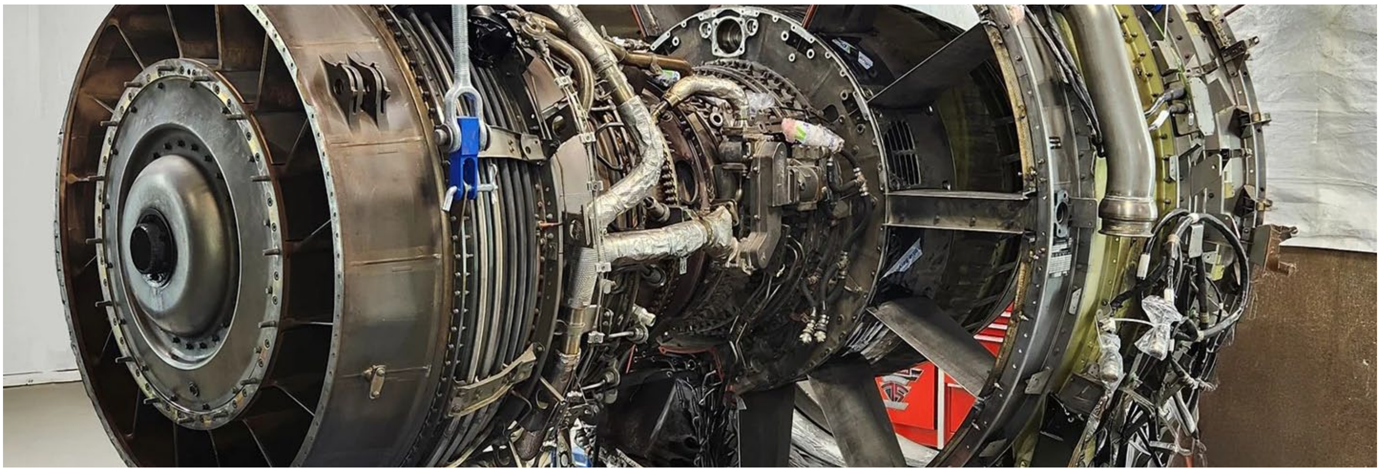
CAE revenue rises to CA$1.17bn

© CAE

CAE has reported revenue of CA$1.17 billion for the first quarter of fiscal 2027, up from CA$1.10 billion in the same period last year. "We started fiscal 2027 with solid first quarter performance and continued progress across our transformation workstreams," said Matthew Bromberg, CAE's President and CEO. "Q1 results were aligned with our plans. Civil revenues were up 5.6% year-over-year, though profitability was down, as expected. Strong performance in business aviation and improving utilisation trends were offset by higher costs, a lower contribution from Civil products and impacts from the Middle East conflict. Defence delivered another strong quarter with revenues up 8.3% and continued year-over-year adjusted segment operating income margin expansion. The company, reporting results for the three months ended June 30, 2026, posted earnings per share (EPS) of CA$0.10, down from CA$0.18 a year earlier. Adjusted EPS remained unchanged at CA$0.26. Operating income fell to CA$86.8 million, representing 7.4% of revenue, compared to CA$133.8 million, or 12.2% a year earlier. The latest quarter included CA$48.3 million in restructuring costs, while the prior-year period included CA$14 million in executive management transition costs. Adjusted segment operating income was CA$156.6 million, or 13.3% of revenue, compared to CA$169.3 million, or 15.4%, in the first quarter of the previous year. (US$1.00 = CA$1.39 at time of publication).

FINANCIAL NEWS

Barnes Aerospace acquires Jet AirWerks



The acquisition of Jet AirWerks strengthens Barnes Aerospace's CRO business *© Barns Aerospace*

Barnes Aerospace has completed its acquisition of Jet AirWerks, an Arkansas City, Kansas-based provider of inspection, repair, overhaul and disassembly services for commercial aeroengine components. The acquisition expands Barnes Aerospace's component repair and overhaul (CRO) operations and strengthens its aftermarket offering. It also adds repair capabilities and technical expertise as the company targets further growth in commercial aerospace aftermarket services. Jet AirWerks specialises in commercial aeroengine component inspection, repair, overhaul and disassembly, with an extensive portfolio of approved repairs and in-house processing capabilities. The company serves domestic and international customers, predominantly across the CFM56-, CF6- and CF34-engine families. Barnes Aerospace said the additional capabilities will help improve operational efficiency and customer support across the repair lifecycle. "Jet AirWerks is a strong strategic fit that advances Barnes Aerospace's long-term growth strategy while expanding our ability to solve increasingly complex turbine engine challenges for our customers," said Mike Mosley, CEO of Barnes Aerospace. "Its engineering expertise, repair capabilities and customer-focused culture complement our existing operations and strengthen our position as a trusted partner for commercial aerospace aftermarket solutions."

FINANCIAL NEWS

Air Canada revenue hits record CA$6.3bn in second quarter

Air Canada reported record second-quarter operating revenues of CA$6.3 billion for 2026, supported by strong demand across its network. The Canadian flag carrier posted adjusted EBITDA of CA$719 million, at the top end of its guidance range for the quarter. It recorded an operating loss of CA$215 million, including CA$388 million in labour-related and other charges. Net cash flow from operating activities reached CA$651 million, while free cash flow totalled CA$174 million. Air Canada also deployed CA$125 million during the quarter to repurchase more than six million shares. Looking ahead, the airline has reinstated and updated its full-year 2026 guidance, citing resilient demand for premium and corporate travel, fare measures designed to mitigate fuel-price volatility and disciplined cost management. Air Canada President and CEO Michael Rousseau said the progress made in strengthening the airline's financial position meant an investment-grade rating was achievable over the medium term. Rousseau also pointed to leadership continuity beyond 2026 following the announcement of Anko van der Werff as his successor, saying Air Canada had a clear strategy and the financial strength to pursue its long-term objectives and deliver sustainable value for stakeholders.
(US$1.00 = CA$1.39 at time of publication).

BOC posts increased first-half profit

BOC Aviation reported net profit after tax of US$357 million for the first half of 2026, up 4% year on year and marking another record result excluding non-recurring items. Total revenues and other income rose 4% from the first half of 2025 to US$1.3 billion, with the aircraft lessor reporting improvements across all its business lines. BOC Aviation invested US$2.3 billion of capital during the six months to the end of June as it continued to execute its growth strategy. Total assets increased 6% to US$27.8 billion, while total equity reached US$7.0 billion. On June 30, BOC Aviation had a total fleet of 811 aircraft and engines owned, managed and on order. Its aircraft had an average age of five years, while the average remaining lease term for owned aircraft was 7.7 years, weighted by net book value. The company's orderbook stood at 320 aircraft, with deliveries scheduled through to the end of 2032. During the first half, BOC Aviation took delivery of 24 new aircraft and one engine, sold eight owned and five managed aircraft, and signed 33 lease commitments. Its owned and managed portfolios served 88 airlines across 45 countries and regions. Owned aircraft utilisation remained at 100% during the first half, while cash collection from airline customers stood at 99.2%.

Icelandair takes 49% stake in Maltese AOC holder

Icelandair Group has acquired a 49% stake in Fly Play Europe Holdco (FPE), giving the airline access to an additional European Air Operator Certificate (AOC) as it seeks greater operational flexibility and new international growth opportunities. Icelandair is acquiring the stake from FPE hs., a fund managed by Isafold Capital Partners, for US$686,000. FPE's subsidiary, Fly Play Europe Limited, holds an AOC in Malta. The deal follows a letter of intent announced earlier this year. Icelandair said access to the Maltese AOC could help simplify and streamline its Icelandic operations while supporting the development of its international business. The investment is also intended to diversify revenue streams and strengthen the group's long-term competitiveness. As part of the transaction, the parties have entered into a shareholders' agreement and agreed financing arrangements. Icelandair has also secured options to increase its stake in FPE at a later date. Completion remains subject to an agreement with the Maltese aviation authorities over the continued use of Fly Play Europe's AOC, among other conditions. Icelandair expects the transaction to have an immaterial impact on its financial performance and balance sheet in 2026 but described the investment as a long-term strategic opportunity. Arma Advisory acted as financial adviser to Icelandair on the transaction.

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

GMF completes C-130H Hercules modernisation

Garuda Maintenance Facility Aero Asia (GMF) has completed the modernisation of an Indonesian Air Force C-130H Hercules. The aircraft, A-1319, was formally handed over by GMF CEO Andi Fahrurrozi to Indonesia's Ministry of Defence on August 19, at GMF's Hangar 4. The ceremony was witnessed by Indonesian Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin. A-1319 is the second C-130H to undergo GMF's modernisation programme, following work on A-1315, which was handed over to the Ministry of Defence and Indonesian Air Force in 2023. The latest project involved a more extensive package of work, comprising a Center Wing Box Replacement (CWBR), Avionic Upgrade Program (AUP) and Structural Integrity Programme (SIP). Replacement of the Center Wing Box, a key structural component of the aircraft, is expected to extend the Hercules' operational service life by approximately 15 to 20 years. Under the avionics programme, GMF upgraded the aircraft from legacy systems to digital technology to meet current operational requirements. The Structural Integrity Program focused on maintaining the airframe's structural condition to support continued safe operations, including repeated heavy-load missions. Fahrurrozi said the completion of A-1319 marked an important step in strengthening GMF's ability to maintain and modernise Indonesia's defence aviation assets. The work was carried out through GMF's SBU Defense Industry as the company continues to expand its capabilities in the military aircraft maintenance and modernisation sector.

The Hercules C-130H was formally handed over on August 19. *© GMF AeroAsia*

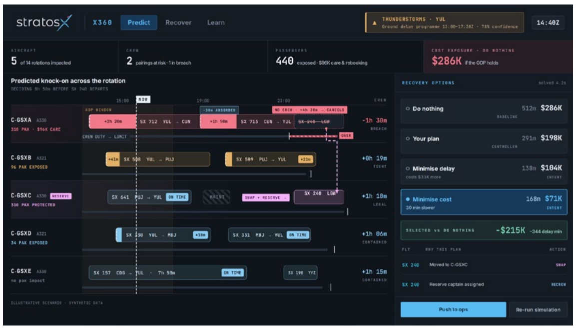
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Pem-Air selects Ramco for engine MRO operations

Pem-Air has selected Ramco Aviation Software as the technology platform for its engine MRO operations as the company expands its support for larger and next-generation engine types. Ramco Systems Corporation, USA, a subsidiary of Ramco Systems Limited, said its aviation software will support Pem-Air's growing engine portfolio, which includes the GE90 and Trent 700, as well as newer engines such as the CFM LEAP. Pem-Air is an FAA- and EASA-certified engine MRO and accessory repair provider. The company has been expanding its capabilities to meet growing demand from operators of current and future aircraft fleets. Ramco Aviation Software will provide Pem-Air with a single integrated system covering maintenance planning, engine maintenance, supply chain, quality and compliance, engineering and finance, connecting the different stages of an engine shop visit. Ramco Anywhere mobile applications will also provide technicians with digital task cards and electronic signoffs as Pem-Air moves towards paperless operations. The platform will support engine MRO processes including contracting and configuration management, work scoping and production planning, marshalling and kitting, technical publications and resource optimisation for staffing and workload planning. The implementation will also introduce AI-based capabilities into Pem-Air's operations. Ramco's Service Bulletin Agent uses information from Service Bulletins and Airworthiness Directives to support the creation of Engineering Orders with the required parameters. Generative AI-based assistants will allow users to review predefined reports and check real-time operational status. The platform will also recommend corrective actions for maintenance discrepancies based on previous resolutions, with the aim of helping technicians standardise decisions and resolve issues more quickly.

Pem-Air has selected Ramco Aviation Software as the technological foundation for its engine MRO operations *© Pem-Air*

Air Transat deploys stratosX X360 platform



X360 platform *© stratosX*

stratosX, a technology company developing AI-enabled airline orchestration systems, has announced that Air Transat has deployed X360, its decision-support platform designed to strengthen airline response to irregular operations (IROPS), including flight delays, cancellations and schedule changes. The deployment makes Air Transat, a leading leisure airline, stratosX's launch airline customer. X360 has been integrated into the carrier's operations centre to improve recovery speed, cross-team visibility and decision consistency during disruption events. When disruptions occur, airline operations teams must quickly assess aircraft availability, crew eligibility and passenger impacts to determine the best path to recovery. X360 is designed to build on the expertise of airline operations teams by rapidly assembling a clear, structured operational picture. This allows teams to evaluate recovery scenarios in real time, prioritising passenger impact while balancing aircraft and crew constraints. The platform consolidates operational data into a single view, giving teams a shared picture across departments and shifts during disruption events. It is designed to help airlines identify emerging network pressure and high-risk periods earlier, compare recovery scenarios based on passenger impact, time and cost, and track recovery outcomes through clear KPIs to support continuous improvement. "We built X360 to help airlines turn disruption recovery into a structured, repeatable process rather than a reactive one," said Ghislain Gagné, CEO of stratosX. "Working with Air Transat's operations team to bring this platform into a live airline environment is a significant milestone in this partnership, and we look forward to demonstrating measurable results together."

OTHER NEWS

Alfor Aviation (Alfor) has advanced plans for a £50 million aircraft conversion campus at **Teesside International Airport**, County Durham, England, following a visit to the site by the company's senior leadership. The visit follows the signing of a 50-year agreement at the recent Farnborough International Airshow. Under the deal, Alfor will develop a purpose-built passenger-to-freighter (P2F) conversion facility comprising new hangars, engineering workshops and warehousing. The project is expected to create 250 permanent, highly skilled jobs and begin operations by the end of 2027. Once fully operational, the facility will have capacity to convert up to 24 passenger aircraft into freighters annually. Alfor executives Mahmut Metin Eren, Hazal Avci, Yildirim Beyazit Kilincarslan and Omer Mafa toured the site on August 12, and held talks with airport management on the next stages of the development. The company also plans to relocate its global headquarters to Teesside as part of the investment. Phil Forster, Managing Director of Teesside International Airport, said the agreement represented a major endorsement of the airport's growth strategy, adding that Alfor's conversion technology would strengthen its air freight ambitions. The new campus will add aircraft conversion to Teesside's growing aviation capabilities, which already include maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) and aircraft painting. Existing operators at the airport and its business park include Willis Aviation, Airbourne Colours and Draken, while Teesside also has a cargo agreement with FedEx. Alfor said the new centre would significantly expand its production capacity and enable it to address growing global demand for P2F conversions, driven by e-commerce, express freight and integrated logistics networks. (£1.00 = US$1.36 at time of publication).

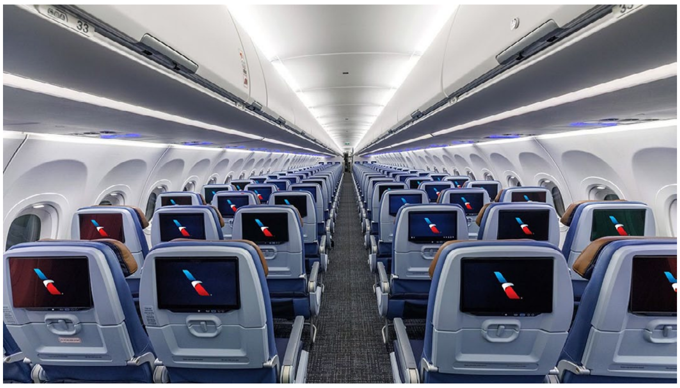
Senior leadership from Teesside International Airport and Alfor Aviation *© Teesside International Airport*

OTHER NEWS

M1 has won a US$10bn rotary-wing training contract *© M1 Support Service*

M1 Support Services (M1) has secured a single-award indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) contract worth up to US$10 billion to provide Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) training under the US Army's **Flight School Next** (FSN) programme. The contract has a 26-year period of performance and forms part of the Army's efforts to modernise rotary-wing pilot training while improving proficiency and reducing costs. Under the programme, M1 will deliver a contractor-owned, contractor-operated (COCO) turnkey solution through its Flight School First platform. The system combines an AI-enabled adaptive learning environment with advanced simulation, immersive virtual training, proficiency-based instruction and Robinson R66 helicopters. M1 has assembled a team spanning flight training, simulation, aircraft manufacturing, civil aviation and academia to deliver the programme. Partners include Robinson Helicopter Company, Quantum Helicopters, General Dynamics Information Technology and the University of North Dakota Aerospace Foundation.

American Airlines (American) has unveiled a major overhaul of its narrow-body fleet, with plans to install seatback entertainment screens at every seat while substantially increasing the proportion of premium and extra-legroom seating. The investment will see premium seating grow from around 25% of seats on the airline's narrow-body departures today to approximately 40% in the coming years, as American retrofits existing aircraft and takes delivery of new jets with upgraded cabin configurations. "We're making one of the most significant investments in the onboard experience in our history," said American Chief Customer Officer Heather Garboden. "From next-generation seatback entertainment at every seat to substantially more premium seating options, these enhancements will give our customers more ways to relax, stay connected and enjoy their journey." As part of the programme, American is retrofitting its Airbus A319 and A320 fleets with an additional row of first-class seating. Its forthcoming Boeing 737 MAX 10 aircraft will feature 24 first-class seats, while the carrier's A321neo fleet will also be reconfigured with additional first-class capacity. The majority of American's narrow-body fleet will also be retrofitted with more Main Cabin Extra Seats. The product provides additional legroom alongside benefits including earlier boarding, dedicated overhead bin space and a complimentary beverage. Cabin upgrades will extend beyond additional premium capacity, with more storage, redesigned seating and enhanced lighting forming part of the wider narrow-body transformation. The airline is also making a significant shift in its inflight entertainment strategy. From 2028, all new Airbus and Boeing aircraft deliveries will feature next-generation seatback entertainment screens at every seat, with the technology also set to be installed on aircraft undergoing retrofit programmes. American plans to roll out the new displays as quickly as possible, with installation across the fleet expected to be completed by the early 2030s. The move will considerably expand the airline's seatback entertainment footprint beyond the more than 140 long-haul aircraft currently equipped with screens. According to the carrier, the next-generation entertainment platform will offer improved picture quality and connectivity while enabling more personalised content. Combined with high-speed Starlink connectivity and American's wider portfolio of premium onboard products, the new seatback experience is intended to deliver a more personalised and connected journey across the airline's narrow-body fleet.


American will start fleetwide upgrades with installation of seatback screens at every seat and increased premium seats across the narrow-body fleet *© American Airlines*


FlightPath3D brings the inflight map to life on more than 1,000 Gogo Vision installations, with more to come thanks to the renewed partnership *© FlightPath3D*

FlightPath3D, the global leader in moving map technology, has extended its longstanding partnership with business aviation connectivity infrastructure provider **Gogo**, as the companies build on a collaboration dating back to 2020. FlightPath3D's mobile-first moving map is now flying on more than 1,000 aircraft equipped with Gogo Vision worldwide, marking a significant milestone for the partnership and strengthening FlightPath3D's position as Gogo's trusted provider of passenger mapping technology. The interactive mapping solution is fully integrated with the Gogo Vision inflight entertainment system, giving passengers access to real-time flight tracking and destination information directly on their personal laptops, tablets and smartphones. Designed specifically for the modern connected cabin, the service allows passengers to explore their journey without using their own or the aircraft operator's data plan. Multilingual capabilities also support international operations and passenger profiles. Built to operate across devices, platforms and browsers, FlightPath3D's technology combines an intuitive, mobile-first interface with Gogo's over-the-air content and software delivery capabilities. This allows flight departments to keep the onboard passenger experience current without scheduling aircraft downtime for routine updates. FlightPath3D serves as a core mapping layer across the Gogo Vision inflight entertainment portfolio. Aircraft using the standard map experience, as well as those equipped with the enhanced capabilities available through Gogo Vision+ and Vision 360, can provide passengers with real-time flight information and destination intelligence. The expanded partnership comes as business aviation operators continue to place greater emphasis on digital cabin experiences that mirror the convenience and functionality passengers expect on the ground.

OTHER NEWS

Eve Air Mobility, Thai aerospace and engineering company **RV Connex** have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support the development of a regulatory framework for advanced air mobility (AAM) operations in Thailand. Under the agreement, the companies will collaborate on long-term industry and regulatory engagement, bringing together public and private-sector stakeholders to help establish safe, efficient and scalable AAM operations in the country. The partnership will assess potential operating scenarios, safety requirements, airspace regulations and infrastructure needs specific to Thailand's aviation system, while drawing on emerging global AAM standards. "Thailand offers a fantastic opportunity for urban air mobility. Working with RV Connex lets us help shape the regulations this industry needs to grow," said Eve Air Mobility chief executive Johann Bordais. "This MOU shows our strong commitment to building the needed regulatory and operational foundations together with local partners." RV Connex will also work with government, academic and industry stakeholders as part of the regulatory development process.

Image of RV Connex eVTOL aircraft *© Eve Air Mobility*

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INDUSTRY PEOPLE

André Fehlauer

• Gol Linhas Aéreas, part of Abra Group, has announced changes to its senior leadership, with **André Fehlauer** set to take over as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in September 2026. **Celso Ferrer** will step down as CEO on August 31, to pursue a new professional opportunity, following a significant period of transformation at the Brazilian carrier. **Albert Perez**, currently Chief Operating Officer (COO), will take on an expanded role as president and COO. André Fehlauer returns to Gol, where he previously worked for eight years as CEO of Smiles in Argentina and Brazil. In addition to his previous experience at the company, his career includes his most recent role as CEO of Livelo, one of Brazil's leading loyalty programmes, as well as positions at Citi and Credicard. His appointment ensures the continuity of Gol's vision and leadership, keeping the customer at the heart of the company's strategy as it enters a new phase of value creation, in synergy with the other airlines in the Abra Group. Perez joined Gol in the first half of 2024 after more than two decades in the aviation industry, including leadership roles at Avianca, JetSMART and Vueling. Since joining the airline, he has played a key role in improving operational performance, redesigning core processes and embedding a culture of continuous improvement. Gol said these initiatives have helped it achieve industry-leading operational metrics, including high rankings for on-time performance in Brazil and across Latin America. In his expanded role, Perez will continue to oversee day-to-day operations, with a focus on operational efficiency and customer experience as Gol grows its domestic and international network.

Yaqoob bin Saif bin Hamoud Al Kiyumi

• SalamAir has appointed **Eng. Yaqoob bin Saif bin Hamoud Al Kiyumi** as Chief Executive Officer, effective October 1, 2026. The Omani airline said the appointment marks a new chapter in its development as it continues to pursue its strategic priorities, with a focus on sustainable growth, operational excellence and an enhanced customer experience. Al Kiyumi will lead SalamAir through its next phase of development, building on the airline's existing foundations while supporting its continued growth and commitment to providing affordable and accessible air travel. His leadership will also focus on strengthening SalamAir's role within Oman's aviation sector and expanding connectivity between the Sultanate and international markets. SalamAir said it remains committed to its long-term vision and to supporting the development of Oman's aviation and tourism sectors in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

• TP Aerospace has appointed **Julie Løkkegaard** as Chief People & Corporate Affairs Officer (CPCAO), effective August 2026. Løkkegaard has been with the company since 2017, when she joined as communications & sustainability manager. She has since held several leadership positions, most recently serving as director, strategy, HR & communications. During her tenure, Løkkegaard has built TP Aerospace's global HR function and led its communications, ESG and organisational development activities. She has also worked closely with the CEO and leadership team as TP Aerospace has expanded internationally and developed from a founder-led scale-up into a more globally integrated organisation. In her new role, she will continue to support the company's organisational development and growth across its international markets.

Julie Løkkegaard

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(1) V2533-A5	Now - Sale / Lease	GA Telesis		engines@gatelesis.com	

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(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
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