AVITRADER
AVIATION NEWS PUBLICATIONS

ISSN 1718-7966 OCTOBER 5, 2026/ VOL. 1058
avitrader.com
Follow us on LinkedIn

Weekly Aviation Headline News

> We're pleased with the outcome of the vote. We look forward to working with our team to support our company's continued recovery and meeting our customer commitments now and into the future.
>
> *Ben Nimmergut, Boeing Vice President and functional chief engineer for production engineering*



© Shutterstock

Strike fears at Boeing fade as white-collar workers approve new contract offer

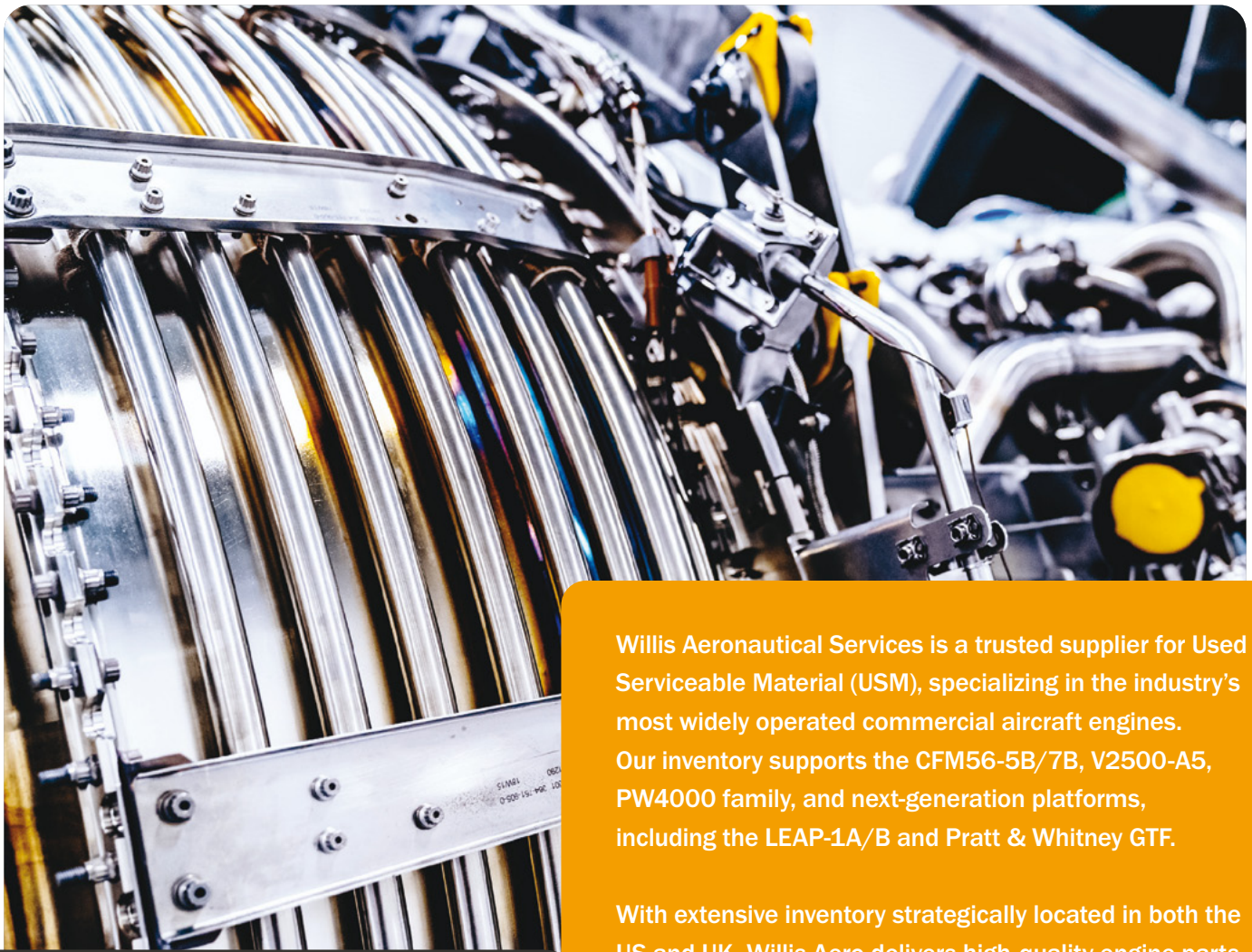
Potential delays for certification of 737 MAX10 and 777-9 potentially avoided as 68% of professional unit and 53% of technical unit vote in favour of new deal

Boeing's largest white-collar union said on Thursday its members approved a sweetened contract offer, ending fears that a strike would stall work on two long-delayed jetliners and slow the pace of aircraft deliveries. The Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace, which represents about 17,000 Boeing workers, said both of its bargaining units voted to approve the new four-year offer, according to Reuters news agency. "We secured many victories that some thought were completely out of reach when this negotiation cycle started. All of these gains would not have been possible without your individual actions and our collective strength," the SPEEA negotiation team said in a public statement to members. Union members now "need to work with Boeing, and as needed, pressure Boeing management" to rebuild "trust with the membership that has eroded over the past decades" and "restore aerospace professionals and technicians to the centre of Boeing's universe," the statement added. Boeing's 737 MAX crisis, which began with two fatal crashes in 2018 and 2019, revealed widespread safety and quality problems at the company that critics attributed to leadership's increasing focus on financial results in recent decades. The contract ratification provides relief for Boeing, easing concerns over a potential strike as early as October 7, the day after current contracts expire. "We're pleased with the outcome of the vote. We look forward to working with our team to support our company's continued recovery and meeting our customer commitments now and into the future," Ben Nimmergut, Boeing Vice President and functional chief engineer for production engineering, said in a statement. A work stoppage could have delayed critical certification efforts for the 737 MAX 10 narrow-body and 777X wide-body jets, while also disrupting the company's plans to increase production and accelerate deliveries. The contract proposal included a guaranteed 10% wage increase upon ratification, along with annual raises of 4% and the possibility of an additional 2% pay hike based on performance. About 68% of the professional unit, which represents roughly 13,000 engineers and scientists, voted in favour of the deal, as did more than 53% of the technical unit, representing about 4,000 designers, analysts and technicians. The two units bargain together but vote separately. Members of both the professional and technical units had previously rejected Boeing's initial offer, which linked guaranteed raises to inflation, capped at 3%, with up to an additional 2.5% based on performance. SPEEA's last strike against Boeing was in 2000, when engineers and technical workers walked out for 40 days in a dispute over pay and benefits. The stoppage, which affected commercial aircraft production and deliveries, was one of the largest white-collar strikes in US history.

Willis
Aeronautical
Services, Inc.

PARTS TO SPARE – WORLDWIDE.

A Smarter Way to Source Commercial Aircraft Engine Parts and Spares



VISIT US AT BOOTH #1-513

AVIATION WEEK MRO EUROPE

Willis Aeronautical Services is a trusted supplier for Used Serviceable Material (USM), specializing in the industry's most widely operated commercial aircraft engines. Our inventory supports the CFM56-5B/7B, V2500-A5, PW4000 family, and next-generation platforms, including the LEAP-1A/B and Pratt & Whitney GTF.

With extensive inventory strategically located in both the US and UK, Willis Aero delivers high-quality engine parts and spares to airlines and repair centers worldwide while partnering with airlines and MROs through consignment programs that help monetize excess inventory and expand the availability of USM across the global aviation market.

sales@willisaero.com | +1 561.272.5402 | www.wlfc.global

Willis Aeronautical Services, Inc. is a subsidiary of Willis Lease Finance Corporation

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Setna iO acquires Air Cairo CFM56 engine

Aviation asset management company Setna iO has confirmed it has acquired a first-run CFM56-5B4/3 engine previously operated by Air Cairo. The engine has about 11,000 cycles remaining on its Fan & Booster and Bearing Support modules and 6,000 cycles on its Low-Pressure Turbine module, providing substantial remaining service life. Setna iO said the engine also contains core hardware that is increasingly difficult to source in the market. The company will keep the Fan & Booster, Bearing Support and Low-Pressure Turbine modules assembled to offer customers faster and lower-cost shop visit solutions, said Abhijeet Dey, Senior Vice-President of Asset Management. "Core hardware like this is hard to find, and it strengthens our ability to support operators across the global CFM56 fleet," Dey added. Setna iO said it continues to invest in selected aviation assets aimed at supporting airlines and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) providers worldwide.

Avolon, Lesha Bank agree aircraft portfolio deal

Avolon and Lesha Bank have agreed to the sale and purchase of a portfolio of 33 aircraft leased to 25 airlines worldwide, the aviation finance companies said. The transaction marks an expansion of the relationship between Avolon and Lesha Bank and highlights continued institutional investor demand for leased aircraft and other aviation assets. Following completion, the portfolio will be managed by Lesha Aviation Services, taking Lesha Bank's total managed fleet to more than 75 aircraft. "Aviation trading is a core part of Avolon's strategy, enabling us to actively manage our portfolio, realise value and recycle capital," Avolon Chief Executive Andy Cronin said. He added that the agreement reflected continued investor demand for aviation assets and the scale of Avolon's global platform.

Airbus A350F freighter takes first flight



A350F, MSN700, takes off for maiden flight *© Airbus*

The first Airbus A350F freighter test aircraft has completed its maiden flight, marking the start of a more than nine-month flight-test campaign for the new wide-body cargo aircraft, Airbus reported. The aircraft, MSN 700, flew for four hours and ten minutes, reaching an altitude of 25,000 feet. It was equipped with flight-test instrumentation and operated by a dedicated Airbus flight-test crew. During the flight, the crew conducted initial tests of the aircraft's airworthiness, flying characteristics and basic systems, Airbus said. The second test aircraft, MSN 701, is in the final stages of assembly and is expected to enter the paint shop in the coming weeks. The A350F is powered by Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-97 engines and is designed to offer up to 40% lower fuel consumption and carbon emissions than competing freighters with a similar payload and range, according to Airbus. The aircraft is also the first new freighter designed to fully meet the latest International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) CO2 emissions standards, Airbus said. As of the end of August 2026, the A350F had secured 115 orders from 14 disclosed customers and accounted for up to 59% of the large freighter market, according to Airbus.

FTAI buys 27 Boeing 737-700s from WestJet



WestJet Boeing 737-700 *© AirTeamImages*

FTAI Aviation (FTAI) has acquired 27 Boeing 737-700 aircraft from Canadian airline WestJet in one of its largest aircraft transactions to date, the companies said on Monday. Under the deal, FTAI's 2026 special purpose vehicle (SPV), the second investment vehicle of its Strategic Capital business, acquired 17 737-700s leased to WestJet under a sale-and-leaseback arrangement. FTAI also acquired ten off-lease aircraft for its Aerospace Products business. The 2026 SPV was established to acquire mid-life 737NG and A320ceo aircraft that are already under lease. It follows FTAI's 2025 SPV, which raised US$2 billion in equity commitments and has committed about US$6 billion of total capital across more than 300 aircraft, the company said. The ten off-lease aircraft will support FTAI's Aerospace Products business by increasing its supply of CFM56-7B engines and modules for customers using its maintenance, repair and exchange services. "We are pleased to expand our relationship with WestJet through this transaction," said FTAI President David Moreno. WestJet Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer Mike Scott said the transaction marked the start of the airline's retirement of its 737-700 fleet. "We're pleased to partner with FTAI Aviation Ltd. to make this happen, and we look forward to building on this relationship for future opportunities," Scott said. McGuireWoods advised FTAI on the transaction, while Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP (BD&P) advised WestJet.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Boeing MAX 10 faces new certification delay over software issue



Boeing 737 MAX 10 *© Boeing*

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is holding off on certifying Boeing's 737 MAX 10 until the planemaker resolves a newly disclosed software issue, adding another hurdle to the long-delayed jet's entry into service, Reuters reported. FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford said Monday that regulators would delay certification of the MAX 10 until they are satisfied the software problem has been addressed. He did not provide a timeline for the certification process. "We will be delaying the 10 until we're satisfied that we don't have an issue here," Bedford told reporters at Reagan Washington National Airport. The issue affects certain 737 MAX aircraft and could prevent pilots from accessing automated flight guidance during a specific landing scenario, according to Boeing. The company said Saturday that it had notified operators and was developing a software update to permanently resolve the problem. The FAA said the software can increase pilot workload during a go-around, when a crew aborts a landing and climbs for another approach. The disclosure sent Boeing shares down 6.9% at Monday's close, reflecting investor concerns that the issue could push back the MAX 10's certification further. The aircraft is central to Boeing's efforts to strengthen its position against Airbus in the global single-aisle market. WestJet, which operates the software on part of its 737 MAX fleet, said it has not experienced any in-service problems and does not consider the issue a safety concern. Three WestJet 737 MAX pilots, speaking anonymously, said they were unaware of problems with the software during missed approaches, a relatively uncommon procedure. Bedford said the software was supplied by GE Aerospace, Boeing's jet-engine supplier, and indicated that a fix could be developed relatively quickly. The MAX 10 is the largest variant of Boeing's 737 MAX family and has faced repeated delays in the certification process, complicating the company's efforts to expand deliveries and compete with Airbus in the single-aisle aircraft market.



AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Jazeera opts for LEAP engines to power nine A320neos

Jazeera Airways (Jazeera) has selected CFM International LEAP-1A engines to power nine additional Airbus A320neo aircraft and expanded its existing engine services agreement with the manufacturer. The expanded agreement covers Jazeera's current and future fleet of 29 A320neo-family aircraft, as well as the purchase of spare engines. "We are pleased to continue our longstanding partnership with CFM International, which has been an integral part of Jazeera Airways' growth journey over the past two decades," Chief Executive Barathan Pasupathi said. The selection covers nine aircraft from Jazeera's existing order book of 26 A320neos, the airline said. Pasupathi added that the agreement would support the carrier's fleet expansion and operational efficiency as it enters its next phase of growth. Jazeera became the first Middle Eastern operator of the LEAP-1A-powered A320neo in May 2018. It currently operates 11 A320neo aircraft powered by LEAP-1A engines, alongside 13 A320ceo aircraft powered by CFM56-5B engines.



The order was sealed by a handshake *© CFM International*

FLYONE Armenia finalises order for two Airbus A321neo aircraft



Rendering of FLYONE's A321neo *© Airbus*

FLYONE Armenia, the country's largest airline, has finalised an order with Airbus for two A321neo aircraft, the carrier said. The agreement, initially announced as a memorandum of understanding during French President Emmanuel Macron's official visit to Yerevan on May 5, 2026, marks FLYONE Armenia's first direct aircraft order from Airbus. The two A321neo aircraft will be powered by CFM International's LEAP engines and configured with 239 seats in an all-economy layout. The aircraft are expected to support the airline's fleet modernisation and expansion of its international route network. Established in 2021, FLYONE Armenia currently operates 11 aircraft from the Airbus A320 family. "Our first direct order with Airbus marks an important and symbolic milestone in FLYONE Armenia's development," Chief Executive Aram Khachatryan said. "Having two new A321neo aircraft built by Airbus specifically for our airline reflects our continued commitment to fleet modernisation and long-term growth," he said, adding that the investment would support the airline's development and the growth of Armenia's civil aviation sector and international cooperation.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Ethiopian orders ten Boeing freighters



The new order was signed by Brad McMullen, Boeing SVP of Commercial Sales and Marketing (l), and Mesfin Tasew, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines (r) *© Boeing*

Ethiopian Airlines has ordered eight Boeing 777-8 Freighters and two 777 Freighters as the African carrier expands its cargo fleet and global freight network, Boeing and the airline said on Thursday. The order combines the current-generation 777 Freighter with Boeing's next-generation 777X family, giving Ethiopian greater capacity and flexibility as demand for air cargo grows. The deal is Ethiopian Airlines' second order for Boeing's 777X family, following its purchase of eight 777-9 passenger aircraft, which made it the first African airline to order the new aircraft. The 777-8 Freighter is designed to be the largest and most capable twin-engine freighter, according to Boeing, and will support Ethiopian's expanding international cargo operations. Ethiopian currently serves more than 70 cargo destinations across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America with a freighter fleet comprising 12 777 Freighters, two 767 Freighters and four 737-800 converted freighters. The new aircraft will allow the airline to expand its cargo network and respond to growing demand for air freight, the companies said.



CDB Aviation delivers first B737-8 to Norwegian



The first of four Boeing 737-8s for Norwegian *© CDB Aviation*

Norwegian has taken delivery of the first of four Boeing 737-8 aircraft from CDB Aviation, marking the lessor's first aircraft placement with the Scandinavian airline. The four aircraft are covered by lease agreements signed between CDB Aviation, the Irish subsidiary of China Development Bank Financial Leasing, and Norwegian in December 2024. "We are pleased to mark the delivery of our first Boeing 737-8 with CDB Aviation," Norwegian Chief Executive Geir Karlsen said. "This represents another important step forward in our ongoing fleet renewal." Karlsen said Norwegian valued its new partnership with CDB Aviation as the airline continues to develop its fleet.


AVAILABILITY IS
NOT OPTIONAL
AEROSET
WWW.AEROSETGROUP.COM

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

SAE, Cebu Pacific sign A320 maintenance deal

Sepang Aircraft Engineering (SAE) has signed a contract with Philippine low-cost carrier Cebu Pacific covering 12-year maintenance and end-of-lease (EOL) checks for seven A320 aircraft. The agreement was signed during MRO Asia in Singapore, with the checks to be carried out at SAE's facility at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. The deal builds on the companies' existing relationship, which includes heavy maintenance, EOL checks, engine changes, skin panel replacement and on-site engineering support in Manila. SAE, a wholly owned subsidiary of Airbus, said the agreement would further strengthen its support for Cebu Pacific's A320 fleet through its maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) capabilities.

EirTrade facility earns AFRA Diamond status

EirTrade Aviation's airframe and engine disassembly facility at Ireland West Airport Knock has received "KPI-Diamond" certification from the Aircraft Fleet Recycling Association (AFRA), the aviation services company said. The accreditation recognises compliance with AFRA's best management practices and a high level of asset data collection and monitoring. "At the Diamond standard, data is gathered for each asset, so it doesn't matter if it is one engine or twenty aircraft, the level of detail and monitoring is the same," said Steven Trowell, EirTrade's Senior Vice President for Maintenance and Disassembly. EirTrade said its Knock facility is expanding as more aircraft and engines enter the site for redelivery after lease expiries and teardown. The company is also investing in recruitment and training as it builds its maintenance and disassembly workforce. "As the only teardown operation in Ireland we have a huge responsibility to reassure our customers, in the airline, lessor and Used Serviceable Material (USM) community, that we meet the highest standards in Europe," Trowell said. The Knock operation combines aircraft disassembly with Part-145 line maintenance services. EirTrade said the facility also supports the recovery, reuse and recycling of aircraft components and materials as part of its focus on the circular economy. Ireland West Airport Knock's location on Ireland's western seaboard could provide a gateway for aircraft movements between Europe and North America, while its location within the European Union offers a potential base for aircraft redeliveries. The airport's government-backed Strategic Development Zone provides for up to 44,000 m² of aviation-related development, including maintenance, repair and associated services. Its existing infrastructure includes a 2,511-metre runway and dedicated aviation development land. Government-backed airport upgrades and a planned infrastructure programme of more than €35 million (US$40 million) for 2026-2028 are expected to support the airport's longer-term development, with Ireland seeking to strengthen its position as an international aircraft leasing hub.

Liebherr wins China Airlines A350 landing gear contract



Liebherr-Aerospace and China Airlines have reached an agreement for the overhaul of nose landing gear on the airline's Airbus A350 fleet *© China Airlines*

Liebherr-Aerospace has been selected by Taiwan-based China Airlines to provide exchange and overhaul services for the nose landing gear on its fleet of 18 Airbus A350 aircraft. Under the agreement, Liebherr-Aerospace will provide asset exchange services to support the airline's maintenance planning and fleet availability. "China Airlines is our launch customer in Asia for the A350 nose landing gear overhaul programme," said Joël Cadaux, General Manager Aerospace at Liebherr-Singapore. The agreement reflects the companies' focus on long-term cooperation and operational performance, Cadaux said, adding that the landing gear exchange solution would help China Airlines maximise fleet availability while maintaining safety and reliability standards. The A350 nose landing gear system was developed, manufactured and certified by Liebherr-Aerospace Lindenberg GmbH, the Liebherr group company responsible for flight controls, landing gear systems, gears, gearboxes and electronics.

Collins Aerospace expands Iowa engine components plant



© Collins Aerospace

Collins Aerospace, an RTX business, has disclosed that it is expanding its manufacturing site in West Des Moines, Iowa by 14,000 ft². The multi-million-dollar investment will increase capacity to meet growing customer demand. The facility specialises in producing advanced fuel distribution systems, including original equipment components and spare parts, while also providing maintenance, repair and overhaul services. Its products support a broad range of commercial and military platforms, with the site shipping more than 25,000 engine nozzles each month. It also operates as an FAA-certified Part 145 repair station, specialising in engine nozzle systems and powerplant accessories. The West Des Moines operation currently employs around 300 full-time staff. The expansion is expected to create additional roles by the end of 2026, with further recruitment planned for 2027 to support long-term programme growth. "The investment at our West Des Moines site demonstrates our commitment to advancing commercial and military aviation through our innovative fuel distribution technology," stated James Bagg, Vice President and General Manager of Engine Control Systems at Collins Aerospace. "This expansion helps us enhance delivery performance, improve manufacturing capabilities and add jobs to meet growing customer demand." The expansion follows Collins Aerospace's June 2026 investment in Malaysia, where the company committed US$63 million to expand its MRO footprint at Subang Aerotech Park. The project more than triples the size of its Selangor operation, strengthening its role as a regional hub for MRO support across a range of aircraft components.



Revima

AVIATION WEEK MRO EUROPE

Visit us
Booth #1-318

APU, ENGINE PARTS & LANDING GEAR MRO

Discover our additional services

Save fuel with
EFFIFUEL

Monitor ground power-service performance with
OPTIPOWER

LDG on-wing working party assistance with
GEAR-ASSIST

Maximise your APU reliability with
PREDICARE

Optimize cabin temperature & passager satisfaction with
OPTICOOLING

APU & LDG for lease, sell and exchange with
READY2FLY

Additional value.
DELIVERED.

Follow us on LinkedIn

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Ontic acquires Aero-Mach companies

Ontic has acquired the Wichita-based Aero-Mach companies, adding the aerospace group's manufacturing, distribution and aftermarket capabilities to its portfolio. Aero-Mach, which has more than 50 years of aviation experience, comprises three specialist businesses: Aero-Mach Labs, Aero-Mach Wilco and Aero-Mach TCO. Aero-Mach Labs provides aerospace manufacturing, technical services and repair and overhaul capabilities, while Aero-Mach Wilco distributes aviation parts and products. Aero-Mach TCO designs and manufactures static dischargers for piston and turbine aircraft. The acquisition expands Ontic's capabilities across aerospace manufacturing and aftermarket support. Aero-Mach also has experience transitioning and supporting aircraft product lines in partnership with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), complementing Ontic's focus on acquiring established aerospace products and supporting them over the long term.

WGI plans to invest US$19 million in Aerospace MRO facility



Image of WGI MRO's new facility *© WGI*

Western Massachusetts aerospace company WGI plans to invest about US$19 million to build a 68,000 ft² maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility at its existing Southwick campus, the company announced. The new facility will house WGI MRO and expand the company's capacity to service precision aerospace components, with specialised equipment, higher production capacity and additional MRO capabilities. The project is expected to create 30 new jobs and has received approval for US$450,000 in tax credits under Massachusetts' Economic Development Incentive Program, WGI said. The investment comes as the 85-year-old, family-owned company seeks to expand its MRO business and meet demand from a growing customer base. WGI said the project would also support aerospace manufacturing and repair activity in western Massachusetts.

RECARO opens expanded aircraft seat plant in Poland



Ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new facility in Poland *© RECARO Aircraft Seating*

RECARO Aircraft Seating Polska has opened an expanded production and office facility in Świebodzin, Poland, following a double-digit million-euro investment that more than doubles the site's footprint and raises annual production capacity to 100,000 passenger seats. The expansion increases the facility's total area from about 10,550 m² to more than 22,000 m², while annual production capacity rises from 60,000 to 100,000 seats. About 8,600 m² of additional space has been added for production, logistics and cut2dress operations, bringing the combined area for those functions to around 18,000 m². The number of production lines will increase from four to eight to meet rising customer demand. The new production layout is based on a linear product flow aimed at improving ergonomics and operational efficiency. Assembly and logistics areas have also been separated to improve workplace safety and material flow. Warehouse operations are due to be further upgraded with dedicated storage areas and automated storage and picking technology, planned for implementation by the end of 2027. The expansion also adds about 3,000 m² of office space, more than doubling the site's working area to almost 5,000 m². The new facilities include open-plan offices, conference rooms, a canteen and employee areas designed to support collaboration and a modern working environment.

SriLankan Engineering signs Jetstar line maintenance deal



Sri Lankan Engineering will provide line maintenance for Jetstar's Boeing 787 aircraft operating at Bandaranaike International Airport *© AirTeamImages*

SriLankan Engineering has signed a long-term line maintenance agreement with Jetstar, part of the Qantas Group, covering the airline's flights to Colombo, Sri Lanka. Under the agreement, SriLankan Engineering will provide line maintenance services for Jetstar's Boeing 787 aircraft operating at Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo. The deal will support Jetstar's Sri Lanka operations with maintenance and technical services for its 787 flights, SriLankan Engineering said. The partnership is also expected to pave the way for SriLankan Engineering to obtain Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Part 145 approval from Australia. Once secured, the approval would allow the company to provide certification services for Jetstar flights operating to Sri Lanka. The planned regulatory approval would expand SriLankan Engineering's ability to support Jetstar's operations and strengthen its position in the international aircraft maintenance market.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

FL Technics Indonesia to partner with GE Aerospace under new avionics agreement

FL Technics Indonesia has signed a service support agreement with GE Aerospace covering avionics systems for Boeing 737 and Airbus A320 aircraft at its facilities in Jakarta and Bali. The agreement makes FL Technics Indonesia the first MRO provider in Indonesia to partner with GE Aerospace under the arrangement. The deal was signed at MRO Asia Pacific 2026 in Singapore. GE Aerospace will provide technical support directly at the FL Technics' facilities at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport and I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport, giving airline operators greater access to specialised avionics maintenance services. "Avionics is the backbone of aircraft systems, and we are constantly working to maintain the highest standards with the right resources and expertise," Martynas Grigas, Chairman of FL Technics Indonesia, said. The partnership will add GE Aerospace's technical expertise to FL Technics Indonesia's operations as the company seeks to strengthen safety and maintenance capabilities in line with the changing needs of airline customers, Grigas outlined.



FL Technics Indonesia and GE Aerospace have inked a service support agreement for avionics systems
© Shutterstock

Aero Norway, GE Aerospace sign LEAP MRO deal



Aero Norway has signed an offload agreement with GE Aerospace for CFM LEAP engine modules *© Aero Norway*

Aero Norway, an ITP Aero company specialising in MRO of CFM56 engines, has signed a multiyear agreement with GE Aerospace to perform shop visits on high-pressure turbine components for CFM LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B engines. The deal is Aero Norway's first of its kind and marks a step in the company's expansion into the CFM LEAP engine market. Under the agreement, Aero Norway will support GE Aerospace's open MRO ecosystem by handling repairs of LEAP high-pressure turbine (HPT) rotors and HPT stage 2 nozzle assemblies. GE Aerospace is expanding its network of third-party MRO providers as demand for LEAP engine maintenance grows, with more than 8,000 engines currently in service and a backlog of more than 10,000. "We are very proud to sign this agreement with GE Aerospace," Aero Norway Chief Executive Officer Neil Russell said. "It represents a significant milestone in our CFM LEAP journey" and will help expand MRO capacity while maintaining quality and efficiency, he added. Flavio Gregorio, Vice President of CFM LEAP and RISE programmes at GE Aerospace, said the agreement will support engine availability and utilisation for operators. Aero Norway and ITP Aero bring more than three decades of MRO experience, Gregorio said, adding that their expertise will help improve maintenance performance for customers.

FINANCIAL NEWS

ATSG to sell Omni Air as cargo strategy takes flight

Air Transport Services Group (ATSG) released that it has agreed to sell Omni Air International to OAI Holdings, a privately held company led by an aviation-experienced management team, as ATSG sharpens its focus on air cargo and related services. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2026 or early 2027, subject to regulatory approval and other customary closing conditions. Founded in 1993, Omni provides passenger charter and aircraft, crew, maintenance and insurance (ACMI) wet-lease services to commercial and government customers worldwide. It also offers airline start-up, route development and aircraft management services. Following the sale, ATSG's business will be focused on air cargo transportation, aircraft leasing, maintenance and logistics services. "This agreement marks an important step for ATSG as it reflects the advancement of our long-term strategy of investing in and building out our core air cargo and related aviation services businesses," ATSG President and Chief Executive Greg Mays said. ATSG has been evaluating strategic options for Omni as it seeks to direct more resources towards opportunities in the air cargo market, Mays said. OAI said it plans to build on Omni's position in passenger ACMI and charter markets and support its long-term growth. The acquisition is not subject to a financing condition and remains subject to limited customary closing requirements, including regulatory approval.



ATSG has agreed to sell Omni Air International to OAI Holdings
© AirTeamImages

FINANCIAL NEWS

AAR to buy controlling stake in MRO Holdings



© Shutterstock

AAR Corp. has agreed to acquire a 65% controlling stake in MRO Holdings at an implied enterprise value of US$4 billion, in a deal that will expand the aviation aftermarket company's maintenance operations. The transaction values MRO Holdings at 10.7-times its forecast 2026 adjusted EBITDA, including US$75 million in expected annual cost synergies and excluding transaction-related tax benefits with an estimated present value of about US$150 million, AAR said. MRO Holdings provides aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services across the Americas. The company has about 10,000 employees and 115 airframe maintenance lines at facilities in El Salvador, Mexico, Colombia and the United States. About 90% of its revenue comes from U.S. customers. AAR said the deal would create the world's largest heavy maintenance, repair and overhaul provider, with the combined business expected to service nearly 3,000 aircraft a year in its hangars. The acquisition will also broaden AAR's maintenance offering and create opportunities to expand its component repair, original equipment manufacturer distribution and aviation software businesses, the company said. "We see more growth opportunities for the heavy maintenance business itself, including wide-body maintenance and increased capture of European and Middle Eastern fleets for service in the Americas," AAR Chairman, President and Chief Executive John Holmes said. AAR said the transaction structure would allow it to partner with MRO Holdings' existing management team while retaining financial flexibility to pursue its broader strategy. Holmes described the acquisition as a transformational step in AAR's long-term growth plan.

Malaysia Aviation Group to acquire Airbus MRO unit SAE


MAG has signed a sale-and-purchase agreement with Airbus for the acquisition of Sepang Aircraft Engineering (SAE) © MAG

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) has signed an agreement with Airbus to acquire Sepang Aircraft Engineering (SAE), an Airbus Group subsidiary, as it seeks to expand its MRO business and increase third-party revenue. The proposed acquisition is part of MAG's Long-Term Business Plan 3.0 and is aimed at strengthening the group's engineering capabilities and expanding its integrated aviation services portfolio. MAG President and Group Chief Executive Officer Captain Nasaruddin A. Bakar said the deal reflected the group's focus on disciplined investment in businesses that can strengthen its core operations, diversify revenue and support long-term growth. SAE will complement the existing capabilities of MAB Engineering, particularly in Airbus A320 maintenance, aircraft painting and specialised component repairs, MAG said. The acquisition would allow MAG to offer a broader range of MRO services to existing and new third-party customers in Southeast Asia and other markets, while leveraging Malaysia's engineering skills and cost competitiveness, the group said. "SAE further complements MAB Engineering's existing capabilities through its A320 expertise, dedicated paint hangar and specialised component repair services," Nasaruddin said. He said the combined capabilities would help MAG capture opportunities in the growing MRO market and support Malaysia's ambition to develop into a leading regional aerospace hub. The transaction remains subject to customary conditions, including approval from the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM). MAG said it would work with SAE, CAAM and other stakeholders to secure the necessary approvals, with completion targeted for 2027.

GDHF secures €125+ million financing for helicopter fleet expansion

GD Helicopter Finance (GDHF) has secured more than €125 million (US$142.5 million) in financing from the Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen Girozentrale (Helaba) and BayernLB, with support from Bpifrance, to fund the acquisition of new Airbus helicopters in 2026 and 2027. The financing agreements will support the company's purchase of multiple factory-new Airbus H175 and H160 helicopters. The facility was first drawn in September to finance the acquisition of an H160. Helaba is acting as lead arranger, facility agent and security trustee, while BayernLB is also acting as lead arranger. In addition to the Bpifrance-backed facility, the two German banks have committed to financing multiple new Leonardo AW189 helicopters scheduled for delivery in 2027. Dublin-based GDHF finances and leases helicopters to operators worldwide, building a portfolio of newer-generation aircraft designed for a range of missions. Its helicopters are used across sectors including offshore oil and gas, wind energy, emergency medical services, search and rescue, government, corporate and parapublic operations.


GD Helicopter Finance has signed a €125 million finance agreement © GDHF

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

Uzbekistan takes delivery of first C-390 Millennium aircraft



Uzbekistan's first C-390 Millennium aircraft *© Embraer*

Brazilian aircraft maker Embraer has delivered the first C-390 Millennium multi-mission transport aircraft to the Uzbekistan Air Force, marking the Central Asian country's entry as an operator of the aircraft. The aircraft was handed over at a ceremony at Embraer's facility in Gavião Peixoto, Brazil, attended by Major General Akhmad Jamolovich Burkhonov, commander of the Uzbekistan Air Force, and Olimkhon Bakiyevich Rustamov, director of the state institution O'ztextreyd, representing the Republic of Uzbekistan. The contract, signed at the end of 2024, includes a comprehensive training and support package, as well as the supply of spare parts. Uzbekistan is the first country in Central Asia to operate the C-390 Millennium, as it seeks to modernise and strengthen its air mobility capabilities. The aircraft is also operated or has been selected by the air forces of Brazil, Portugal, Hungary, South Korea, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, Slovakia, Colombia and Lithuania. Embraer says the C-390 Millennium is designed to provide air forces with multi-mission capabilities for tactical and strategic operations, with an emphasis on interoperability, reliability, versatility and performance.

OTHER NEWS



Avora Group consolidates leasing, capacity, technical services and training under one umbrella *© Shutterstock*

Avora Aviation, Fly2Sky, MX Technic and **Avora Aviation Academy** have been consolidated as business units of **Avora Group**, creating an integrated aviation platform spanning aircraft leasing, airline capacity, technical services and training. The group's businesses include Avora Aviation, focused on aircraft leasing, trading and asset management; Fly2Sky, an EASA-certified airline providing capacity solutions; MX Technic, an EASA Part-145 maintenance and CAMO services provider; and Avora Aviation Academy, which provides crew and technical training and plans to expand into flight training. Avora Group said the consolidation reflects the development of the businesses and creates a platform capable of providing airlines with a broader range of services. The group's strategy is centred on integrating the units' existing capabilities across aircraft assets, airline operations, technical services and training. Airline customers will be able to combine Fly2Sky's operating capacity with Avora Aviation's leasing, asset management and aircraft trading services, alongside MX Technic's maintenance capabilities and Avora Aviation Academy's training services. The group aims to support airlines across different stages of their fleet and capacity requirements, from short-term and seasonal capacity to longer-term aircraft solutions, while providing training aligned with their fleets. Each business will retain its existing brand and focus while drawing on Avora Group's combined infrastructure, capital, expertise and operational capabilities.


Opening a new chapter; Pegasus Airlines, Czech Airlines and Smartwing Group *© Pegasus Airlines*

Pegasus Airlines has completed its acquisition of **Czech Airlines** and **Smartwings Group** after securing all required regulatory approvals and meeting customary closing conditions. The deal expands Pegasus' international footprint and brings together two established airline businesses with complementary networks and operations. The combined fleet exceeds 175 aircraft, with further growth supported by firm orders for 140 planes already secured by the two carriers. Pegasus, founded in 1990 and operating under a low-cost model since 2005, currently serves 161 destinations in 57 countries. The airline operates one of the industry's youngest and most fuel-efficient fleets. Smartwings Group, together with the Czech Airlines brand, is one of the longest-established airline groups in Central and Eastern Europe. It serves 80 destinations across 20 countries and has established partnerships with major tour operators. The companies said the combination will bring together Pegasus's international network, operating expertise and low-cost model with Smartwings' established position in the Central and Eastern European leisure market. Smartwings will continue to operate under the Smartwings and Czech Airlines brands, retaining its existing day-to-day operations, customer relationships and service delivery. The group will also gain opportunities to expand its operations, develop new services and support employee growth, the companies said.

OTHER NEWS



IAG has selected OpenAirlines' SkyBreathe® fuel-efficiency platform for use across its airlines *© IAG*

International Airlines Group (IAG) has selected **OpenAirlines**' SkyBreathe fuel-efficiency platform for use across its five airlines, covering more than 600 aircraft, the companies said. The platform, which analyses operational data to identify ways to reduce fuel consumption, is being deployed at **Aer Lingus, British Airways, Iberia, LEVEL** and **Vueling** as airlines face continued pressure from volatile fuel prices. SkyBreathe analyses data including flight plans, weather conditions and aircraft performance to identify potential fuel-saving opportunities while maintaining safety standards. IAG's airlines already use measures such as flight-plan optimisation, reducing auxiliary power unit use on the ground and single-engine taxiing where operationally appropriate. The deployment will introduce a common data and reporting framework across the group, allowing the airlines to measure fuel-efficiency performance more consistently and share initiatives. "Fuel is one of the largest costs for our airlines, and ongoing fuel price volatility has reinforced the importance of improving efficiency wherever we can," IAG Chief Financial and Sustainability Officer José Antonio Barrionuevo said. SkyBreathe is already in use at Aer Lingus, Iberia, LEVEL and Vueling, with British Airways expected to complete its rollout in the coming months.

INDUSTRY PEOPLE



Paul McElhinney

• StandardAero has appointed **Paul McElhinney** Chief Executive Officer, succeeding **Russell Ford**, who will remain executive chairman of the board through year-end. McElhinney brings more than three decades of aerospace and industrial leadership experience to the role, including senior positions at GE Aviation Services and GE Power Services. He has also served on StandardAero's board since 2019, giving him extensive knowledge of the company's strategy, customers and operations. Ford, who has served as chairman and CEO for 13 years, will continue on StandardAero's board after year-end. During Ford's tenure, StandardAero expanded its global footprint, capabilities and customer relationships and completed its initial public offering in 2024, positioning the company among the world's leading independent providers of aerospace engine aftermarket services.



Stuart G. Weinroth

• Contrail Aviation Support (Contrail) has appointed **Stuart G. Weinroth** as Chief Executive, succeeding founder **Joe Kuhn** as the commercial jet engine trading and leasing company seeks to build on more than two decades of growth. Weinroth brings more than 30 years of experience across the commercial aviation asset lifecycle, including roles with airlines, aircraft and engine lessors and suppliers to airlines and maintenance, repair and overhaul providers. He joins Contrail from Air Transport Services Group, where he was global head and vice president of commercial operations and acquisitions. He led the expansion of the company's freighter and engine portfolio. Earlier in his career, Weinroth held senior investment and finance positions at Metolius Aviation Capital, GA Telesis, GMT Global Republic Aviation and Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, with experience in aircraft and engine trading, leasing and capital markets across Boeing and Airbus platforms. Contrail said the appointment builds on the 26-year foundation established by Joe Kuhn and **Miriam Cohen-Kuhn**, who founded the company in 2000 and developed it into a global player in narrow-body aircraft and engine trading. The company said its existing management team would provide continuity for customers and partners as it expands its market position. Weinroth's appointment is also expected to strengthen cooperation among the aviation businesses within Contrail's parent company, Air T Inc., the company said. Air T is a diversified aviation group whose shares trade on Nasdaq under the ticker AIRT.



Matt Hoesley

• Aircraft leasing and asset management company Altavair is reshuffling its senior leadership, with CEO **Steve Rimmer** set to become executive chairman from January 1, 2027. **Matt Hoesley**, who joined Altavair in 2005, will succeed Rimmer as CEO and President. **Dimitrios Kotinis** will become Chief Commercial Officer, overseeing marketing, trading, pricing, risk and capital markets. Rimmer founded Altavair in 2003 and has led its expansion from an aviation investment business into a global aircraft leasing, financing and asset management platform. He will remain involved in strategic leadership, customer and investor relationships and work with the board and shareholders. Hoesley has spent more than two decades at Altavair, helping build its commercial operations and serving customers, investors and business partners. Kotinis joined Altavair in 2020 and has held a key role in developing its investment platform. In his new position, he will oversee the company's commercial and capital-markets activities while contributing to its broader strategy.

AviTrader AVIATION NEWS PUBLICATIONS

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

Publisher
Peter Jorssen
Tel: +1 604 318 5207

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

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

Advertising Inquiries "International"
Malte Tamm
Europe, Middle East & Asia
malte.tamm@avitrader.com
Phone: +49 (0)162 8263049

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

Follow us on LinkedIn

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) CFM56-5B/3					
(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					
(5) 131-9A, (9) 131-9B (Max compliant), (1) APS3200 "C"		GA Telesis		apu@gatelesis.com	+1-954-849-3509
(1) 331-500, (1) PW901, (1) 331-200, (2) 331-350					
Engine stands: CF6-80C2, CFM56-5A/B/C, PW4000, CF34-10, V2500				stands@gatelesis.com	+1-954-676-3111
CFM56-7B major LPT module, CFM56-7B Fan and Boosters					
CF6-80C2: Major LPT Module					
(2) APU GTC131-9B	Now - Sale / Lease	Willis Lease	Gavin Connolly	gconnolly@willislease.com	+44 1656 765 256
Engine stands now available	Now - Lease				









WLFC
WILLIS LEASE FINANCE CORPORATION
Power to Spare – Worldwide®

