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Weekly Aviation Headline News

> We are an airline originating from Central Europe, we are probably closest to any of these hybrid warfare exposures than any of the Western airlines.
>
> *Jozsef Varadi, CEO Wizz Air*



© Wizz Air

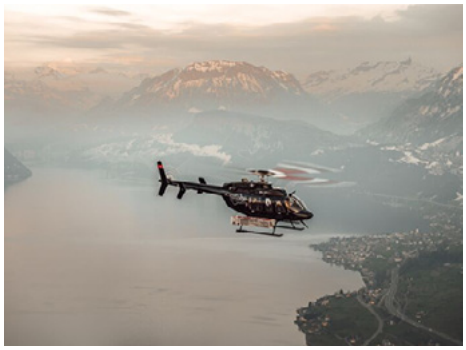
Wizz Air chief warns of higher costs on top of fuel pressures – also calls for Europe-wide coordination on bomb threats

Hungarian carrier's finances hit by higher labour and airport expenses on top of the soaring price of jet fuel and spate of hoax bomb alerts.

Wizz Air, the Hungarian ultra-low-cost carrier, said on Thursday of last week that it expects a mid-single-digit percentage increase in full-year unit costs excluding fuel, as airlines grapple with higher labour and airport expenses on top of the soaring price of jet fuel due to the Iran war. CEO József Váradi told Reuters news agency the biggest single cost in the second half of its financial year was more than €100 million of incremental costs linked to the phase-out of older Airbus A320ceo jets. The budget carrier, which had previously held back on giving full-year guidance due to the uncertain trading environment, joins peers in warning of challenges facing the global aviation industry. When asked about fuel hedging, Varadi said the airline remained protected whether fuel prices stayed high or fell sharply thanks to its strategy of setting upper and lower hedge price limits. The carrier has hedged 82% of its fuel needs this winter and 51% for April to October 2027. For its fiscal third quarter, Wizz Air said it expected revenue per available seat kilometre — a measure of pricing power — to rise by a low-single-digit percentage year-on-year, with a 19% increase in seats. Net profit fell 66.6% to €108.1 million in the six months to September 30, as fuel costs jumped 33.7% to €1.24 billion. Also last Thursday Varadi said that Europe needs a more harmonised approach to security and a body to lead it against "hybrid warfare" following a recent series of bomb threats. "I personally had a meeting with the European Commission very recently, trying to address this issue and urging these people to act together and find ways of getting coordinated," Varadi said in a post-earnings call. "But this is a very hot potato because of the sovereign nation state concept, and no country wants to concede on this matter," Varadi added. He did not say if other airline executives had also met with EU officials. Wizz Air received hoax bomb alerts for 14 flights operated across Europe last week and had to divert two aircraft as a result of the threats sent via email to airports and airlines. In a separate interview with Reuters, Varadi linked these threats to what he called hybrid warfare affecting the whole of Europe.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Bell delivers 2,000th Bell 407 helicopter



Bell 407 helicopter © Textron

Bell Textron has delivered its 2,000th Bell 407 helicopter, this one to White Saddle Air Services, a family-owned operator based at Bluff Lake, near Tatla Lake, in British Columbia, Canada. The milestone comes nearly three decades after the Bell 407 entered service and highlights the helicopter's continued use across commercial, utility, corporate and specialist missions worldwide. Since its introduction in the 1990s, the light single-engine helicopter has built a global reputation for its performance, reliability, cabin comfort, visibility and operational flexibility. It operates in a wide range of environments and across multiple mission profiles. Bell President and Chief Executive Danny Maldonado said the delivery reflected the work of the teams involved in developing and manufacturing the aircraft, as well as the confidence placed in the platform by operators worldwide.

Orders and deliveries – Boeing and Airbus

Airbus v Boeing: Orders and Deliveries

October 2026 YTD (net orders)

Airbus			Boeing		
Type	Orders	Deliveries	Type	Orders	Deliveries
A220	156	77	737	550	400
A320 Family	963	483	767	6	29
A330	87	17	777	48	22
A350	99	44	787	179	73
Total	**1305**	**621**	**Total**	**783**	**524**

Source: Airbus Source: Boeing

Magnifica Air confirms order for ten ACJ220s



Rendering of Magnifica Air ACJ220-300 © Airbus

US-based private airline Magnifica Air has confirmed a firm order for ten Airbus ACJ220-300 aircraft, previously listed as undisclosed in the manufacturer's order book, as it builds its ultra-premium corporate business-jet fleet. The airline has also selected a range of Airbus Skywise digital solutions, including the Skywise Core X1 data platform, flight planning, operations and crew management tools, and navigation databases to support its flight and technical operations. Launched at the 2025 NBAA-BACE show, Magnifica Air plans to operate a fleet of customised Airbus corporate jets, including the ACJ220-300 and ACJ321neo. Following the latest order, its planned fleet will comprise 17 aircraft: 14 ACJ220s and three ACJ321neos.

GE Aerospace, BETA achieve hybrid-electric flight milestone



© GE Aerospace

GE Aerospace and BETA Technologies (BETA) have completed what they described as the world's first hybrid-electric assisted take-off using an aircraft designed to carry passengers at commercial airliner altitudes. The milestone was announced at the Up.Summit industry event following tests with a modified Saab 340B at BETA's flight test facility in Plattsburgh, New York. The aircraft used a conventional GE Aerospace CT7 gas engine on one side and a modified hybrid-electric engine on the other. The latter comprised a fully integrated megawatt-class, multi-kilovolt propulsion system. During take-off, electric motors and a battery system provided additional power to supplement the conventional gas engine, delivering the thrust required. Previous hybrid-electric flight tests by the two companies had demonstrated electrical power assistance during climb and cruise, as well as power regeneration during cruise and descent. Initial observations indicated that hybrid-electric assistance enabled take-off with less noise than using conventional gas engines alone. "GE Aerospace is advancing the building blocks that will define the future of hybrid-electric flight, now successfully demonstrating a more efficient commercial take-off with a hybrid-electric system," said Arjan Hegeman, Vice-President of Future of Flight Engineering at GE Aerospace. He added that the company was progressively demonstrating next-generation technologies, including hybrid systems and Open Fan architecture, to meet customer requirements.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AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Lesha Bank sells six A380s to Emirates



Emirates Airbus A380 *© Emirates*

Lesha Bank, acting on behalf of the Lesha Aviation Fund, has agreed to sell six Airbus A380 aircraft to Emirates, the world's largest operator of the type. Two aircraft have already been delivered, with the remaining four scheduled for transfer in stages through April 2028 as their existing leases expire. The transaction will secure Emirates' long-term ownership of the aircraft, supporting its wide-body fleet strategy and capacity requirements as it continues to develop its global network from Dubai. For Lesha Bank, the deal marks a further step in its aviation investment activities and demonstrates its experience in structuring aircraft transactions and managing asset transitions.

Werner Aero acquires Boeing 737-700

Werner Aero, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Corporation Group, has acquired a Boeing 737-700 aircraft, MSN 32413, located at eCube's facility in Castellón, Spain. The acquisition adds to Werner Aero's growing portfolio of 737NG assets and supports its strategy to increase global availability of used serviceable material (USM) for the aviation aftermarket. Through its aircraft acquisition and teardown programmes, the company supplies airframe components to airlines, lessors, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) providers and other aviation customers worldwide.



The latest addition to Werner Aero's portfolio, a B737-700 *© Werner Aero*

CDB Aviation leases two A321s to Freebird Airlines



Image of Freebird Airlines A321ceo *© CDB Aviation*

CDB Aviation, the Irish subsidiary of China Development Bank Financial Leasing (CDB Leasing), has signed lease agreements with Turkish leisure and charter airline Freebird Airlines for two Airbus A321ceo aircraft. The transaction will support the continued development of Freebird Airlines' all-Airbus fleet. The aircraft will feature a special livery commemorating the airline's 25th anniversary and will operate across its leisure and charter network. "We are very happy to commence our relationship with Freebird Airlines and support the continued development of its fleet," said Gavan Daly, CDB Aviation's head of commercial for EMEA. He congratulated the airline on its 25 years of operations, adding that CDB Aviation looked forward to building a strong and lasting partnership with the carrier.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Cathay orders 14 more Airbus aircraft



Cathay Pacific A330neo *© Airbus*

Hong Kong's Cathay Group (Cathay) has placed a firm order for 14 additional Airbus aircraft, comprising 11 A330-900s and three A321neos, as it continues to modernise and expand its fleet. The latest order brings Cathay's total commitment for the A330-900 to 41 aircraft, following an order for 30 in 2024. The three additional A321neos add to 32 A320neo-family aircraft ordered in 2023. Powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 7000 engines, the A330neo has a range of up to 8,100 nautical miles (15,000 km) and offers 25% lower fuel consumption, CO_2 emissions and operating costs compared with previous-generation competitor aircraft. Its Airspace cabin features the latest in-flight technology and amenities, designed to improve comfort for passengers and crew. The new aircraft will support Cathay's regional and long-haul operations while improving fuel efficiency, passenger comfort and environmental performance.



AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

China Eastern selects LEAP engines for 101 Airbus aircraft



Signing ceremony at the ninth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai *© CFM International*

China Eastern Airlines has selected CFM International LEAP-1A engines to power 101 new Airbus A320neo-family aircraft, alongside spare engines and a long-term services agreement. The agreement was marked by a signing ceremony at the ninth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. "CFM LEAP engines are helping us build one of the most modern fleets in the industry, and we are pleased to strengthen that relationship with this latest agreement," said Xiaoqun He, Executive Vice-President of China Eastern Airlines. He added that engine reliability and fuel efficiency, together with dependable support and services, were essential to an airline's success, making CFM a natural partner. The new fleet will comprise A320neo, A321neo and A321XLR aircraft. China Eastern already operates 215 A320neo and A321neo aircraft powered by LEAP-1A engines. The airline also operates Boeing 737 MAX aircraft powered by LEAP-1B engines and COMAC C919 aircraft equipped with LEAP-1C engines. In addition, China Eastern has more than 380 aircraft powered by CFM56 engines, including Airbus A320ceo- and Boeing 737NG-family aircraft.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

D328eco landing gear passes flight tests



D328eco regional aircraft *© Deutsche Aircraft*

HEGGEMANN AG and Deutsche Aircraft have completed initial flight-test validation of a new landing gear system designed for both the existing Dornier 328 fleet and the next-generation D328eco, marking a further step towards certification. The milestone follows successful low- and high-speed taxi trials and an initial flight-test campaign using a dedicated Dornier 328 test aircraft, completed in September 2026. The tests validated the landing gear in ground and flight conditions, providing data to support the aircraft's certification programme. HEGGEMANN AG, which is responsible for developing and industrialising the system, provided engineering services covering structural design, laboratory and drop testing, performance and endurance trials, and environmental testing in accordance with DO-160 standards. The company has worked with Deutsche Aircraft on the programme since 2020, developing a common landing gear architecture for the existing Dornier 328 and the D328eco. The new design aims to improve corrosion resistance and maintainability while incorporating proven subsystem technologies within the existing aircraft installation envelope.


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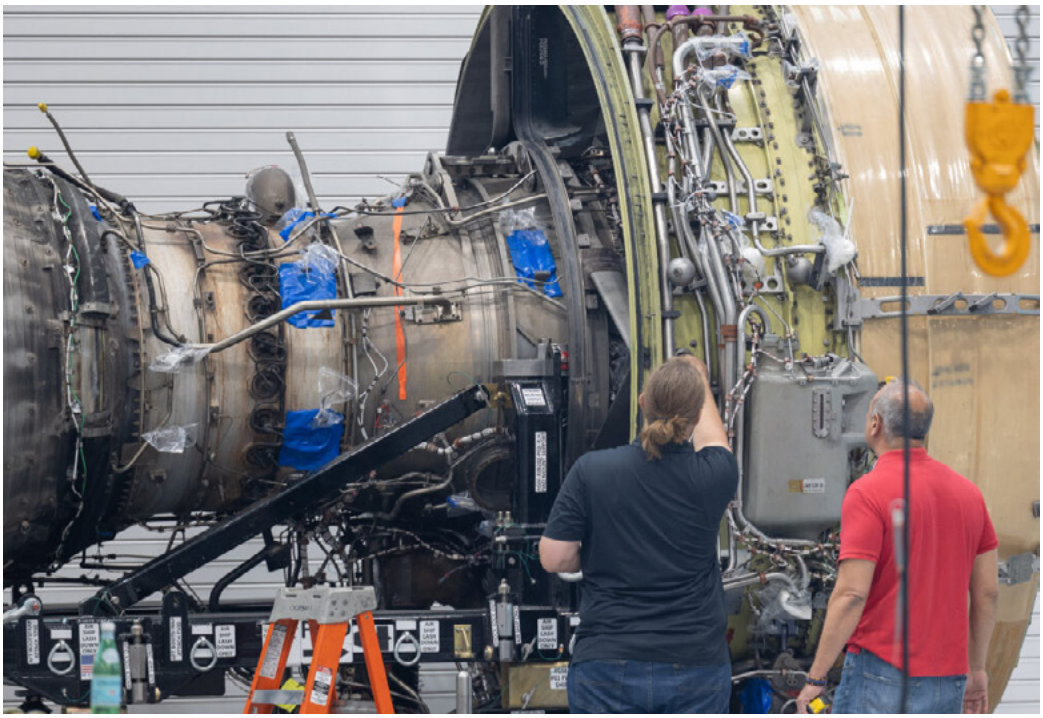
MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Pem-Air secures AS9110 certification



© Pem-Air Turbine Engine Services

Pem-Air Turbine Engine Services, the engine MRO division of Pem-Air, has obtained AS9110 certification, an international quality management standard specifically designed for aviation maintenance organisations. The certification validates the company's quality management systems and operational controls, reinforcing its focus on regulatory compliance, consistent maintenance standards and continuous improvement. Pem-Air said the certification would provide customers with additional assurance that maintenance work is carried out under documented procedures and controlled processes as the company expands its engine MRO capabilities. "Achieving AS9110 certification represents an important accomplishment for the entire Pem-Air team and reflects our unwavering commitment to quality in everything we do," said Chief Executive Virgil D. Pizer. He added that the certification demonstrated the company's ability to maintain consistent standards as it expands its services and supports operators worldwide.

Ryanair opens €40m maintenance hangar in Porto



Opening ceremony of the new maintenance facility in Porto

© Ryanair

Ryanair has inaugurated a €40 million maintenance facility at Porto Airport, tripling its maintenance capacity at the Portuguese base and creating more than 150 skilled jobs. The 4,900 m² facility comprises a two-bay line maintenance hangar and component workshops, adding to the airline's existing one-bay operation at the airport. The investment will create more than 150 engineering, mechanic and apprenticeship positions in Portugal's Norte region, providing specialist training and long-term career opportunities. The additional capacity will support Ryanair's fleet expansion plans, with the airline targeting more than 800 aircraft and 300 million annual passengers by 2034. Ryanair carries more than 14 million passengers to and from Portugal annually and supports over 12,000 jobs across the country. The Porto facility is the latest in a series of investments by the airline in Portugal. Ryanair operates 30 aircraft across its four Portuguese bases in Porto, Faro, Lisbon and Madeira, representing an investment of US$3 billion. The airline also operates technology centres in Porto and Lisbon, employing more than 50 specialist staff, and has invested over €2 million in the Renature Monchique reforestation project. The initiative has supported the planting of more than 600,000 trees to restore the Serra de Monchique mountain range following the 2018 wildfires. (€1.00 = US$1.12 at time of publication).

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

General Atomics breaks ground on Nordholz MRO facility



Ground-breaking ceremony at the Nordholz, Germany site *© General Atomics AeroTec Systems*

General Atomics AeroTec Systems has begun construction of a new maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility at Nordholz in Germany, marking the first phase of an investment to expand its aviation capabilities. The 40,000-m² site, located next to Cuxhaven/Nordholz airfield, will provide additional maintenance capacity for various aircraft types. Four MRO hangar bays are expected to become operational by the end of 2027. The facility will also include training rooms where customers can receive instruction in aircraft maintenance. The development is expected to create skilled jobs, with the site having the potential to employ more than 100 people in the longer term, depending on customer demand. General Atomics AeroTec Systems announced the acquisition of the property in July. Construction will be carried out in several phases, with the latest ground-breaking marking the start of structural work on the first phase. The company estimates that further development could involve long-term investment of more than €50 million (US$60 million). The scale and timing of subsequent construction phases will depend on customer requirements.



AAR wins Airbus radome repair approval



Leaders from AAR's Asia-Pacific operations and Airbus Avionics meet for the signing of the radome repair agreement *© AAR*

AAR has signed a multi-year agreement with Airbus Avionics to provide repairs across the full portfolio of Airbus radomes, becoming an Airbus-approved repair station in Asia-Pacific, excluding China. The agreement authorises AAR to repair radomes installed on Airbus commercial aircraft and builds on its existing Airbus-approved capabilities covering structures and components, including sharklets, elevators, rudders and slats. Nicholas Gross, AAR's senior vice-president of Government Programs and Component MRO, said the agreement strengthened the company's OEM-approved repair offering and its position as a single-source provider of proprietary repair services in the region. He added that AAR would continue to develop its capabilities to support the growing Asia-Pacific fleet.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Delta TechOps wins Virgin Australia support deal

Virgin Australia has selected Delta TechOps to provide fleetwide component support for its more than 100 Boeing 737NG and 737 MAX aircraft under a five-year agreement, extending an existing maintenance relationship. The contract covers airframe components and engine components for both CFM56-7B and CFM LEAP-1B engines. Delta TechOps will carry out most of the work at its facilities in Atlanta and Minneapolis, with logistics support from Virgin Australia locations in Singapore, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. Delta TechOps previously provided CFM56-7B engine support and component repair services for the airline's fleet. The agreement further strengthens Delta TechOps' presence in the Asia-Pacific region, where its parent company, Delta Air Lines, has expanded its operations with the launch of Los Angeles-Melbourne services. Delta currently serves Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Delta TechOps is also increasing its support for airlines across the region, including maintenance services for Korean Air's CFM LEAP-1B engines, which also power Virgin Australia's Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.



Virgin Australia has selected Delta TechOps for 737 component support *© Delta TechOps*

FINANCIAL NEWS

Emirates secures Shariah-compliant A350 financing



Emirates Airbus A350 *© Emirates*

Emirates has completed a 12-year Shariah-compliant French lease financing to support the acquisition of two new Airbus A350-900 aircraft in 2026, in a transaction involving Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) and Natixis Corporate & Investment Banking (Natixis CIB). The financing combines two structures traditionally arranged separately, adapting the features of a French lease to comply with Islamic finance principles within a single arrangement. The transaction supports Emirates' fleet expansion strategy while demonstrating the potential of Shariah-compliant financing in the global aviation market. The structure provides airlines with access to alternative sources of capital and could serve as a model for future international aircraft financings combining French leasing arrangements with Islamic finance requirements. DIB and Natixis CIB acted as Islamic financiers and arrangers.

EasyJet shareholders back £5.7bn Apollo takeover

EasyJet shareholders have approved the airline's £5.7bn takeover by US private equity group Apollo Global Management, clearing a major hurdle for the deal, according to the BBC. The Luton-based airline said 97.07% of shareholders voted in favour of the acquisition at a meeting on Wednesday. The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of March 2027. EasyJet's board agreed to Apollo's offer of 715 pence per share in August. The takeover will bring an end to the airline's more than 26 years as a London-listed company and transfer ownership to the US investment group. Apollo secured the deal after a bidding contest with US investment firm Castlelake. Castlelake had previously proposed an offer of £5.5bn, equivalent to 690 pence per share, but withdrew from the contest in August. (£1.00 = US$1.33 at time of publication).



EasyJet shareholders have approved the airline's £5.7bn takeover by Apollo Global Management *© AirTeamImages*

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Embraer raises guidance after record US$2.3bn quarter



© Embraer

Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer reported record third-quarter revenue of US$2.3 billion, up 17% year on year, with all business units delivering higher contributions. Adjusted earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) reached US$254.8 million, representing a margin of 10.9%, compared with 8.6% in the same period last year. Adjusted free cash flow, excluding Eve, totalled US$627.7 million, supported by stronger operating performance and higher customer advances linked to aircraft sales. The results and an improved business outlook, including stronger contributions from its Services & Support and Defense & Security divisions, prompted Embraer to raise its full-year 2026 financial guidance. The company now expects revenue of between US$8.4 billion and US$8.6 billion, up from its previous forecast of US$8.2 billion to US$8.5 billion. Its target for adjusted free cash flow, excluding Eve, has increased to at least US$700 million from US$400 million. Adjusted net income reached US$73.6 million in the third quarter, excluding US$2.5 million in extraordinary items related to Eve. This compared with US$84.3 million a year earlier, with the decline mainly reflecting higher net financial and tax expenses. Net income attributable to Embraer shareholders fell to US$71.1 million from US$116.6 million in the third quarter of 2025. Embraer invested US$149.7 million on a standalone basis during the July-September period, compared with US$98.6 million a year earlier. On a consolidated basis, including Eve, investment totalled US$219 million, up from US$153.4 million in the corresponding period of 2025.

DAE nine-month profit falls 43%

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) has reported a 43% decline in profit for the first nine months of 2026, despite a 13.2% increase in revenue, as higher insurance recoveries boosted the previous year's comparative results. Profit for the nine months ended September 30 fell to US$323.2 million from US$566.7 million a year earlier. The decline was primarily attributable to higher insurance recoveries recognised in the corresponding period of 2025. Revenue rose to US$1.447 billion from US$1.278 billion, driven by additional lease income following a business combination and aircraft acquisitions, partly offset by lower engineering maintenance services revenue. Operating profit before exceptional items increased by 15.8% to US$794.8 million, compared with US$686.1 million in the same period last year. The improvement reflected higher revenue and gains from aircraft disposals, partly offset by increased depreciation and amortisation. Total assets stood at US$26.83 billion on September 30, compared with US$16.55 billion at the end of 2025, mainly reflecting aircraft acquired through the business combination. Available liquidity increased to US$5.60 billion from US$3.40 billion on December 31, 2025. The liquidity coverage ratio rose to 440% from 277%, supported by US$2.8 billion in new unsecured revolving credit facilities secured during the period. The net debt-to-equity ratio stood at 2.60 times, compared with 2.58 times at the end of 2025. DAE's fleet grew to 983 aircraft at the end of September, up from 678 at the end of 2025. The portfolio comprised 716 owned aircraft, 120 managed aircraft and 147 committed aircraft, compared with 492, 112 and 74, respectively, at the end of last year.

ITOCHU completes 50% investment in ACG

Japanese trading company ITOCHU Corporation (ITOCHU) has completed its investment in Aviation Capital Group (ACG), acquiring a 50% equity interest in TC Skyward Aviation U.S. (SKY-U), following receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals. The transaction, announced on August 3, 2026, involved the acquisition of half of SKY-U, which was previously wholly owned by Tokyo Century Corporation. Following completion, ITOCHU and Tokyo Century have moved to a joint management structure for ACG. ITOCHU views aviation-related businesses as a growth area, citing expectations of medium- to long-term growth in global passenger demand. Through its investment and partnership with Tokyo Century, ITOCHU intends to position ACG as the core platform for its aviation activities, support the lessor's long-term growth and pursue opportunities to expand both groups' existing businesses and develop new ones.

Astronics lifts adjusted EBITDA by 81%

Astronics Corporation reported higher sales and profitability in the third quarter of 2026, driven by strong growth in its Aerospace and Test Systems segments. Aerospace sales increased by US$52.7 million, or 27.4%, while Test Systems revenue rose by US$7.5 million, or 40.0%. Gross profit increased by US$29.5 million to US$94.0 million, with the gross margin expanding by 410 basis points to 34.6% of sales. The improvement reflected higher sales volumes, increased productivity and US$1.9 million in tariff refunds. Selling, general and administrative expenses fell by US$0.5 million. The company benefited from a favourable outcome in a UK patent infringement appeal, resulting in a refund of approximately US$4.4 million in damages and associated legal fees, as well as a US$1.0 million settlement in an unrelated case. These gains were largely offset by higher wages, benefits, incentive-based compensation and costs associated with the BMA acquisition in 2025. Research and development expenses decreased by US$0.9 million, reflecting project timing. Net income was US$1.08 per diluted share, compared with a loss of US$0.26 per diluted share in the same period last year. The prior-year result included a US$32.6 million loss on debt settlement related to costs incurred in the partial repurchase of convertible notes due in 2030. Adjusted EBITDA increased by 81.4% to US$59.3 million, while the adjusted EBITDA margin expanded by 630 basis points to a record 21.8% of consolidated sales.

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

Sikorsky wins South Korean presidential helicopter contract



Rendering of the S-92A+ helicopter flying over Seoul *© Lockheed Martin*

Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company, has been selected to supply its next-generation S-92A+ helicopter to the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) under the Presidential Helicopter II programme. Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky have maintained a partnership with South Korea for more than 70 years, covering Black Hawk, Seahawk and S-92 helicopter programmes. The ROKAF has operated three S-92 helicopters since taking delivery in 2007, relying on the aircraft for nearly two decades of presidential transport operations. The S-92 platform has also supported South Korea's Coast Guard in search and rescue missions, as well as firefighting and other emergency operations conducted by the National 119 Rescue Headquarters, part of the country's National Fire Agency. Under the new programme, Korea Aviation Engineering & Maintenance Service (KAEMS), a subsidiary of Korea Aerospace Industries, will carry out in-country completion of mission equipment for the S-92A+ helicopters. The contract also covers additional special mission equipment and sustainment services, including critical spare parts and field service support.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Cyprus Airways selects Swiss-AS AMOS platform



Cyprus Airways has chosen AMOS for greater operational independence *© Swiss AviationSoftware*

Cyprus Airways has selected Swiss AviationSoftware's AMOS Airline Edition maintenance software and AMOScloud to strengthen its technical operations and bring more continuing airworthiness management functions in-house. The agreement marks a step in the airline's strategy to gain greater control over its Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation (CAMO) processes, having previously relied on a third-party provider for these services. Based at Larnaca International Airport, Cyprus Airways operates six Airbus A220-300 and A320-200 aircraft, serving destinations across Europe and the Middle East. The airline already uses AMOS as part of its technical management processes. Establishing its own dedicated AMOS environment will give it greater autonomy over airworthiness management, while helping develop internal expertise, streamline workflows and support future operational requirements.

airBaltic completes AMOS system rollout

Latvia's airBaltic has completed the implementation of Swiss AviationSoftware's AMOS maintenance management system following a two-year project, integrating its maintenance, engineering, supply chain and financial operations into a single platform. The system now supports around 600 users and the airline's fleet of Airbus A220 aircraft. The implementation includes the AMOS Airline/MRO Edition and the mobile applications AMOSmobile/EXEC and AMOSmobile/STORES. The platform covers continuing airworthiness management (CAMO), engineering, maintenance planning and control, line and base maintenance, component maintenance, supply chain management and finance. airBaltic selected AMOS to replace its previous maintenance management system, which no longer fully met the requirements of its technical operations. The airline sought an integrated solution to reduce manual work, improve collaboration between departments and strengthen control over maintenance processes and costs. The new system provides a centralised environment for managing technical information, supporting consistent data management and more informed operational decisions. Automation is expected to reduce administrative workloads, while detailed maintenance cost tracking will improve financial transparency and resource management.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mexicana adopts Embraer predictive maintenance platform



Mexicana's E2 operations will be supported by Embraer's AHEAD software *© Embraer*

Mexicana has signed a long-term agreement with Embraer to implement its AHEAD (Aircraft Health Analysis and Diagnosis) platform across its E2 fleet, enabling the airline to adopt predictive maintenance strategies. The system analyses aircraft data in real time to identify potential technical faults before they develop into critical issues, helping to improve operational reliability, fleet availability and maintenance efficiency. AHEAD monitors aircraft systems including auxiliary power units, fuel, pneumatic and hydraulic systems, avionics, engines, navigation, air conditioning and flight controls. Using advanced analytics and predictive algorithms, it processes data collected both in flight and on the ground to support proactive maintenance planning. The platform is designed to reduce unscheduled downtime and maintenance costs, while also helping to cut CO_2 emissions by preventing unnecessary fuel consumption associated with technical problems. "By using the data generated by each aircraft, we can anticipate maintenance needs and schedule them in a timely manner. This allows us to strengthen our operational performance as our fleet and route network grow," said Leobardo Ávila Bojórquez, Mexicana's chief executive. Mexicana currently operates five E190-E2s and five E195-E2s. The airline has ordered a total of 20 E2 aircraft, comprising ten of each variant, under an agreement announced in 2024. The order represents a strategic investment by Mexico's state-owned airline to strengthen domestic connectivity and improve operational efficiency.

OTHER NEWS



airBaltic A220-300 *© AirTeamImages*

Latvian airline **airBaltic** has signed a new long-term wet-lease agreement with **Lufthansa Group**, continuing their existing partnership. Under the agreement, airBaltic will operate up to six Airbus A220-300 aircraft with crew for Lufthansa Group during the summer season and four during the winter, allowing it to balance capacity in line with its new business plan. As airBaltic prepares to operate a fleet of 36 aircraft in 2027, wet leasing will remain part of its business alongside its own scheduled network. The airline also maintains a wet-lease agreement with Air Serbia, under which four aircraft are planned for the summer season and two for the winter.



© American Airlines

American Airlines and other signatory carriers have secured a new 10.5-year Airline Use and Lease Agreement with **Charlotte Douglas International Airport** (CLT), approved by **Charlotte City Council**, paving the way for approximately US$2 billion in infrastructure investment. The investment programme, known as CLT Beyond, will cover improvements to the terminal, airfield and key airport facilities. The projects will be funded by the airlines and are intended to support passenger growth, improve airport operations and enhance the travel experience. Planned developments include an expansion of Concourse C to provide additional gates, upgrades to international arrivals facilities, airfield improvements and the modernisation of critical airport infrastructure. The programme will also include planning for the airport's next phase of development. The investment is expected to create jobs and business opportunities for small companies serving the airport, while providing capacity to support additional international air services. The agreement runs from January 1, 2027, to June 30, 2037. It establishes a long-term framework between the airport, American Airlines and the other participating carriers to maintain Charlotte's competitiveness and support its future growth.

OTHER NEWS

Qantas Group has signed a multi-year strategic partnership with **Accenture** to modernise its technology infrastructure, simplify operations and accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), a move expected to affect around 850 jobs over the coming years. The partnership will address more than 1,000 legacy applications that have accumulated across the airline over several decades, with the aim of integrating systems, improving data management and creating a platform for wider AI adoption. Accenture will invest upfront to accelerate the modernisation of Qantas' data platforms. Some corporate services will transfer to Accenture, with most work carried out by teams in India and some in Australia, before being further transformed through automation and AI. Qantas said the changes would also deliver benefits across customer services and airline operations, while enabling faster technology development. The agreement builds on Qantas' annual technology investment of more than AU$1 billion (US$685 million), which includes its new Product Innovation Centre in Adelaide, expected to employ more than 400 people. Thousands of employees are already using AI tools in their daily work. Around 850 positions are expected to be affected as the partnership progresses. Qantas said it would consult employees and unions before individual outcomes are determined, with the first phase of changes expected to be implemented by mid-2027.

INDUSTRY PEOPLE



Dr Ben Holert

• **Dr Ben Holert** has been appointed Managing Director of Lufthansa Technical Training GmbH, as of November 1. He succeeds **Marc Wilken** at the wholly owned subsidiary of Lufthansa Technik. His appointment comes amid growing global demand for qualified aviation professionals and high-quality technical training. Holert holds a doctorate in Aircraft Systems Engineering and has more than 20 years of experience at Lufthansa Technik. Most recently, he was responsible for developing digital solutions and processes for supply chain and logistics. Earlier in his career, he worked as a research associate at Hamburg University of Technology before becoming an external lecturer at the university and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR). Aviation has also been a personal passion for Holert since childhood, and he is an active pilot.



Marloes van Laake

• Air France Industries KLM Engineering & Maintenance (AFI KLM E&M) has announced the appointment of **Marloes van Laake** as Executive Vice President Engineering & Maintenance, effective February 1, 2027. She will also become a member of the Executive Committee, succeeding **Mathieu Essenberg**. Van Laake has more than 20 years of experience in the aviation industry and has held the position of Chief Operating Officer at Transavia since 2022. Prior to this, she held several management roles within the Air France-KLM Group, including Vice President Europe at Air France KLM Martinair Cargo. She began her career at KLM as a Corporate Management Trainee. In her new position, van Laake will oversee AFI KLM E&M, which is responsible for the maintenance of KLM's aircraft fleet and the provision of MRO services to airline customers worldwide.



Jonathan Grant

• **Jonathan Grant** will take on the role of Chief Engineer for Ontic, as the aerospace parts manufacturer continues to invest in its engineering capabilities and technical expertise. In the global role, Grant will serve as the technical authority for Ontic's products, overseeing technical governance, standards, methodologies and processes. His responsibilities will include reliability engineering, obsolescence management and aviation safety, supporting airlines, operators and aircraft manufacturers in maintaining fleet airworthiness. He will also oversee technical support throughout the product lifecycle, from the transition of products to Ontic and production optimisation to continuous improvements and long-term support. As the company expands its portfolio of flight-critical products, Grant will strengthen its capabilities in regulatory compliance and aviation safety. Grant brings more than 20 years of aerospace industry experience, with a particular focus on regulatory affairs and certification. He joins Ontic from Seattle-based AeroTEC, where he served as head of engineering, leading a team of more than 100 specialists across flight sciences, avionics, electrical systems, testing and certification. Previously, he was Director of Programme Management and Systems Engineering and Integration at Radia in Boulder, Colorado, where he recruited more than 25 tier-one suppliers for a new mission aircraft. Grant also spent 15 years at Boeing, leading avionics development and certification across the manufacturer's commercial aircraft programmes, as well as systems integration for the 737 MAX programme.

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Commercial Engines

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Description		Company	Contact	Email	Phone
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(11) A320 LG Shipset, (1) B757 LG Shipset, (1) 767 Shipset					
(6) 131-9A, (9) 131-9B (Max compliant), (1) APS3200 "C", (1) HGT1700		GA Telesis		apu@gatelesis.com	+1-954-849-3509
(1) APS3200 "B", (2) 331-500, (1) PW901, (1) 331-200, (2) 331-350					
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CFM56-7B major LPT module, CFM56-7B Fan and Boosters		GA Telesis			
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Engine stands now available	Now - Lease				











