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Weekly Aviation Headline News

> Essentially, what you saw was very old equipment that had a heart attack.
>
> *Donald J Trump, President, United States*



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Air travel recovery in the US stumbles while tensions rise over funding for new air traffic control systems

Technology outage at United Airlines delays full recovery from nationwide FAA ground stop

US air travel largely returned to normal last Monday after more than 18,000 flights were cancelled over three days as a result of the previous Friday's longest ground stop in 25 years, though the resumption was briefly hampered by a United Airlines technology outage. It has been estimated that nearly 28,000 flights were delayed and that the economic cost would be in the billions of dollars range. Beyond that, on the Monday following the ground stop, United Airlines suffered an hour-long glitch which is believed to have delayed 645 flights and seen 25 cancelled, though some of those could have been attributed to the ground stop legacy. The four largest US airlines could face a US$345 million earnings hit from the nationwide ground stop, according to Bernstein brokerage estimates. Since then, there has been much discussion about funding for a new and improved air traffic control system. According to Reuters news agency, Senate Majority Leader John Thune said last Monday that only US$4 billion of US$12.5 billion approved by Congress to improve air traffic control systems had been spent. "There's some explanations that have to be given as to why that number is where it is," Thune said. He added that just US$12 billion of the US$30 billion in more funding sought last week was for air traffic modernization, with the remainder for airport-related projects. US President Donald Trump said last Monday that funding was needed to upgrade the air traffic control system. "Essentially, what you saw was very old equipment that had a heart attack," he told reporters. The Friday of the ground stop Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy had raised his request for funding for air traffic control and airports to US$50 billion from US$30 billion. The FAA is still using ageing equipment including Compaq computers, floppy disks, 25-year-old obsolete routers and paper strips to track aircraft. "This rickety system is telegraphing to the American people, 'Hey, we need investment'," Duffy said on the following Monday. "Now is the time to do a big dollar amount to modernise the system." Republican Senator Eric Schmitt weighed in by saying the necessary funding was long overdue. "We should just go all in here and get this thing fixed," Schmitt told Reuters. "The can has been kicked for a long time … Clearly this is a decades-old problem in the making." Democrats in Congress say Duffy has spent or committed to spend just US$4 billion of the initial US$12.5 billion approved last year for air traffic control, while the Transportation Department said it had finalised plans for much of the funding and needs more money for telecoms upgrades. "They have money, they don't use it, and then they come back and say, 'Give us more money.' Well, we want to give them all the money they need, but they've got to use it, and know how to implement it, and they don't," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said on Monday.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Widerøe expands fleet with two new Embraer jets



Widerøe is adding two new Embraer E195-E2 jets to its existing fleet of E190-E2 aircraft © AirTeamImages

Widerøe AS (Widerøe) is expanding its fleet with two new Embraer E195-E2 aircraft, scheduled for delivery in the first quarter of 2028. The additions will bring the Norwegian airline's jet fleet to five aircraft. The investment builds on Widerøe's existing Embraer E190-E2 fleet, which has helped more than triple passenger traffic between Bergen and Tromsø. "This is about strengthening services between Norway's largest regional hubs outside Oslo, from Bergen to Trondheim and further north. Two new, larger jets with lower operating costs will enable us to continue strengthening and expanding air services across regional Norway in the years ahead," said Widerøe Chief Executive Tore Jenssen. In 2018, Widerøe became the world's first operator of the Embraer E2 family when it introduced its first three E190-E2 aircraft. They have since operated on both domestic and international routes. The aircraft will be leased from one of Widerøe's existing leasing partners. The E195-E2 is the quietest and most environmentally friendly aircraft in its class, with up to 25% lower fuel consumption and CO_2 emissions per seat. Like its predecessor, the E190-E2, it is also up to 60% quieter than previous-generation passenger aircraft in the same category. Widerøe AS is a subsidiary within the Norwegian Group.

THC makes US$568m push into business aviation with Bombardier jet deal



Contract signing between Bombardier and THC © *Bombardier*

Bombardier and Saudi Arabia's The Helicopter Company (THC) have signed firm purchase agreements for up to 60 business jets, including an order for 12 jets and options for a further 48. The firm order comprises five Challenger 3500s, five Global 5500s and two Global 8000s. The transaction is valued at approximately US$568 million based on 2026 list prices and follows a letter of intent announced in July 2026. The aircraft will form the foundation of THC's business jet fleet, marking its entry into business aviation. The companies said it was the largest transaction of its kind in Saudi Arabia. THC, the Kingdom's leading commercial helicopter operator, plans to use the aircraft to meet growing demand for premium business travel in Saudi Arabia and the wider region. "This transaction marks THC's entry into business aviation and the next step in building an integrated aviation operator for the Kingdom," said Captain Arnaud Martinez, THC's Chief Executive. He said demand for business aviation services in Saudi Arabia and the wider region continued to grow, adding that the new fleet would enable the company to address that demand while supporting the development of the Kingdom's aviation sector under its Vision 2030 programme.

Philippine Airlines finalises 15-aircraft 787 order



Philippine Airlines plans fleet modernisation and network growth with the Boeing 787-10 © *Boeing*

Boeing and Philippine Airlines have finalised an order for 15 787 Dreamliner aircraft, with an option to purchase five more, as demand for air travel continues to grow. The deal, announced this week, represents the Philippine flag carrier's largest-ever wide-body aircraft purchase and formalises a commitment announced in July 2026. The order comprises the 787-10, the largest variant of the Dreamliner family. The aircraft will support the airline's fleet modernisation and expansion plans, providing additional capacity and improved efficiency across its medium- and long-haul network. The agreement also marks another milestone in the 80-year partnership between Boeing and Philippine Airlines.


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AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

MEA receives first Airbus A321XLR



MEA has taken delivery of the first of five A321XLR aircraft © *Airbus*

Middle East Airlines (MEA), Lebanon's national carrier, has taken delivery of the first of five Airbus A321XLR aircraft on order. The airline was the first to place a firm order for the long-range single-aisle aircraft in 2019.

The A321XLR will give MEA greater flexibility to match capacity and range with market demand across its network, allowing it to serve both regional destinations and longer, lower-demand routes efficiently. The delivery marks another milestone in the long-standing partnership between MEA and Airbus. Building on the airline's experience operating the A320 family, including the A321neo, the A321XLR extends its network reach while complementing the larger capacity of its planned A330-900 fleet. The commonality across the Airbus fleet is also expected to deliver operational benefits for the airline. MEA's A321XLR features a two-class configuration with 160 seats, comprising 22 fully lie-flat business-class seats and 138 economy-class seats. The aircraft is equipped with Airbus' Airspace cabin, designed to offer a widebody-style passenger experience on a single-aisle aircraft. Features include increased personal space, customisable ambient lighting and larger overhead storage bins.

MACH OE expands portfolio with Volaris A320neos

MACH OE has acquired two Airbus A320neo aircraft leased to Mexican airline Volaris, bringing its seed portfolio to four aircraft. The acquisition, completed on October 23, 2026, follows the addition of two new Boeing 737 MAX 9 aircraft leased to United Airlines earlier this year. MACH OE was jointly established and is managed by MIC and ACL. Announced in January 2026, the open-ended aircraft fund is the first of its kind launched by a Japan-based asset manager in the aircraft investment sector, according to MHD research. The fund is expected to attract primarily institutional investors, including financial institutions, pension funds, corporations and educational institutions. It aims to grow its aircraft asset portfolio to more than US$1 billion.



MACH OE is adding two A320neo aircraft, leased to Volaris, to its portfolio
© *AirTeamImages*

Willis Lease acquires two Airbus A320s



Airbus A320 at take-off © *Airbus*

Willis Lease Finance Corporation (WLFC) has completed the acquisition of two Airbus A320 aircraft, further diversifying its aviation asset portfolio beyond its core engine leasing business. The acquisitions reflect the company's strategy to expand its asset base and meet growing customer demand for aircraft and flexible leasing solutions. "Demand for assets and flexible leasing solutions remains exceptionally strong in today's environment," said Austin C. Willis, President and Chief Executive Officer of Willis Lease Finance. "We continue to grow our portfolio and strengthen our ability to serve airline customers around the world. The addition of both a new-generation A320neo and an A320ceo reflects our disciplined approach to investing in diverse assets," he added.

AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

Willis Lease finances two Porter E195-E2 deliveries



Image of Porter Airlines Embraer E195-E2 aircraft © *Embraer*

Willis Lease Finance Corporation (WLFC) has completed a financing transaction covering the delivery of two new Embraer E195-E2 aircraft to Canadian airline Porter Airlines (Porter). The bespoke financing features a two-tranche structure developed specifically for Porter and marks WLFC's first delivery financing for newly built aircraft. It also expands the lessor's lending portfolio and broadens its existing relationship with the airline. The financing was provided through funds managed by WLFC subsidiary Willis Aviation Capital. Brian R. Hole, global head of managed funds and credit at WLFC, said the transaction demonstrated the company's approach to developing tailored equipment financing solutions. Porter executive vice-president and chief financial officer Rob Palmer said Willis was a valuable addition to the airline's portfolio of E195-E2 lessors and financiers, adding that the expanded relationship would support its continued growth across North America.



AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS

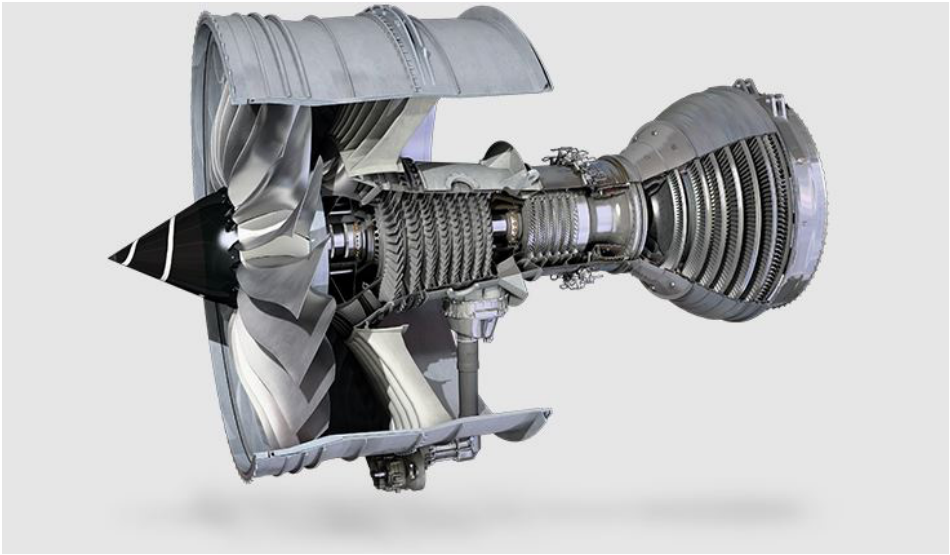
ACG delivers Boeing 737-8 to Norwegian



Norwegian has taken delivery of the first of four B737-8 aircraft from ACG *© Aviation Capital Group*

Aviation Capital Group (ACG) has delivered a Boeing 737-8 to Norwegian Air Shuttle (Norwegian) as part of a four-aircraft sale-and-leaseback agreement. The remaining three aircraft are expected to be delivered by early 2028. Carter A. White, ACG's executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, said the aircraft would support Norwegian's fleet renewal strategy, helping the airline transition to newer, more fuel-efficient aircraft while retaining flexibility to expand across its Nordic and European network. Norwegian Chief Executive Geir Karlsen said the transaction marked another milestone in the airline's fleet renewal programme. The additional 737-8s will provide passengers with modern cabin comfort while supporting the carrier's environmental and operational objectives. ACG is a global aircraft asset manager providing aircraft leasing and financing solutions to airlines worldwide.

Rolls-Royce wins eight-engine order from Royal Brunei



Trent 1000 XE engine *© Rolls-Royce*

Rolls-Royce has confirmed that Royal Brunei Airlines has ordered eight Trent 1000 XE engines to power four Boeing 787 Dreamliners. The aircraft were ordered in 2024 as part of the airline's wide-body fleet renewal programme. Royal Brunei Airlines has operated Trent 1000 engines since 2013, powering its fleet of five Boeing 787-8 aircraft. The latest order follows LATAM Airlines' return to the Trent 1000 and Somon Air's selection of the engine earlier this year, adding further momentum to the Trent 1000 XE programme. Ewen McDonald, Chief Customer Officer, Rolls-Royce, commented on the transaction: "The decision demonstrates growing market confidence in the Trent 1000 XE. Through our ongoing transformation, we are delivering significant improvements in engine durability, including up to triple time on wing, reduced maintenance requirements, and greater certainty in fleet planning." He continued: "Combined with our strong, long-term relationship, I am confident the Trent 1000 XE will support Royal Brunei Airlines as it grows its fleet and delivers on its ambitions." Colonel Norsuriati binti Haji Sharbini, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Royal at Brunei Airlines, added: "The Trent 1000 XE represents an important evolution of a platform we know well, bringing enhanced durability and improved maintenance characteristics that, alongside Rolls-Royce's long-term service support, will help strengthen our operational resilience and fleet availability. For RB, this is about more than introducing a new aircraft; it is about making informed choices that build on our experience, strengthen our capabilities and position us for the opportunities ahead."

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Boom Supersonic invests in ceramic 3-D printing



Boom Supersonic Symphony engine testing © *Boom Supersonic*

Boom Supersonic has purchased three industrial 3-D printers from Austria-based Lithoz to develop and manufacture complex ceramic casting cores for single-crystal turbine blades. The Colorado-based aerospace manufacturer, which is developing the Overture supersonic airliner and Superpower industrial gas turbine, selected Lithoz's Lithography-based Ceramic Manufacturing (LCM) technology to produce ceramic cores featuring the intricate channels and branched cavities required for advanced turbine blades. The technology will support the development of blades designed to withstand the extreme inlet temperatures of an aeroderivative gas turbine based on supersonic turbofan technology. Boom's three CeraFab S65 printers will enable the company to scale up in-house production of the casting cores. Nick Sheryka, chief engineer at Boom Supersonic, said Lithoz had demonstrated the technology's capabilities through a series of prototypes, delivering repeatable and reliable results. The order marks another aerospace customer win for Vienna-based Lithoz, which specialises in additive manufacturing of technical ceramics. The company recently reported a 40% year-on-year increase in material sales, driven largely by silica-based materials and demand from existing aerospace OEM customers and contract manufacturers.

Corax acquires first E195 for teardown

Aviation components supplier Corax has acquired an Embraer E195 formerly operated by LOT Polish Airlines for teardown, marking its first acquisition of the aircraft type. The aircraft will be dismantled at ecube's UK facility, with work expected to begin shortly. Components recovered during the process will be added to Corax's physical inventory and made available through several aviation parts search platforms. The E195 components will be stocked at Corax's headquarters in Copenhagen and offered to airlines and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) providers. Corax specialises in the supply of rotable components across multiple aircraft platforms. Its inventory is sourced primarily through aircraft teardowns, supplemented by surplus and consignment stock held by the company. The company holds AS9120 and ASA-100 certifications.



Corax has acquired an E195 aircraft, formerly operated by LOT Polish Airlines, for teardown © *AirTeamImages*



MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

FAI Aviation secures Maltese AOC



FAI's first aircraft on the Maltese register © *FAI*

FAI Aviation Group (FAI) has secured an Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from Transport Malta, marking a step in the company's international growth strategy. The certification was awarded on November 13, 2026, following eight months of preparation and regulatory review. It expands the group's operational capabilities and broadens the range of services available to aircraft owners and charter clients. As part of its commitment to Malta, FAI has opened an office in Birkirkara and appointed Capt. Lino Xuereb as director of flight operations for FAI Malta. The first aircraft to join the Maltese register will be a Learjet 60XR, registered as 9H-FAQ. Further aircraft are expected to be added to the Maltese AOC over the coming months. FAI Aviation Group chairman and founder Siegfried Axtmann said the certification was an important step in the company's development as an international operator. He said Malta offered an attractive environment for aircraft owners and operators and that the new AOC would enable FAI to broaden its services and better serve clients across Europe and international markets.

MTU opens new Munich engineering centre



© *MTU*

MTU Aero Engines (MTU) has opened a new global engineering centre in Munich, bringing together up to 1,000 employees to develop technologies for future commercial and military aircraft propulsion systems. The centre will focus on developing more efficient and, in the longer term, lower-emission propulsion technologies for commercial aviation, alongside key systems for future military applications, including next-generation helicopters and fighter aircraft. MTU is also working on new materials, lightweight composites and advanced manufacturing and repair processes. Its research includes a hydrogen-powered flying fuel cell propulsion concept, with the long-term ambition of developing an aircraft propulsion system that produces only water during flight. The new facility covers more than 20,000 m² and is designed to encourage closer collaboration between engineering and technology teams. Modern workspaces, shorter distances between departments and open communication areas are intended to improve cooperation across disciplines. "This engineering centre symbolises MTU's commitment to innovation and excellence that it is known for worldwide," said Dr Silke Maurer, Chief Operating Officer of MTU Aero Engines. She said innovations developed across the company's global engineering network would help make aviation more efficient, safer and, in the longer term, lower in emissions. MTU would continue investing in technology and the future of its sites, she added.

Astronics wins BETA aircraft power systems contract



CorePower® product family includes a standardized, scalable power architecture purpose-built for eVTOL applications © *Astronics*

Astronics Corporation (Astronics) has signed a production agreement with BETA Technologies (BETA) to supply electrical power conversion and distribution systems for the US aerospace company's electric and hybrid-electric aircraft. The agreement covers BETA's ALIA CTOL (CX300) conventional take-off and landing aircraft, ALIA VTOL (A250) vertical take-off and landing aircraft, and HV250 hybrid-electric autonomous VTOL platform. Astronics will provide its CorePower electrical power conversion and distribution systems, designed specifically for electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) applications. The technology combines high-voltage power conversion with low-voltage distribution to provide reliable, fault-protected power to flight-critical systems, including avionics, flight controls and navigation. The CorePower product family uses a standardised, scalable architecture designed to meet aerospace certification requirements. Its lightweight, compact design aims to simplify aircraft integration, reduce certification risks and support manufacturers in achieving type certification. The agreement strengthens Astronics' position as a power systems supplier to original equipment manufacturers developing advanced air mobility aircraft for the aerospace and defence markets.

MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS

Coltala Aerospace unites under one name



Coltala Aerospace President Phil Bathurst (l) and Chief Commercial Officer Suresh Narayanan (r) in the company's Dallas-Fort Worth facility *© Coltala Aerospace*

Coltala Aerospace has brought two of its businesses under a single brand, consolidating its aircraft structures repair and engineering operations. Evans Composites has been renamed Coltala Aerostructures, while ACD Consulting will operate as Coltala Aerotech Services (CATS). The two divisions will jointly serve commercial and military aviation customers. Evans Composites has 25 years of experience repairing composite and metal aircraft structures, while ACD Consulting specialises in repairs, modifications and alternative solutions to original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts. Since joining Coltala Aerospace, both businesses have expanded through investment, new management and operational improvements. The group now employs more than 100 people and operates approximately 100,000 ft² of facilities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, with additional engineering offices in Dallas and South Florida. The combined offering provides airlines, MRO providers, parts brokers, distributors, aircraft teardown companies and military customers with integrated repair and engineering services. The structure is designed to allow repair work and engineering solutions to be handled within the same organisation, including cases where existing maintenance manuals do not provide an approved repair procedure. "Evans and ACD were built by people who take pride in keeping aircraft flying. We kept that and gave it room to grow. Coltala Aerospace has the scale, systems and leadership to be the structures and engineering partner our customers can count on for decades," said Phil Bathurst, President, Coltala Aerospace.

Collins begins construction of propeller MRO in Bengaluru

Collins Aerospace (Collins) has begun construction of a new propeller MRO facility in Bengaluru, which will become India's first such operation authorised by a foreign aerospace original equipment manufacturer (OEM). The multi-million-dollar investment will establish in-country maintenance capabilities for advanced propeller systems used on ATR 42/72 regional aircraft and Airbus C295 military transport aircraft. The facility will serve customers across the Asia-Pacific region. The project builds on more than US$200 million invested by Collins in India over the past five years, covering engineering, manufacturing, testing and aftermarket services. The new centre will employ up to 50 specialist technicians and engineers, with staffing expected to increase as demand grows. Operations are scheduled to begin in early 2029. Collins India Operations Center (CIOC), which opened in November 2025, is a 26-acre aerospace manufacturing site at KIADB Aerospace Park in Bengaluru. It supports the production of more than 70 products, including mechanical, electromechanical and electronic systems, using technologies such as artificial intelligence and additive manufacturing.



Image of Collins Aerospace's new facility in India *© RTX*

ADE wins TransNusa A320 maintenance contract



TransNusa Airbus A320 *© AirTeamImages*

Asia Digital Engineering (ADE), through its Indonesian subsidiary Asia Digital Engineering Indonesia (ADEI), has been selected by TransNusa Airlines to provide line maintenance services for its Airbus A320 fleet in Jakarta and Denpasar, Indonesia. The agreement, marked by an official ceremony in Jakarta, strengthens ADE's commercial presence in Indonesia and expands its customer base across the Asean region. ADE will provide line maintenance for TransNusa Airline's A320 aircraft at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta and I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali. The services have been audited by Indonesia's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and TransNusa Airlines to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory and safety requirements.

MRO & PRODUCTION

Trelleborg and Farsound target aftermarket supply chain



The MoU was signed at the MRO Europe 2026 in Amsterdam
© *Trelleborg*

Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Aerospace (Trelleborg) and supply chain specialist Farsound Aviation (Farsound) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities to improve aerospace aftermarket supply chains and strengthen customer support. Signed at MRO Europe 2026, the agreement provides a framework for the companies to assess potential collaboration across aftermarket supply, technical support and services. Antonio R. Garcia, Global Director Aftermarket MRO at Trelleborg, said: “We are delighted to be working with Farsound to explore ways to optimise areas of our aftermarket supply chain for the benefit of our mutual customers. By combining Trelleborg’s aerospace polymer technology, engineering capabilities, manufacturing and aftermarket capabilities with Farsound’s supply chain expertise and customer connectivity, we see an opportunity to create a simpler and more responsive route to market.” The discussions will focus on customer and market opportunities, as well as ways to combine their capabilities in products, supply chain management, technical support and service solutions. The MoU marks an initial step towards closer cooperation, with both companies aiming to identify opportunities to deliver greater value to customers in the commercial aerospace aftermarket.

Ex-Change Parts expands Airbus Helicopters partnership

Ex-Change Parts AB has been appointed an authorised partner of Airbus Helicopters, strengthening its position in the global aftermarket and expanding its access to helicopter parts and services. The agreement increases collaboration between the two companies and provides Ex-Change Parts with access to a wider range of products for helicopter owners, operators and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) organisations worldwide. Under the agreement, Ex-Change Parts will promote its extensive inventory through Airbus Helicopters’ online marketplace, AirbusWorld. The company will also become an authorised partner and reseller of the manufacturer’s reconditioned and surplus parts inventory. In addition, Ex-Change Parts has been approved to resell pre-owned helicopters through Airbus Helicopters’ Trade-In programme. The offering includes both serviceable and non-serviceable aircraft from Airbus and other manufacturers. The agreement allows the Swedish company to supply Airbus products and services to civil, private and military helicopter owners, operators and MRO organisations worldwide. The appointment follows a multi-day on-site validation and approval process conducted by Airbus Helicopters at Ex-Change Parts’ facilities in Sweden. With more than 27 years of industry experience, the company operates a warehouse covering 4,000 m², two hangars and an inventory comprising more than 80,000 line items. Its quality credentials include ISO 9001:2015 and ASA-100 accreditations.



Airbus Helicopters packaging © *Ex-Change Parts*

Ryanair selects Seville for €500m engine MRO investment

Ryanair has selected Seville as the location for its first aircraft engine MRO facility, committing approximately €500 million (US$600m) to the project and creating more than 600 skilled jobs in Andalusia, Spain. The 28,000 m² facility at the Port of Seville will service the airline’s CFM56-7B and LEAP-1B engines. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2027, with operations expected to start in 2029. The investment is part of Ryanair’s plans to support fleet growth to 800 aircraft and annual passenger numbers of 300 million by 2034. The facility will be the first dedicated aircraft engine MRO operation in Andalusia. Ryanair also plans to establish an Engineering Academy in Seville to recruit and train aircraft technicians and engineers, creating a pipeline of skilled workers for the new operation. Seville is the first of two locations selected for Ryanair’s planned engine MRO facilities. The airline expects to confirm the second site in 2027. Together, the two facilities are expected to handle approximately 400 full engine overhauls annually and support an engine pool of up to 2,000 units by 2034.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Textron sells industrial business for US$1.2bn

Textron has agreed to sell its Industrial segment, comprising Kautex and Textron Specialized Vehicles, to an affiliate of Kingswood Capital Management for US$1.2 billion, as it moves to focus exclusively on its aerospace and defence operations. The transaction is expected to generate net cash proceeds of approximately US$1.1 billion after tax and transaction-related expenses. Following completion, Textron will become a pure-play aerospace and defence company, focused on its core businesses: Textron Aviation, Bell and Textron Systems. Chief Executive Lisa M. Atherton described the agreement as a defining milestone, saying the divestment would sharpen the company's strategic focus on growing its core aerospace and defence operations while providing opportunities to return capital to shareholders. The sale includes all Industrial businesses and brands, including Kautex, Pentatonic, Textron Specialized Vehicles, E-Z-GO, PACE Technologies, TUG Technologies, Douglas Equipment, Premier, Safeaero, Ransomes, Jacobsen and Cushman. The transaction is expected to close in the first half of 2027, subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions.

Kanematsu takes stake in US engine specialist AES

Japanese trading and investment company Kanematsu Corporation (Kanematsu) has acquired a stake in US-based Aero Engine Solutions (AES), expanding its presence in the aircraft engine aftermarket. The investment was made through Kanematsu USA Inc., its wholly owned subsidiary, which acquired an equity interest in a newly established holding company that owns AES. Founded in 2015, AES specialises in aircraft engine disassembly and the trading of used engine parts. The company has developed expertise in assessing engine condition and residual values, alongside relationships with airlines and other industry participants and a global sourcing and sales network. Its aftermarket business focuses primarily on CFM56 engines, which power narrow-body aircraft widely used on short- and medium-haul routes. AES provides parts and related services to airlines, maintenance providers and leasing companies. Kanematsu said the investment would support its strategy to expand its aviation business and capture growing demand for aircraft parts and engine-related services. The company plans to work with AES on opportunities including aircraft acquisitions with engines and cross-selling through the combined customer networks of AES and KG Aircraft Rotables.

MILITARY AND DEFENCE

DARPA selects Textron Systems for carbon-carbon technology



© Shutterstock

Textron Systems has been selected by the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to participate in the first phase of its Carbon Crunch programme, which aims to accelerate the production of carbon-carbon composites for advanced aerospace applications. The company will use its rapid densification manufacturing technology to develop faster and more scalable production methods for the high-temperature materials, which are used in systems such as hypersonic vehicles. The 18-month Phase 1 programme is expected to begin in late 2026. Textron Systems will produce representative densified carbon-carbon samples for evaluation by the US government. "Carbon Crunch represents a bold step towards accelerating the production of high-temperature materials for hypersonic systems," said Henry Finneral, SVP of Weapon Systems at Textron Systems. He said the company would draw on decades of experience in carbon-carbon technology, including the development of heat shields and nose tips. To support the programme, the company has established a manufacturing facility in Wilmington, Massachusetts, backed by independent research and development funding, investment in capital equipment and workforce expansion.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Canadian Coast Guard deploys Ramco aviation software



© Ramco Systems

The Canadian Coast Guard's Aircraft Services Directorate (ASD) has gone live with aviation software from enterprise aviation technology provider Ramco Systems, completing the first phase of a digital transformation programme covering inventory, procurement, repairs and component and shop maintenance across all its bases. Ramco Systems Canada Inc., a subsidiary of Ramco Systems Limited, said the deployment brings the ASD's operations onto a single platform, replacing fragmented processes and modernising its maintenance and inventory management in line with current technology standards. The ASD, formerly part of Transport Canada, provides federal aviation services to various government departments. Its transformation programme aims to equip employees with modern maintenance and inventory management tools while improving service delivery and ensuring full compliance with Canadian Aviation Regulations. With Phase 1 complete, the directorate has achieved real-time inventory visibility across all 14 bases and vessels nationwide. Aircraft-on-ground (AOG) demand planning is now handled electronically, while digital tracking of component maintenance routing and tighter master data controls have improved operational efficiency and record-keeping accuracy. The improvements are expected to reduce turnaround times for services provided to Canadian government entities. Ramco Aviation Software also integrates with the ASD's existing finance, training, human resources and reporting applications. The next phases of the programme, covering aircraft maintenance planning and execution, are under way. Once completed, all aircraft maintenance and supply chain operations will be managed through a single integrated system.

INDUSTRY PEOPLE



Kevin Boline

• Aero Composites and Structures (ACS) has brought **Kevin Boline** on board to strengthen its commercial capabilities and support the company's growth, drawing on his more than 25 years of leadership experience, including nearly two decades in the aviation industry. Boline has extensive experience in aerospace sales, strategic customer relationship management and operational leadership, with a track record of driving revenue growth, securing long-term contracts and developing customer partnerships. Before joining ACS, he held senior sales leadership positions at Spirit AeroSystems, overseeing global customer support and services. His responsibilities included managing relationships with major airlines and developing commercial opportunities across nacelle, flight control, radome and other composite repair programmes. During his time at Spirit AeroSystems, Boline helped expand the company's customer base, secure long-term agreements and support major commercial aircraft programmes, including the Boeing 737 MAX, 737 NG and 777. His work focused on revenue growth, profitability and customer satisfaction. Earlier in his career, Boline spent ten years at GE Aviation, holding several management positions in operations, production and engine services. His responsibilities included overseeing commercial engine programmes, leading cross-functional teams and improving production processes to reduce turn-around times while maintaining quality and safety standards.



Zhao Zengzhen

• HAECO has appointed **Zhao Zengzhen** as General Manager of HAECO Vietnam, where he will oversee the development of a new aircraft maintenance facility at Van Don International Airport. Zhao, currently director of operations at HAECO Xiamen, will take up the position on April 1, 2027. His initial focus will remain on operational delivery and the relocation to HAECO's new facility at Xiamen Xiang'an International Airport. He will gradually assume greater responsibility for the Vietnam project as it moves towards construction in the second quarter of 2027. The Van Don facility is being developed through a joint venture between HAECO, Sun Group, Toyota Tsusho and Japan Airlines as part of HAECO's long-term growth strategy in Asia. Subject to government and regulatory approvals, the US$360 million project will cover approximately 170,000 m² and include a four-bay wide-body hangar. Operations are targeted to begin in late 2028. The development is expected to create around 1,000 skilled jobs and bring HAECO's technical expertise and MRO technologies to Vietnam, supporting the development of the country's aviation maintenance industry.

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
(1) 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



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					
(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					
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		GA Telesis			
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				













OTHER NEWS



The Airbus-Air India feasibility study seeks to build a scalable framework to encourage wider participation by corporates across industry sectors *© Air India*

Air India and **Airbus** have signed an agreement to assess the feasibility of developing India's first voluntary corporate sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) programme, aimed at helping businesses reduce emissions associated with air travel. The feasibility study will examine a framework allowing companies to support the voluntary adoption of SAF through its procurement and use on selected routes, while accelerating aviation's decarbonisation. Under the proposed scheme, Air India would procure and use SAF and sell or transfer the associated Scope 3 SAF certificates (SAFc) to eligible corporate customers. This would allow participating businesses to account for the emissions reductions linked to SAF use in their air travel. Air India CEO and Managing Director Tewolde Gebremariam said collective action across the aviation industry would be essential to achieving its decarbonisation targets. The initiative would provide companies with a mechanism to support SAF adoption and reduce the emissions associated with business travel, while helping stimulate demand and scale up production in India, he said. Under the framework being evaluated, emissions savings would be calculated by comparing the lifecycle carbon footprint of SAF with that of conventional jet fuel, using internationally recognised standards. The verified reductions would enable participating companies to track and report their progress towards the aviation industry's ambition of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The study aims to establish a scalable model that encourages participation across different industry sectors and supports the development of a domestic SAF ecosystem. The initiative forms part of the broader environmental strategy of Air India and Airbus, which also includes fleet modernisation, more fuel-efficient aircraft, operational improvements, greater SAF adoption and market-based measures.

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ORIX Aviation Systems has launched its first aircraft leasing fund, Oris Aviation Fund LP, in partnership with **Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank** (SuMiTB), marking its entry into managing aircraft investment capital from institutional investors. The closed-end fund will acquire a portfolio of aircraft on lease to a diverse range of airlines from ORIX Aviation, which will continue to provide lease servicing for the assets. Equity has been raised from several limited partners, including ORIX Aviation, SuMiTB and Japanese financial institutions such as SBI Shinsei Bank. The fund has also secured debt financing backed by the aircraft portfolio. Citi acted as sole structuring agent, with Citi and MUFG providing the debt financing. SuMiTB served as placement agent and will oversee investor reporting and other fund administration activities throughout its term. Established in 1991, ORIX Aviation owns and manages a portfolio of approximately 270 aircraft. Its full-service operating lease platform provides asset management services covering aircraft acquisition, operations, maintenance monitoring, re-leasing and sales. Through its investment in Irish aircraft lessor Avolon and its recent acquisition of UK-based aircraft part-out specialist AerFin, ORIX has broadened its activities across the aircraft value chain.



ORIX and Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank jointly launch ORIX's first aircraft leasing fund *© ORIX Aviation*