MRO BUSINESS TODAY

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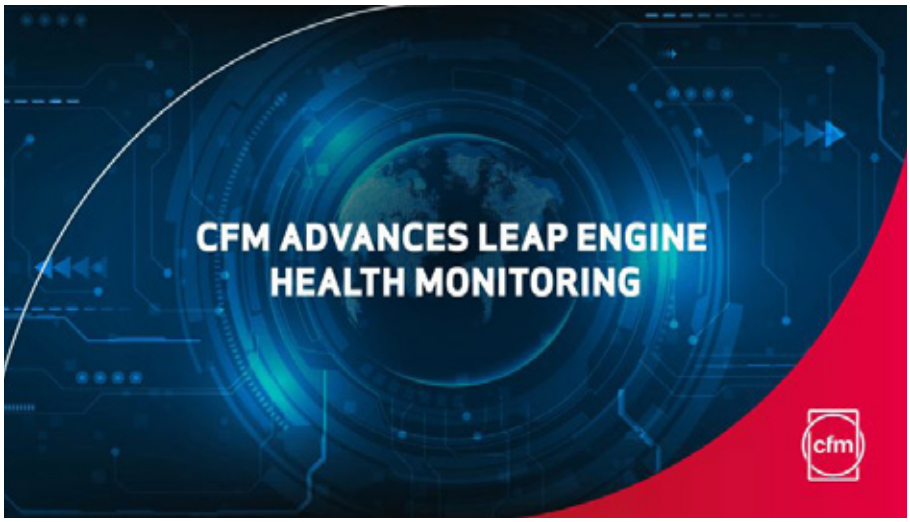
CFM enhances health monitoring for LEAP engine



CFM International is enhancing its engine health monitoring capabilities for LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B engines withthe updated system utilizing machine learning algorithms to analyze data from engine sensors during the phases of flight.

CFM International, a joint venture between GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines, is enhancing its engine health monitoring capabilities for LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B engines. With the LEAP engine fleet nearing 50 million flight hours and more operators coming on board, the introduction of machine learning to the monitoring system marks a significant advancement in predictive maintenance. As CFM International continues to innovate and collaborate with its partners, the future of aviation maintenance and operations looks promising, with advancements in predictive analytics driving greater efficiency and safety across the industry.

The updated system utilizes machine learning algorithms to analyze data from various engine sensors during different phases of flight, such as takeoff, climb, and cruise. By employing probabilistic diagnostic and prognostic tools, the system can generate more accurate operational models and provide targeted alerts based on known engine operating patterns. This leads to earlier detection of potential issues, allowing operators to take proactive maintenance measures.

"With the combination of this health monitoring system and the expertise of our global CFM fleet support team, we have achieved 60 percent earlier lead time in identifying preventative maintenance recommendations, a 45 percent increase in detection rates, and cut the number of false alerts in half over the past decade," said David Harper, Fleet Support Director, CFM parent company GE Aerospace.

CFM International has a rich history of utilizing health monitoring systems on engines like the CFM56, gaining valuable experience and expertise over the years. The incorporation of machine learning into the LEAP engine monitoring system builds on this foundation, resulting in improved accuracy, earlier detection, and reduced false alerts.

The collaboration between CFM International and its operator base exemplifies the industry's commitment to leveraging technology for continuous improvement in aviation safety and efficiency. By harnessing the power of machine learning and data analytics, CFM is setting new standards for engine health monitoring and predictive maintenance in the aviation sector.

"These state-of-the-art analytics are providing LEAP operators with the data they need to make informed, insightful decisions about fleet management," said Agathe Venard, Head of Fleet Data Engineering, CFM parent company Safran Aircraft Engines. "As a result, they gain a level of fleet stability they can rely on in their day-to-day operations," he further added.

CFM International's contributions to commercial aviation extend beyond engine technology. Since its inception in 1974, the joint venture has played a pivotal role in shaping the industry's trajectory, providing engines that prioritize efficiency, reliability, durability, and cost-effectiveness. The LEAP family of engines, along with ongoing support for CFM56 fleets, underscores CFM's position as a global leader in commercial aircraft engines.

GE Aerospace

Today we recommit ourselves to inventing the future of flight as GE Aerospace, now an independent publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange. A new era begins.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Piper Aircraft collaborates with DeltaHawk Engines to integrate diesel power on PA-44 Seminole aircraft

Piper Aircraft, Inc. and DeltaHawk Engines have signed a MOU to explore the integration of DeltaHawk's diesel engine technology into Piper's PA-44 Seminole aircraft investigating the feasibility of incorporating advanced propulsion systems.

Piper Aircraft, Inc. and DeltaHawk Engines have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore the integration of DeltaHawk's diesel engine technology into Piper's PA-44 Seminole aircraft. This collaboration signifies a joint effort to investigate the feasibility of incorporating advanced propulsion systems into Piper's renowned aircraft models. The MOU outlines plans for the development of a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) aimed at facilitating the installation of DeltaHawk's Diesel engine into both new and existing Seminole aircraft. This initiative represents a dedication to exploring alternative propulsion solutions that offer improved efficiency, performance, and environmental sustainability within general aviation.

Headquartered in Racine, Wisconsin, DeltaHawk Engines specializes in advanced-design FAA-certified jet-fueled piston engines for general aviation aircraft and hybrid power systems. The company holds numerous patents for its clean-sheet engine designs and boasts a team of experts dedicated to revolutionizing piston engine technology.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with Piper Aircraft on this exciting project," said Christopher Ruud, CEO, DeltaHawk. "Our advanced Diesel engine technology has been developed to meet the evolving needs of the aviation industry, and we see tremendous potential in integrating it into Piper's PA-44 Seminole. This partnership underscores our commitment to driving innovation and sustainability in aviation," he further added.

Piper Aircraft Inc., based in Vero Beach, Florida, is known for offering efficient and reliable single and twin-engine aircraft globally. Piper holds the distinction of being the first general aviation aircraft manufacturer to certify Garmin Autoland. The company's aircraft lineup includes the M-Class series for business and personal use, the Personal Class aircraft balancing performance and efficiency, and the Trainer Class aircraft designed for pilot training, including the Seminole.

"We are excited for this collaboration to install the DHK engine into the Seminole for many reasons, especially knowing the reliability of DeltaHawk's engines," said Marc Ouellet, VP of Engineering and Manufacturing, Piper Aircraft. "We are constantly seeking opportunities to innovate and advance our aircraft offerings. Working with DeltaHawk on this project aligns with our mission to explore cutting-edge technologies that can deliver significant benefits to our customers and the industry as a whole," he further added.

This collaboration between Piper Aircraft and DeltaHawk Engines represents a strategic move towards exploring innovative propulsion systems for general aviation. It underscores both companies' commitment to advancing technology, enhancing aircraft performance, and promoting sustainability in aviation.

Piper Aircraft Inc., based in Vero Beach, Florida, is known for offering efficient and reliable single and twin-engine aircraft globally.

CFM DELIVERING LEAP ENGINES THAT LOWER FUEL NOZZLE MAINTENANCE BURDEN

CFM anticipates that fuel nozzle replacement will primarily occur during performance restoration shop visits once the RBS is fully deployed throughout the fleet.

CFM handovers LEAP-1A engines with latest reverse bleed system to Airbus

CFM International has announced the shipment of the first production LEAP-1A engines equipped with its innovative reverse bleed system to Airbus to be retrofitted into the existing fleet by airlines and overhaul shops.

CFM International, a renowned leader in commercial aircraft engines, has announced the shipment of the first production LEAP-1A engines equipped with its innovative reverse bleed system (RBS) to Airbus. This milestone paves the way for the entry of these engines into commercial service by mid-year. Additionally, the new RBS configuration hardware will be retrofitted into the existing fleet by airlines and overhaul shops. CFM also plans to introduce the RBS on the LEAP-1B engine.

The LEAP-1A engine with the new RBS system, aimed at mitigating carbon build-up on fuel nozzles, received certification from the FAA and EASA in 2023. This achievement is expected to significantly reduce the need for on-wing fuel nozzle replacement and associated maintenance, thereby alleviating operational burdens. CFM anticipates that fuel nozzle replacement will primarily occur during performance restoration shop visits once the RBS is fully deployed throughout the fleet. The installation of the hardware, which can be completed on wing in as little as ten hours, is slated for availability in the second quarter of this year.

"CFM has always invested in product improvements designed to meet customer expectations for our engines. The reverse bleed system is the latest example of that commitment. The reverse bleed system is the latest example of that commitment," said Gaël Méheust, president and CEO of CFM International. "It is a testament to the ingenuity of our technical and customer teams, who designed a solution that seamlessly integrates with existing aircraft systems. This RBS is part of a broader plan to improve engine durability, that will see additional upgrades introduced throughout the year." said Gaël Méheust, president and CEO, CFM International.

Installation training for the RBS is being offered at four CFM facilities worldwide, including the GE Customer Technical Education Center (CTEC) in Springdale, Ohio, the Safran Aircraft Engines Customer Training Center (CTC) in Montereau, France, the Aero Engine Maintenance Training Center (AEMTC) in Guanghan, China, and CFM Aircraft Engine Support South Asia (CFMAESSA) in Hyderabad, India.

The CFM LEAP engine family, known for its advanced features, offers a remarkable 15 to 20 percent reduction in fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, along with significant noise reduction compared to previous-generation engines. Since its service debut in 2016, the LEAP engine has contributed to a reduction of over 32 million tons of CO2 emissions. CFM International takes pride in the success of the LEAP engine family, which has seen the fastest ramp-up of engine flight hours in the industry, surpassing 50 million hours and 20 million cycles in just over seven years.

CFM International, a joint venture between GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines, has played a pivotal role in shaping commercial aviation since its establishment in 1974. Today, CFM remains a global leader in commercial aircraft engines, setting industry standards for efficiency, reliability, durability, and cost optimization. The company's LEAP family of engines and support for LEAP and CFM56 fleets continue to serve operators worldwide, reaffirming CFM International's position as a trusted partner in the aviation industry.

AFI KLM E&M to support Airbus A320neo fleet of Transavia

Additionally, AFI KLM E&M will support CFM International's CFM56-7B engines with Transavia France and LEAP-1A engines with Transavia NL, Transavia France, and KLM.

AFI KLM E&M has signed two contracts for component support and engine MRO of Transavia's fleet of Airbus A320, A321neo jets and Boeing 737 aircraft including repair solutions, access to component pools, and the provision of a Main Base Kit (MBK).

AFI KLM E&M has recently extended its partnership with Transavia, solidifying their longstanding relationship with the signing of two crucial agreements for component support and engine maintenance. This development underscores AFI KLM E&M's dedication to delivering tailored solutions aimed at enhancing the operational efficiency and reliability of Transavia's fleet, particularly focusing on their Airbus A320 and A321neo aircraft as well as Boeing 737s.

Marcel de Nooijer, CEO, Transavia NL said, "As we embark on the next phase of our fleet modernization journey with the introduction of the A321neo aircraft, we are confident in AFI KLM E&M ability to provide comprehensive support that aligns with our operational objectives. This partnership reinforces our commitment to delivering a seamless and reliable travel experience for our customers and our commitment to reduce noise and CO2. We are excited to leverage AFI KLM E&M's expertise to maximize the efficiency and performance of our fleet."

The newly established component and engine support agreements encompass a wide array of services, including repair solutions, access to component pools, and the provision of a Main Base Kit (MBK). These services are designed to ensure flight readiness and optimize maintenance operations for Transavia NL and Transavia France's entire A320 and A321neo fleet. Additionally, AFI KLM E&M has finalized a significant engine agreement covering CFM International CFM56-7B engines with Transavia France and LEAP-1A engines with Transavia NL, Transavia France, and KLM.

These pivotal contracts not only highlight AFI KLM E&M's deep-rooted expertise and prowess in providing comprehensive engine support services but also cement its position as a trusted and indispensable partner for Transavia NL and Transavia France. The agreements reaffirm AFI KLM E&M's unwavering commitment to ensuring the operational reliability of Transavia's fleet, reflecting their dedication to delivering top-notch support and tailored solutions to enhance Transavia's operational efficiency.

"We are pleased to further strengthen our partnership with AFI KLM E&M through the signing of the new component and engine support contracts. At Transavia France, operational reliability and efficiency are paramount, and we trust AFI KLM E&M's expertise and commitment to support our fleet's maintenance needs. These agreements underscore our shared commitment to delivering exceptional service and value to our passengers, and we look forward to continuing our successful collaboration with AFI KLM E&M," said Olivier Mazzucchelli, CEO, Transavia France.

Transavia, an integral part of the Air France-KLM Group, boasts a robust network serving over 200 destinations across Europe and the Mediterranean region. With a strong focus on service quality, crew proximity, and continuous innovation, Transavia remains committed to providing an exceptional travel experience to its passengers. In 2022 alone, Transavia France successfully transported over 10.7 million passengers, solidifying its position as a leading low-cost airline and a preferred choice for travelers.

Anne Brachet, EVP Engineering & Maintenance, Air France- KLM said, "In forging these latest component and engines support agreements, we are proud to emphasize our continued dedication to delivering unparalleled support and cutting-edge solutions to our esteemed partners. We remain steadfast in our mission to meet the evolving needs of our customers, ensuring the highest standards of quality and reliability across all aspects of our partnership with Transavia NL and Transavia France."

AFI KLM E&M, backed by a workforce exceeding 12,800 professionals, offers a comprehensive range of technical support services for airlines worldwide. From engineering and line maintenance to engine overhaul and component management, AFI KLM E&M plays a pivotal role in supporting nearly 3,000 aircraft operated by major international and domestic carriers. Their ongoing collaboration with Transavia underscores their dedication to delivering top-notch support and innovative solutions, contributing to the overall success and efficiency of Transavia's operations.


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PRATT & WHITNEY GTF™ MRO NETWORK
As the GTF fleet grows, we're expanding MRO capacity around the world – in our shops and across a network of industry leaders. With 13 active locations worldwide and another six expected by 2025, we're sharing best practices, optimizing workscopes and driving innovation throughout the network – with automation, digital tools and advanced inspections and repairs. Together, we're redefining what's possible to support our customers.
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ENGINE AFTERMARKET PARTS MARKET TRENDS & INSIGHTS

Base Year	2023
Historical Data Time Period	2019-2023
Forecast Period	2024-2031
Global Aircraft Aftermarket Parts Market Sales Revenue 2022	$ 30.1 Billion
Global Aircraft Aftermarket Parts Market Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) for 2024 to 2031	6.5%

Data Credit: Cognitive Market Research

However, Fortune Market Insights say that globally, the MRO industry's size is expected to reach US$ 117.7 billion by 2031, from US$ 68.4 billion in 2021, growing at a CAGR of 5.6 percent. Whereas, the global aircraft aftermarket parts market is projected to grow from $31.22 billion in 2021 to $47.33 billion in 2028 at a CAGR of 6.12% in the forecast period (2024 – 2031).

Of the four segments of the MRO industry such as line maintenance, components, engines, and airframe, engine maintenance is likely to bring in the maximum revenue. This is because engines and airframes constitute 65–70 % of the work by value.

The above growth can be attributed to several factors, such as the growing popularity of air travel and expanding global aviation networks, (According to IATA, between February 2022 to

Figure 1: Global MRO market share (US$ billion)

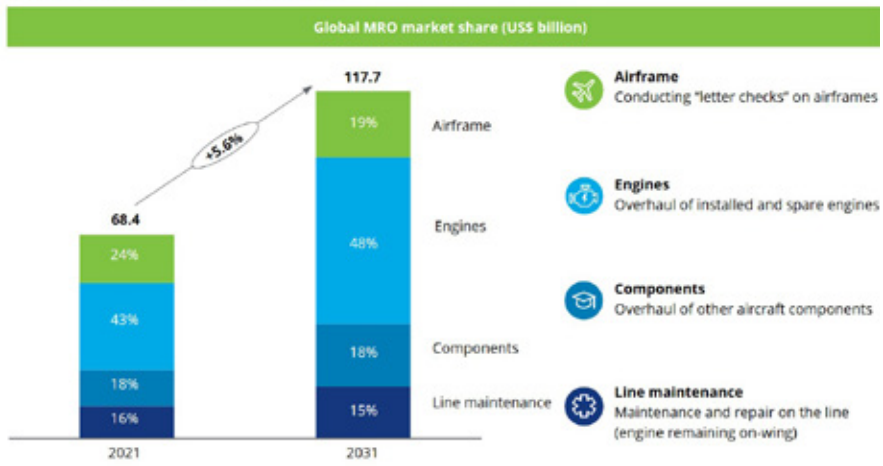

Image Courtesy : Deloitte

February 2023, total revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) increased by 55.5%).

With mature aircraft fleets requiring more frequent maintenance and replacement, adoption of cost-effective, fuel-efficient, and advanced engine technology, and last but not the least, regulatory requirements for safety and compliance will be the obvious triggers that would grow the global aircraft aftermarket parts market.

To the above, add the northward demand for air cargo, emergence of low-cost carriers, opting for predictive maintenance and sustainable aviation practices increase the importance of aftermarket parts in ensuring safe and environmentally responsible air travel.

The need to optimize operational efficiency, improve aircraft performance, and reduce downtime also drives the demand for aftermarket parts. Furthermore, the expansion of air travel keeps the demand up for aftermarket parts industry.

Given the criticality and complex structure of an aircraft engine, greater frequency and regularity in MRO services, parts repairs, and replacement are required. Thus, this is seen to result in growth of the aircraft aftermarket parts market. Afterall optimal performance and safety are paramount. Also, adherence to stringent regulatory requirements that engine maintenance creates the on-going demand for replacement parts, such as turbine blades, bearings, and gaskets, due to to high frequency use and stress that is brought about in use. Furthermore, newer engine technologies, offering greater fuel efficiency, all have necessitated airlines to increase spends towards engine modifications and upgrades.

Increasing Aircraft Fleet Age, Superior Cabin Interiors and Amenities, Demand for Replacement Parts Spurts Growth

Due to extended aircraft operations, various aircraft components, such as engines, landing gear, avionics, and aircraft interiors need replacement and refurbishing. While timely maintenance can extend the operational life of an aircraft, eventually, parts replacement will be required within the timeframes recommended by manufacturers.

The increasing average age of aircraft fleets directly correlates to increased demand for aftermarket parts, calls for innovation and investment in this industry.

Aftermarket component suppliers offer aviation customers products that are aviation compliant and meet safety standards. The airworthiness of aging aircraft is dependent on this, and that drives the aftermarket components market. The advantage for opting for aftermarket parts for buyers is their cost effectiveness, as airlines are often faced with balancing budgets and the need for remaining airworthy and carry out safe operations.

Aircraft Aftermarket Parts Market – It is a Competitive Market

The market for Aircraft Aftermarket Parts consists of original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), specialized parts suppliers, and maintenance providers. While OEMs offer proprietary components, being established brands, and can leverage their brand equity in the marketplace, the independent supplies players provide a huge cache of parts as a cost-effective proposition. MRO companies then come up with a gamut of solutions that include quality, price, availability, and customer centricity, thus heating up the competitiveness in the parts landscape.

OEMs have thus inked deals and collaborations with independent suppliers to increase their footprint and remain present over large geographical regions. Some significant partnerships are highlighted below:

- January 2021: ST Engineering announced that it had signed a 10-year agreement with Honeywell Aerospace to become Asia-Pacific's sole licensed MRO service provider in Asia-Pacific for Honeywell components installed on LEAP-series engines. ST Engineering is designated to provide component MRO and warranty repair services to all Asia-Pacific operators for Honeywell components deployed on the Airbus A320neo family, Boeing 737 MAX, and COMAC C919 engines. Reference – aviationbusinessnews.com
- May 2022: Boeing and Airline MRO Parts (AMP) entered a Tailored Parts Package (TPP) agreement, demonstrating a genuinely collaborative approach to meeting customer requirements. The contract establishes Boeing as a supplier for AMP's parts business and designates Boeing as a "Platinum Supplier." Boeing's Parts & Distribution Services team collaborated to submit a single proposal for all aspects of our parts business, thereby improving the efficacy of our response," according to Boeing.
- California, US, based Aero Precision was honoured as the '2019 Honeywell Channel Partner of the Year' for their exclusive worldwide tie-up for aftermarket distribution of Honeywell's interior and exterior lighting on all fixed and rotary wing military aircraft. The channel partnership has stood the test of time for over two decades.

Today, Aero Precision provides component management, modifications and upgrades, repair, and overhaul solutions, with a keen focus on customer service across the globe, offering over 20 military aircraft and products, from

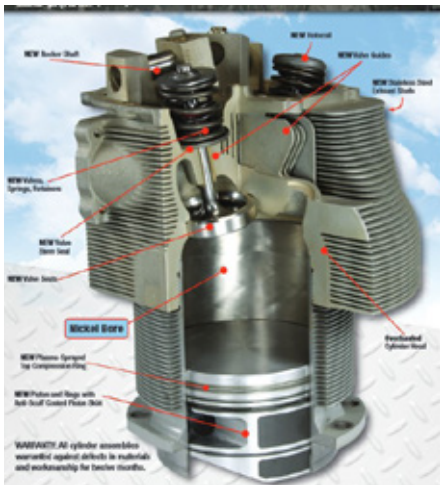

Image Courtesy : RAM Aircraft

more than 30 strategic OEM partners. With their acquisition of Kellstrom Defense, Aero Precision has established itself as one of the largest privately owned military aftermarket distributors in the Aerospace industry.

The above example is a clear indication of how partnerships and enhancement of services, with an ever-expanding global reach is possible, and a well-worked out strategy can deliver good results in the aircraft aftermarket parts market.

Aircraft Aftermarket Parts Market Buoyed by the Engine Segment

Engine components given their criticality, control the largest market share within the Aircraft Aftermarket Parts market. The engine component of an aircraft requires regular maintenance, repairs, and replacements to ensure optimal performance and safety. Constant demand for replacement parts, such as turbine blades, bearings, and gaskets, is necessitated by the high operational use and following regulatory safety mandates, especially so for engines.

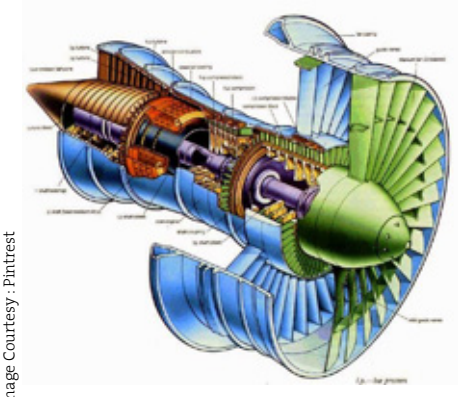

Image Courtesy : Pintrest

Additionally, advancements in engine technologies and the desire for increased fuel efficiency motivate airlines to invest in engine enhancements and modifications. Some of the key components of an aircraft are as appended:

- Engine
- Airframe
- Interior
- Cockpit Systems
- Others

Regions Leading in the Aftermarket Parts Market

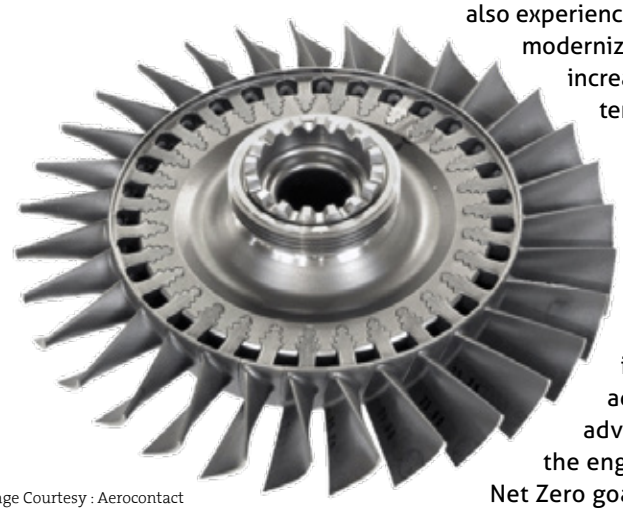

Image Courtesy : Aerocontact

The United States Aircraft Aftermarket Parts Anticipated to Grow at the Quickest Rate in North America -Forecast Period (2024- 2031)

According to Cognitive Market Research, the United States is expected to maintain its leading position in the North American region as a front-runner with established players and a mature market. The region's substantial aviation infrastructure, has the presence of major carriers, MRO facilities, and aerospace manufacturers. Advanced technological capabilities, with large airline networks, and a best-in-class regulatory environment, will naturally have an equally pronounced aircraft aftermarket parts market. Research and development and capabilities of heavy investments makes the U.S. aerospace industry remain in a leadership position.

Aircraft Aftermarket Parts to Witness the Fastest Growth in the Asia Pacific Region in the Forecast Period (2024-2031)

Due to various converging factors, the Aircraft Aftermarket Parts market is quickly expanding in the fastest-growing region. Increasing aircraft utilization in the region is necessitated by the region's increasing air travel demand, which necessitates frequent maintenance and part replacement. As airlines increase the size of their fleets, the demand for aftermarket parts increases. Moreover, a growing emphasis on safety, compliance with regulations, and passenger experience motivates investments in high-quality components. The region's emerging economies are also experiencing a rise in aircraft modernization initiatives, which increases the demand for aftermarket enhancements.

2050 Net Zero Goals and SAF to Remain in Focus – Positive Impact on the Aftermarket Parts Industry

'Sustainability' necessitates the adoption of newer and advanced technology in the engine segment, with Net Zero goals deadline coming closer each year. The aftermarket parts industry has moved towards its sustainability goals by cutting down on waste, with MROs switching to paperless operations.

Top Companies Market Share in Aircraft Aftermarket Parts Industry:

- The Boeing Company (The US)
- Collins Aerospace (The US)
- Honeywell International Inc. (The US)
- General Electric Company (The US)
- Eaton Technologies (The US)
- Meggitt PLC (The UK)
- UTC Aerospace Systems (The US)
- AJW Group (The UK)
- AAR Corp
- Parker-Hannifin
- Pratt & Whitney

Source:
aviationweek.com
cognitivemarketresearch.com
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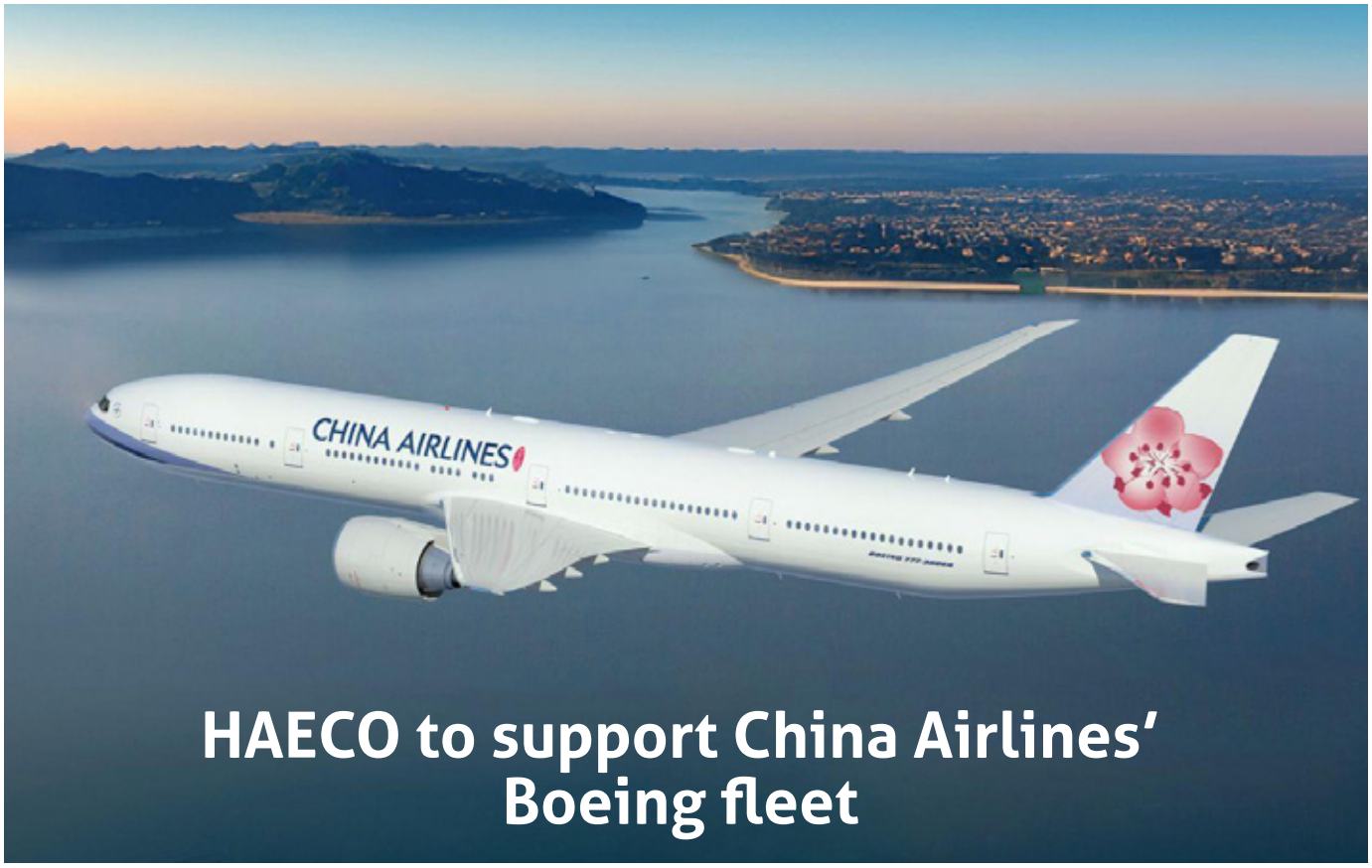

HAECO to support China Airlines' Boeing fleet

HAECO will support China Airlines' Boeing 777 fleet until 2032 including 10 B777-300ER and 10 B777-20W0 P2F jets with services like component pooling, MRO management, AOG support, and onsite consignment stock provision in Taipei.

HAECO, a renowned aircraft engineering and maintenance service provider, has recently announced the extension of its partnership with China Airlines, a prominent Taiwan-based carrier. This contract renewal encompasses inventory technical management and landing gear services, showcasing HAECO's steadfast dedication to delivering top-notch services to its esteemed customer. China Airlines, a member of the SkyTeam Alliance, provides passengers access to a vast global network with over 10,770 daily flights to 1,050 destinations in 166 countries. The airline prioritizes safety, quality, eco-friendly practices, and innovative services to ensure a seamless and enjoyable travel experience for passengers and consignors alike.

Under the extended agreement, HAECO will provide comprehensive inventory technical management services to China Airlines' entire fleet of Boeing 777 aircraft until 2032. This includes 10 Boeing 777-300ER and 10 Boeing 777-200 freighter aircraft. The services comprise component pooling, repair management, reliability management, Aircraft on-Ground (AOG) support, and onsite consignment stock provision in Taipei.

"We are honoured to extend our partnership with China Airlines and provide our diverse range of services to support their fleet operations," said Gerald Steinhoff, Chief Commercial Officer, HAECO. "With our team's proven track record and expertise, state-of-the-art facilities and strong commitment to exceeding our customer expectations, HAECO stands as a highly valued partner for China Airlines. We look forward to deepening our collaboration further to contribute to their continued success," he further added.

Simultaneously, HAECO will continue offering landing gear overhaul services to China Airlines' 10 Boeing 777-300ER aircraft until 2027. As an authorized repair center in the Chinese Mainland and Asia Pacific, HAECO's landing gear services facility in Xiamen has been serving China Airlines' Boeing 747-400 freighter since 2014. This extension reflects the strong partnership and successful collaboration between the two companies.

HAECO Group, a leading player in aircraft engineering and maintenance services, offers a wide array of solutions such as airframe services, inventory technical management, component overhaul, landing gear services, engine services, parts manufacturing, and technical training. With 16 operating companies and approximately 15,000 staff worldwide, HAECO Group is dedicated to delivering exceptional services across the aviation industry.

The partnership extension between HAECO and China Airlines signifies a continued commitment to excellence, reliability, and customer satisfaction in the aviation sector. As both companies collaborate closely, they aim to enhance operational efficiency, maintain high-quality standards, and contribute to the success of China Airlines' fleet operations.

Indian aero parts maker JJG Aero secures $12 million in funding from CX Partners

JJG Aero has secured a substantial investment of $12 million from CX Partners marking JJG Aero's first round of external funding to fuel its ambitious expansion plans for rapid growth with an impressive annual increase target of 35%.

JJG Aero, a prominent aerospace components manufacturer based in Bengaluru, the aerospace hub of India, has recently secured a substantial investment of $12 million from CX Partners, a leading private equity firm. This funding marks JJG Aero's first round of external funding and is expected to fuel its ambitious expansion plans. Alongside JJG Aero, another aerospace startup based in Hyderabad, Jeh Aerospace, has also received a significant boost with a $2.75 million funding round led by General Catalyst, a venture capital firm based in San Francisco.

The investment from CX Partners comes at a crucial time for JJG Aero as it aims for rapid growth with an impressive annual increase target of 35%. The company, founded in 2008, specializes in producing custom-machined components primarily for the commercial aerospace sector. However, it also caters to clients in the automotive and industrial segments. Its customer base includes renowned original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and tier-1 vendors situated in the US and Europe.

Anuj Jhunjhunwala, the founder and CEO of JJG Aero, expressed enthusiasm about the funding and the company's growth trajectory. He emphasized JJG Aero's decade-long efforts in establishing top-tier capabilities, robust processes, compliance standards, strong customer relationships, and acquiring necessary approvals and certifications. These foundational elements have positioned the company to embark on a phase of rapid expansion and innovation.

The funding infusion will primarily be directed towards enhancing JJG Aero's manufacturing capacity at its new facility, along with supporting various corporate initiatives aimed at further vertical integration. With a track record of consistent annual growth at 35% over the past three years, JJG Aero is poised to capitalize on the increasing demand within the aerospace industry's supply chain.

In recent times, the aerospace sector has experienced a surge in demand from aircraft manufacturers, leading to challenges in the supply chain. Legacy vendors have struggled to meet this heightened demand, resulting in delays in the production of new planes. This dynamic has created opportunities for agile and innovative companies like JJG Aero to step in and address critical gaps in the market.

Currently, JJG Aero operates three manufacturing facilities located in the Bommasandra-Jigani area near Bengaluru, boasting a dedicated team of 700 skilled professionals. The company is now gearing up to establish an additional facility specifically tailored to the aerospace segment. This strategic move aligns with JJG Aero's vision of expanding its footprint and bolstering its capabilities to meet the evolving needs of the aerospace industry.

The funding received by Jeh Aerospace, based in Hyderabad, is also significant as it underscores the growing interest and investment in the aerospace and defense manufacturing sector in India. General Catalyst's support will enable Jeh Aerospace to further its innovative initiatives and contribute to the advancement of the country's aerospace ecosystem.

Overall, these developments highlight the momentum and potential within India's aerospace industry, with companies like JJG Aero and Jeh Aerospace poised for accelerated growth and impactful contributions to the global aerospace landscape.

AAR upgrades V2500 engine component distribution contract with Sumitomo Precision Products

AAR CORP has extended and expanded its IAE AG V2500 engine components distribution contract with Sumitomo Precision Products Co., Ltd. supporting the V2500 engine components, like the pneumatic starter and starter control valve.

AAR CORP., a prominent provider of aviation services to commercial and government operators, MROs, and OEMs, has recently finalized an extension and expansion of its partnership with Sumitomo Precision Products Co., Ltd. (SPP) regarding the distribution of the IAE International Aero Engines AG V2500 engine components. This agreement signifies AAR's commitment to providing continued support for V2500 engine components, particularly the pneumatic starter and starter control valve, under an exclusive distribution arrangement with SPP throughout the program's lifespan. Additionally, the contract now encompasses AAR's exclusive distribution of all V2500 starter/valve subcomponents.

AAR, headquartered in the Chicago area, operates globally in over 20 countries and serves its diverse commercial and government customers through four key operating segments: Parts Supply, Repair & Engineering, Integrated Solutions, and Expeditionary Services.Paige Immordino, Vice President of Distri-

bution – Commercial,

AAR said, "AAR is proud to expand and extend our support of Sumitomo Precision Products on this critical engine component." Immordino added, "We continuously explore opportunities to simplify the supply chain for our customers. By expanding this agreement to include global piece part support, we can serve as a designated source for their V2500 pneumatic starter and starter control valve needs."

Sumitomo Precision Products Co., Ltd., based in Hyogo, Japan, is a subsidiary of Sumitomo Corporation and specializes in various aerospace equipment, including heat exchangers, hydraulic controls, MEMS sensors, micro-electronics technology, and environmental systems. With over half a century of experience in aerospace equipment design and manufacturing, the company has established itself as a reliable supplier of traditional propellers, landing gears, pneumatic equipment, and heat exchangers globally.

"This relationship enables us to better serve V2500 operators and repair facilities through compressed lead times, 24/7 AOG support, and global stocking locations," said Kenro Itakura, Executive Vice President and GM of Aerospace Division, Sumitomo Precision Products Co. "AAR has been a valued partner to Sumitomo Precision Products since 2017, and we are pleased to extend our distribution relationship through this agreement," he further added.

The extension and expansion of this distribution agreement between AAR and Sumitomo Precision Products represent a collaborative effort to enhance support for V2500 engine components, ensuring efficient supply chain management and exceptional service for operators and repair facilities worldwide.

Ontic and Boeing sign exclusive distribution contract

Ontic and Boeing have signed a new 10-year distribution contract, expanding Boeing's offerings to include the TRAS and PECU product lines encompassing approximately 1,000 actuation and propulsion system products across various aircraft platforms.

Boeing's distribution portfolio for Ontic also encompasses fuel controls, actuation, MWD, lighting, interior electronics, wipers product lines, and business and general aviation displays.

Ontic and Boeing are strengthening their exclusive distributor partnership with a new 10-year distribution agreement, expanding Boeing's offerings to include the TRAS (thrust reverser actuation system) and PECU (propeller electronic control unit) product lines. Overall, this extended partnership between Boeing and Ontic signifies a commitment to delivering top-notch products and services, supporting customers' operational needs, and driving innovation and growth in the aerospace aftermarket sector.

This addition encompasses approximately 1,000 actuation and propulsion system products across various aircraft platforms, marking a significant milestone in their collaboration. Boeing's distribution portfolio for Ontic also encompasses fuel controls, actuation, MWD (memory wheel device), lighting, interior electronics, wipers product lines, and business and general aviation displays, serving a wide range of civil and military aircraft platforms.

The TRAS product line supports a range of engines and aircraft platforms, including the General Electric CF6-50/80 series for aircraft like the Airbus A300/310/330, Boeing B747/767, DC10, KC10, MD11, VC-25A, C-5M, and C-2; GE CF-34 for CL600/CRJ Series; Rolls Royce RB 211 for the B747-400; and Rolls Royce Trent 900 and GE GP700 for the A380. On the other hand, the PECU plays a critical role as a Line Replaceable Unit (LRU) for the Dowty R408 series propeller system used in the De Haviland Canada DHC-8/Q400.

"We are thrilled to announce this significant milestone in our partnership with Ontic," said Travis Sullivan, vice president and general manager, Boeing Distribution. "This collaboration not only expands our product offerings, but also reinforces our commitment to delivering world-class support to our engine operators," he further added.

Boeing's vast portfolio exceeds 15 million parts, chemicals, services, and tailored solutions, offering a comprehensive range of options to reduce cost, risk, and complexity for customers across defense, commercial, rotorcraft, business, and general aviation sectors.

"As we continue to grow our product-line portfolio, we need a partner that can grow with us. Boeing's breadth and depth of network ensures our customers will get the right part at the right time," said Brian Sartain, chief operating officer,

Ontic. "Delivering parts to our airline customers on time and ensuring the highest level of quality is our highest priority. Boeing is a trusted partner in the aftermarket with customer relationships that span the globe," he further added.

Ontic, as a leading global aerospace OEM, specializes in providing complex engineered parts and repair services for established aircraft in both defense and commercial markets. Their expertise and focus on quality and reliability make them a trusted partner in the aerospace industry.

AEGEAN to acquire 4 upgraded long-range Airbus A321neo jets

AEGEAN Airlines has made a strategic decision to invest in an extended range and upgraded cabin quality version on 4 Airbus A321neo jets having additional fuel tanks, enabling flights of up to 7.5 hours and making them ideal for non-EU markets.

AEGEAN Airlines has made a strategic decision to invest in an extended range and upgraded cabin quality version of the Airbus A321neo, creating a "special purpose" sub-fleet initially comprising four aircraft. These specially configured A321neo aircraft will have additional fuel tanks, enabling flights of up to 7.5 hours and making them ideal for non-EU markets, particularly to the South and South-East of Greece. The cabin configuration will be significantly different, offering higher comfort levels for both Economy and Business Class passengers with a reduced seat count from the standard A321neo version.

Key features of these upgraded aircraft include satellite connectivity, in-flight entertainment (IFE screens) in every seat, and a premium lie-flat seat Business Class product. AEGEAN plans to host a media event in Q2 2024 to showcase these new product features to the public.

The airline intends to use this new product to serve existing and potentially new non-EU destinations with flight times ranging from approximately 4 to 7.5 hours. Examples of these destinations include various locations in the Gulf region, Central Africa, and Asia. By offering an extended range and higher comfort, AEGEAN aims to capture opportunities in these longer flight markets typically served by carriers with superior cabin configurations.

Dimitris Gerogiannis, CEO, AEGEAN said, "We believe in the great opportunity for AEGEAN and for our country that lies in developing markets beyond the EU, either in the Gulf area, Africa or in regions of Asia which could be served with a special, extended range, version of the A321neo given our location in the southeast edge of Europe. We further recognize the necessity of a cabin with a significantly higher comfort and experience features to effectively represent AEGEAN's service values, for our passengers in these markets. We are making a significant investment in the extended range and a totally new level of comfort for an initial four aircraft sub-fleet to give our crews the right tool to best represent AEGEAN values for these longer flight markets. It's one more big step towards growing our reach and capabilities and we look forward to welcoming our passengers from these markets to this new level of experience with us in the years to come."

In late 2023, AEGEAN exercised options for three additional Airbus A321neo aircraft and converted five firm orders from A320neo to A321neo. This brings the total number of A320/321 family neo aircraft to 50, with 29 of them being A321neo. Out of these, 25 will have the standard configuration while four will be upgraded with the new "special purpose" configuration for longer-range destinations. AEGEAN has already received 28 Airbus 320/321 neo aircraft, with an additional 22 expected to be delivered between 2024 and 2028.

This strategic move by AEGEAN reflects its commitment to growth, expanding its reach into new markets while ensuring passengers experience enhanced comfort and service quality on longer flights.

Ramco Systems Redefines Industry Standards with Advanced Software Solutions at the Forefront of Aviation Innovation

In the dynamic landscape of aviation technology, Ramco Systems stands out as a pioneering force, driving innovation and efficiency through its comprehensive suite of aviation, ERP, and logistics software solutions. With a keen focus on meeting the evolving needs of airlines, MRO providers, and aviation businesses, Ramco's software offerings integrate cutting-edge technologies such as AI, machine learning, and blockchain to deliver unparalleled value and streamline critical operations. In this exclusive interview, we delve into Ramco Systems' visionary approach, core functionalities, strategic vision for the future, and commitment to customer satisfaction. ***MRO Business Today*** *in conversation with* ***Saravanan Rajarajan S (SARAN) Director -Solution Consulting Ramco Systems.*** *Read On...*

Q - How does Ramco's aviation software cater to the specific needs of airlines, MRO providers, and aviation businesses in terms of fleet management, maintenance, and compliance?
A - Ramco Aviation Solution is a fully web-centric application developed from the ground up specifically for the aviation industry. The solution offers an integrated platform for the Airline, 3rd party MRO, Defense, and Heli customers to manage their functions like Maintenance and Engineering, Supply Chain, Safety, Tecbhical records, Planning, and Financial Control

Ramco's MRO solution helps digitally transform complex MRO processes. The integrated solution helps in a wide range of functions, from Workscope induction to customer delivery and invoicing. Advanced capabilities, such as Digital task cards, Kitting and due parts tracking, mobility-based work execution, Critical path, and turnaround time (TAT) management, help eliminate paper and inefficiencies.

Key advantages or Ramco ERP software apart from the Integrated nature is through:

Engineering & CAMO	Maintenance	Supply Chain		MRO & Part Sales	Flight Operations	Safety, Quality,Compl.	Manufacturing	Employee Management	Finance & Accounting
Configuration Management	Line Maintenance	Parts Administration	Supplier Management	Customer Management	Journey Log Entry	Compliance Reporting	Product Data Management	Employee Information	Enterprise Setup
Maintenance Program	Hangar Maintenance	Warehouse Management	Procurement Administration	Contract Management	Flight Charter Contracting	Quality Audit Management	Planning and Scheduling	Certifications & Qualification	General Accounting
Technical Records	Engine Maintenance	Material Planning	Repair & Exchange Mgt.	Customer Order Management	Flight Sheet Management	Occurrence Reporting	Manufacturing Execution		Accounts Payable
AD & SB Management	Shop Maintenance	Stock Management	Loan & Borrow	Quotation and Pricing	Crew Scheduling	Standard Reliability	Engineering Change		Accounts Receivable
Maintenance Planning	Tool & GSE Management	Physical Inventory & CC	PBH & Consignment	Part Pooling & Exchanges	EFB Central				Management Accounting
Task Card Management	Dent & Buckle Administration	Inventory Analysis	Claims & Warranty Mgt.	Part Sale Management	Flight Contract Invoice				Fixed Assets
Library Management	Assignments & Time Tracking	Scrap Management	Goods Receipt	MRO Warranty					MRO Invoice
e-Publication	e-Signoff	Shipping	Part Kitting & Marshalling						Financial Posting Engine

Enterprise Add-ons

Hubs			Mobility		Platforms		In-memory Planning & Optimization (iPO)		Eco-System	
Work Reporting Hub	Procurement Hub	Customer Order Hub	Warehouse Anywhere	Approval Anywhere	Workflow	Integration Gateway (iRIS)	Resource Optimization	Inventory Optimization	SPEC 2000	FedEx, DHL Integration
Shop – Quick Actions Hub	Inventory Hub	Fixed Asset Hub	Mechanic Anywhere	Tool Anywhere	Dashboards	MAIL IT	Digitization		Customer Portal	OEM Data Interface
Technical Records Hub	Repair Hub	Accounts Payable Hub	Manage Anywhere	Fly Anywhere (EFB)	AI / ML	BoTs	Digital Task Card			
Engineering Hub	Demand Hub	Financial closure Hub	Line Anywhere (Offline)	Crew Anywhere	Report Writer	I-Extension Development Kit				
Engine Visit Hub	Part Kitting Hub	Fleet Overview Hub	Route Anywhere		E-forms					

Fig : Ramco Aviation Software Modules

Q - Ramco Systems is known for its ERP software solutions. What are the core functionalities and advantages of Ramco's ERP software?
A - Ramco Aviation Solution's Core function is Managing Continuous Airworthiness and work execution from Lines, Hangars, and Shops, Inventory and procurement, Customer Services, and quality control.

Digitalization of OEM documents: Ramco's MRO software can process the PDF-based, XML/SGML-based technical documents. Also, with its Direct EDI capabilities, it can access the OEM's technical documentation library from the place of work through secure logins and API interfaces. This increases the operational efficiencies, by reducing the time and effort required to process the technical contents.

Smart automation: Aviation maintenance processes generate wealth of data pertaining to the aircraft engine defects, parts consumed, labor hours, elapsed time to carry out the repair and overhaul procedure. Accumulated over time, this data can become a goldmine of information to gain insights. Ramco, with its AI/ML capabilities, derives the insights in all key processes such as work scope planning & estimation, Production planning & scheduling, and other supply chain aspects and automate the core operations and help customers gain an edge over the competition.

Mobility-enabled shop floor work execution:
Ramco's mechanic anywhere mobile app helps the mechanics to book time, report findings and record measurements, request parts and tools, and access the technical documents from the place of work. With the required regulatory approvals that are easily acquired through mobile apps, task and work compliance can be complied with digital e-signoff.

Ecosystem Integration:
The seamless flow of data between the ecosystem partners such as suppliers, Customers , shipping partners, banking system is essential for augmenting operational efficiency. Ramco's MRO solution enables a robust customer ecosystem through customer portal , Bots and EDI connectivity thus providing the dual advantage of boosting efficiency and improving the delivery of value to the customers.

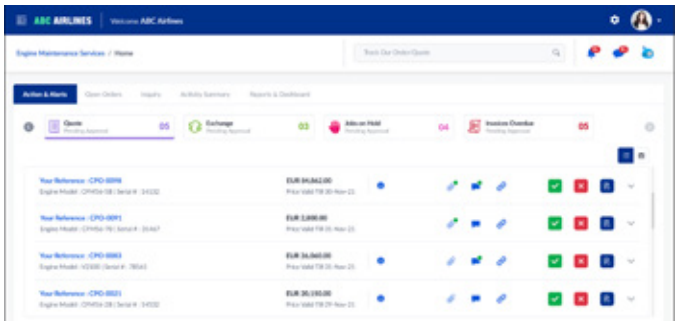

Fig : Collaboration with Customer through Portal

Real-time KPI monitoring & Analytics:
Our integrated data analytics provides KPIs related to TAT, quality, cost, resource utilization, and warranties and are computed dynamically without any need for manual consolidation and preparation. This makes way for a transparent and timely availability of insights for better decision-making.

Q - How does Ramco's ERP software integrate with other systems and streamline business processes for organizations?
A - For any MRO software to function effectively, the data from the 3rd party systems has to be seamlessly integrated.Ramco has the prebuilt APIs to connect with the Flight operations systems , Human resource systems and vendor and customer systems .
For example, enabling collaboration and data sharing with supplier systems extends stock visibility outside organizations. Ramco has the SPEC 2000 adapters for Procurement and Repairs, which digitally exchange the entire process of ordering and repairing parts.

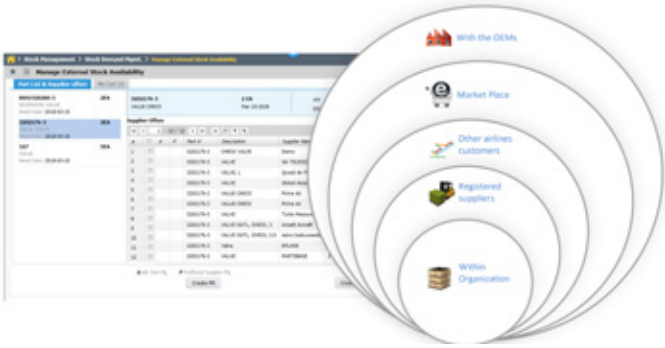

Fig : Digital enablement & collaboration with Suppliers

Digital collaboration can be extended to other partners like airlines for exchanging the Maintenance work scope, OEMs for receiving Maintenance Manual and service bulletins, and parts suppliers for receiving stock availability,

Fig : Digital enablement & collaboration with MRO eco systems partners

Q - How does Ramco's logistics software optimize supply chain operations, improve inventory management, and enable real-time tracking and visibility?
A - One of the more pressing issues in Aviation is insufficient supply to cater to the rising demand from OEM and after-sales. Ramco Aviation software leverages data and analytics to enable real-time visibility of supply chain status.
Data on Parts across the organization, e.g., from the supply position in the warehouse, in transit, under, due from the supplier, Unserviceable pending for Repairs, and from the demand position Pending Demand from ongoing work orders, forecasts are updated on a real-time basis and presented to users in a user-friendly manner for decision-making.

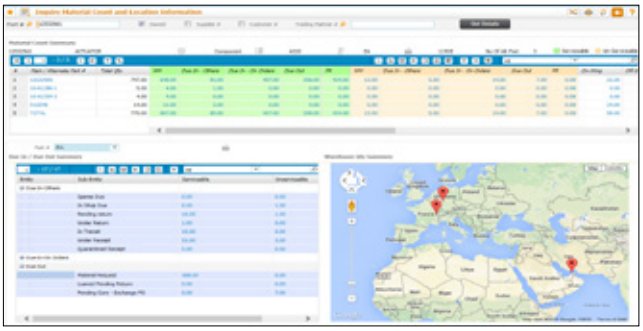

Fig : Real time Visibility of Supply Chain

Q - In what ways does Ramco Systems incorporate emerging technologies such as AI, machine learning, and blockchain into its software solutions to drive efficiency and value for customers?

A - MRO Maintenance process typically generate wealth of data pertaining to the defects, Parts consumed, Labor hours, elapse time etc . Accumulated over the time this data can be converted into a competitive advantage by leveraging AI/ML tools.

RAMCO's Machine Learning capabilities leverages data and advanced algorithms to derive insights .For Example, While mechanics report the defect , by leveraging the historical records pertaining to the type of aircraft and ATA system suggest similar defects and based on the mechanic's decision, the systems prompt the the resolution options, Reference manuals, and parts and tools required to fix the defect . Final determination of accepting the recommendations still lies with the mechanics, we have seen a 30% reduction Turn Around Time especially in Line maintenance functions .

Fig : Decision Assist for mechanics by leveraging Machine Learning

We are working on the proof of concept to demonstrate the use of blockchain to digitally track and record the movements and maintenance history of parts across airlines, lessors, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as engine producers, logistics suppliers, and maintenance providers.

For blockchain to yield tangible benefits, it needs the network effect for information sharing. Currently, there are challenges with siloed blockchain networks, which limit the potential. Another limiting factor is whether the chain includes all the supply chain players, including the MROs, Tier 2 & 3 Suppliers, etc. Arriving at the standards for the industry to adopt is a challenge.

Q - How does Ramco Systems ensure customer satisfaction and ongoing support to maximize the value derived from its software implementations?

A - We have a multi-layered customer engagement process, from tactical software support requirements to strategic periodic business reviews. Customer inputs are taken during the Project Blueprinting, Support Tickets classified as New Requirements, Surveys, and Usage audits; these are evaluated and prioritized for the product roadmap.

We also work with our customers on a Co-Creation model for specific business needs leveraging next-generation technologies and for early adoption of new capabilities.

Periodic assessment audits were carried out on usage, and recommendations were provided to improve utilization. We continuously work with our customers to upgrade and train them on the new versions to maximize the value delivered.

Q - What are Ramco Systems' plans and strategies for future growth and expansion, both in terms of product development and market reach?

A - We have released of our latest version, 5.9.6 (Refer Press release) the software can cater to the complex Engine MRO business . Our latest order reinforces this win with Korean Air (Refer Press release)

With the MRO sector grappling with an Overloaded supply chain and labor shortages , having an innovative solution is no longer an option but a necessity if it is to avoid scaling back on growth. Our Product focus will be balanced between focussing on future growth engines like MRO and EVTOLS and still agument our existing customer bases which include Heli , Airline and defense.

Q - How does Ramco envision the role of technology evolving in the coming years, and how does the company plan to stay ahead of industry trends?

A - The value delivered by software increases as it adopts new technologies, thereby providing operational efficiencies to end customers. We continuously invest in and leverage new technologies like ML, Digital OCR, Bots, Mobility, and Business Analytics into our product.

We work with our customers continuously to identify the pain points and apply appropriate technologies to solve the problem. We believe the process is continuous as the business landscape changes, the challenges, and the opportunity for software evolve to deliver value.

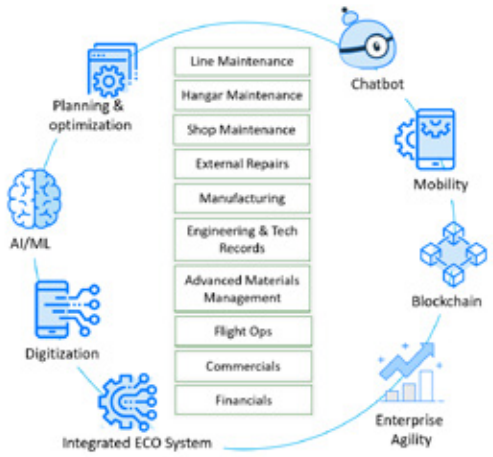

Fig : Leveraging new Generation technologies

We are currently exploring the possibilities of applying Generative AI, which has advanced rapidly, to our product. Gen AI has a potential future as the MRO industry relies on different data sources, both internal and external, which is nonstandard. Gen AI could allow mechanics to have a meaningful and trustworthy conversation with their data . Leveraging our MRO Lab in Singapore, we are actively working with our customers on specific use cases.

Saravanan Rajarajan S (SARAN)
Director -Solution Consulting - **Ramco Systems**.

Montana Aerospace handovers first Airbus A350F jet floor grid

Montana Aerospace with Airbus Aerostructures by successfully industrializing and manufacturing the floor grid section for the Airbus A350F aircraft as an aluminum extrusion supplier of Airbus in unprecedented time.

Montana Aerospace handovers first Airbus A350F jet floor grid

Montana Aerospace achieved a milestone with Airbus Aerostructures by successfully industrializing and manufacturing the floor grid section for the Airbus A350F aircraft in unprecedented time. The milestone was celebrated at a special ceremony, which took place on April 9, 2024, at Nordenham, where the company's delegates are invited by Airbus to commemorate the historic milestone between the two partners.

Montana Aerospace delivered a floor grid section for the A350F as an aluminum extrusion supplier of Airbus. This all sorts of one-stop-shop concept offered by Montana Aerospace to its customers, including raw material processing to the final product assembly. All the product development work on the floor grid section was accomplished under Montana Aerospace at its division, Universal Alloy Corporation (UAC), which has the company's competences in complex aluminum extrusion and machining.

Kai Arndt, Co-CEO, Montana Aerospace said, "UAC is turning into a real global player. The being a supplier for the Airbus A350F most clearly demonstrates this and also reflects the many years of good cooperation with Airbus."

The floor grid section manufacturing project involved the use of heavy press extrusion with aluminum-lithium materials, which was processed on one of the largest heavy presses in North America. The selection of aluminum-lithium alloy material provided a significant weight saving, improving the fuel economy of the A350F aircraft.

This project falls under the global investment program of over 650 million Euros and aims at enlarging and increasing the firm's extrusion business in Europe, besides improving its one-stop-shop concept. In this respect, the company has invested significantly during the past 48 months to expand its service and product portfolio, focusing on critical and complex components for the commercial aircraft. This strategic investment aims to position Montana Aerospace as a trusted partner to its customers in the aviation industry.

The achievement of the floor grid section for the A350F validates Montana Aerospace's ability to deliver innovation, excellence, and collaboration to keep up with the changing horizons of the aerospace industry.

SmartLynx Airlines to make cabin interior upgrades worth over €6 mn

SmartLynx Airlines has invested over 6 mn EUR to enhance cabin interiors and adjust maintenance processes including the acquisition of Recaro seats, premium carpets, and seat covers for the Airbus A320/A321 fleet to be completed by end 2024.

SmartLynx Airlines, a leading European ACMI provider in the Avia Solutions Group, has recently invested over 6 million EUR to enhance cabin interiors and adjust maintenance processes in order to offer a superior customer experience. They include the acquisition of Recaro seats, premium carpets, and seat covers and a whole range of investments in upgrading the cabin experience. Additionally, SmartLynx has bolstered its technical team with extra staff, including more specialists in cabin maintenance tasks.

One of the main investments includes the purchase of Recaro seats for the Airbus A320/A321 family of aircraft. Installation of these seats began in 2024 and is planned to be completed by the end of 2024. This is being done because Recaro seats are considered one of the best for durability, seat cover upgrades, and general quality, with designs and materials that are fresh and ergonomic."Cabin experience plays a crucial role in ensuring client satisfaction. Investing in cabin improvements reflects our commitment to enhancing our clients' comfort. As pioneers in the ACMI industry, our objective is to continuously elevate our product standards, setting new benchmarks within the industry," said Edvinas Demenius, CEO, SmartLynx Airlines.

Apart from Recaro seats, SmartLynx has budgeted over 1 million EUR for replacing regular seats and upgrading seat cover selections across other types of aircraft. It plans to get all these work done in order to elevate the state of their cabins and change any of the damages there. The company has also elevated the frequency of carpet replacement so as to give the passengers the much-needed comfort.

Another way SmartLynx is improving its cabin maintenance process is through the hiring of two dedicated Cabin Maintenance Engineers at the MCC center. The specialist shall help effectively solve open problems encountered in cabin defects and other defects. Also, they have just brought on board a Cabin Materials Specialist, who will take charge of managing the cabin reconfiguration spares and defect rectification materials.

SmartLynx Airlines aims to further invest in cabin maintenance and digital process enhancements aimed at benefiting clients, their customers, and the crew throughout 2024. Their Product Strategy aims at the elevation of ACMI standards and delivering superior products to clients and end-users. In 1992, SmartLynx Airlines was founded as a full-service aircraft leasing, freight, and charter services provider to leading airlines worldwide.

The airline has an Airbus A320, A321, A321F, A330, and Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft fleet. It has a fleet of over 212 aircraft and is a part of Avia Solutions Group, the world's largest ACMI provider. In Avia Solutions Group, which has over 85 countries that employ more than 12,000 skilled aviation professionals, there is a focus on having access to top service and operational excellence.

Kellstrom Aerospace and Libellule Monde sign global aftermarket distribution agreement

Kellstrom Aerospace has been appointed as the worldwide commercial aftermarket distributor of Libellule Monde products to distribute a range of interior placards, interior deco films, exterior markings, erosion protection, and livery solutions.

Kellstrom Aerospace, a prominent global leader in commercial aftermarket OEM distribution, has announced its appointment as the worldwide commercial aftermarket distributor of LBM (Libellule Monde Inc.) products. This strategic partnership will see Kellstrom Aerospace distributing a comprehensive range of aircraft interior placards, interior deco films, exterior markings, erosion protection, and livery solutions for various commercial aircraft models, including those manufactured by Airbus, Boeing, ATR, Beechcraft, DeHavilland, Embraer, and MHIrj.

The collaboration between Kellstrom Aerospace and LBM represents a significant milestone for both companies, as it enables Kellstrom Aerospace to expand its offerings and provide high-quality OEM products and engineered solutions to a global customer base, including major and regional passenger and cargo carriers, as well as Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities.

Stéphanie Lemieux, Founder and CEO, LBM said, "Partnering with Kellstrom Aerospace marks a significant milestone for LBM, as we extend our global reach to provide innovative solutions for the aviation industry. This collaboration underscores our commitment to delivering excellence in aircraft interior and exterior surfacing solutions."

Kellstrom Aerospace, operating under the name Kellstrom Commercial Aerospace, Inc., is recognized as one of the largest commercial aftermarket distribution channel partners to leading OEMs, airlines, leasing companies, financial institutions, air transport operators, and MROs worldwide. With a focus on operational excellence, extensive inventory management, and a commitment to customer satisfaction,

Kellstrom Aerospace provides immediate access to a vast inventory of new aircraft parts for engine and airframe heavy maintenance, phase checks, and line maintenance operations.

Meanwhile, LBM holds a Design Approval Organization (DAO) designation and boasts a variety of Supplemental cates (STCs) approved by Transport Canada and validated by both the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). This enables LBM to manufacture and certify placards, markings, aircraft livery, and other related products and engineering services for aircraft interiors and exteriors, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards and industry requirements.

"We are delighted to announce our aftermarket distribution channel partnership with LBM (Libellule Monde Inc.) to distribute the truly unique and value-added products and solutions they offer to Kellstrom's global customer base," said Daniel Adamski, Executive Vice President – Distribution, Kellstrom Aerospace.

The partnership between Kellstrom Aerospace and LBM underscores a shared commitment to innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction within the aviation industry. By leveraging their respective expertise and capabilities, both companies aim to deliver superior aftermarket solutions that meet the evolving needs of the global aviation community, further solidifying their positions as leaders in their respective domains.

J&C Aero opens latest Cabin Interior hub with turnkey retrofit programs

Spanning 36000 sq-mtrs, the modern production facilities within the J&C Aero hub include machining, composite, painting, and flatbed cutting shops, with areas for cleaning, sanding, vacuum, foam, and general workshop activities.

J&C Aero, a renowned international aviation center specializing in cabin transformation and Continuing Airworthiness Management Organization (CAMO), has inaugurated its cutting-edge cabin interior hub in Vilnius, Lithuania. This new facility represents a significant milestone for the company, empowering it to provide comprehensive cabin retrofit programs spanning from concept development to certification, production, and installation.

Spanning an impressive 36000 square meters, the modern production facilities within the hub are equipped with high-performance capabilities to support the entire spectrum of cabin interior requirements. These include machining, composite, painting, and flatbed cutting shops, alongside dedicated areas for cleaning, sanding, vacuum, foam, and general workshop activities. Additionally, J&C Aero's in-house Design Organization Approval (DOA), Production Organization Approval (POA), CAMO, and Part 145 teams, alongside specialized units for electrical, livery, 3D printing, and sewing, are all housed within the hub.

Furthermore, the hub serves as the epicenter of J&C Aero's Research & Development (R&D) department, positioning itself as the premier Research & Development Center in the region. This division is responsible for pioneering innovative cabin components, including custom-shaped lightweight windscreens, moveable class dividers featuring integrated Passenger Information Signs, and the acclaimed convertible Jump Seat Duo.

"Having our entire team under one roof, coupled with operating one of the most technologically advanced cabin interior facilities in the region, – it is definitely a game changer for us. From now on, we can deliver turnkey aircraft programs that cover everything from cabin modifications and the development of custom interior parts to their production and installation. The new capabilities also make us much more flexible, particularly compared with larger market players: where one takes years, our work can be done in months," comments Laurynas Skukauskas, the CEO, J&C Aero. "And I am very proud of our team and grateful to our project partners – thanks to their invaluable effort and support, J&C Aero now has all the means to boost its presence on the global cabin interior market even further," he further added.

J&C Aero stands as an EASA-certified

international cabin interior hub, offering turnkey solutions for narrow and wide-body aircraft operators and owners. The company's diverse range of services encompasses cabin interior design and production, aircraft line and parts maintenance, engineering, continuing airworthiness management, aircraft teardown, spare parts supply, and special-purpose Supplemental Type Certificates (STC) and VIP cabin solutions.

In terms of certifications, J&C Aero holds EASA Part 21J, Part 21G, Part 145, and CAMO approvals, bolstered by a plethora of STCs, authorizations, and other industry accolades.

The establishment of this state-of-the-art cabin interior hub signifies J&C Aero's unwavering commitment to innovation, excellence, and customer satisfaction. With its expanded capabilities and integrated approach, the company is poised to lead the charge in shaping the future of cabin interiors within the global aviation landscape.

Rhinestahl takeovers Hydro Systems

Rhinestahl Corporation and HYDRO Systems KG have signed a contract to join forces and create RH Aero Systems to support the equipment and services market offering comprehensive life cycle solutions to aviation stakeholders globally.

RH Aero Systems is the culmination of Rhinestahl Corporation's acquisition of HYDRO Systems KG, a move that solidifies their positions as industry leaders.

Rhinestahl Corporation and HYDRO Systems KG have made a groundbreaking announcement in the aviation industry, unveiling their agreement to join forces and create RH Aero Systems. This strategic move, marks a significant milestone in the aviation support equipment and services market. The combined capabilities of Rhinestahl and HYDRO under RH Aero Systems are poised to redefine industry standards and offer comprehensive life cycle solutions to aviation stakeholders globally.

The Birth of RH Aero Systems:

RH Aero Systems is the culmination of Rhinestahl Corporation's acquisition of HYDRO Systems KG, a move that solidifies their positions as industry leaders. The agreement was unveiled during a presentation by Dieter Moeller, CEO and President of Rhinestahl, and Thomas Elsner, CEO of HYDRO. This strategic partnership brings together two powerhouses with a shared vision of excellence in aviation support equipment and services.

"When you take Rhinestahl which is #1 in GE and CFM OEM-approved engine tooling, customer responsiveness, large shop experience and onsite technical support and combine it with HYDRO which is #1 in Rolls-Royce OEM-approved engine tooling, innovative engineered products, Airbus and Boeing airframe tooling, precision manufacturing expertise and global support services, you are creating the world-class leader uniquely positioned to serve the growing demands of OEMs, MROs and Operators around the world," saidThomas Elsner, CEO, HYDRO. "The synergies between these two industry leaders will fundamentally shift what the market can expect from a one-stop-shop solution provider," he further added.

Key Advantages of RH Aero Systems:

1. Comprehensive Solutions: RH Aero Systems offers a wide spectrum of solutions covering engine and airframe tooling, ground support equipment (GSE), innovative engineered products, asset management, and sustainment. This comprehensive suite of services addresses the diverse needs of OEMs, MROs, and Operators in the aviation industry.
2. Global Presence: With a strong global footprint, RH Aero Systems provides extensive coverage and support to aviation stakeholders worldwide. This includes more than 15 global service centers strategically located to offer prompt and efficient services, including tooling repair, upgrades, calibrations, and load testing.
3. Industry Leadership: RH Aero Systems leverages the combined expertise of Rhinestahl and HYDRO, both renowned for their leadership positions in engine tooling markets. Rhinestahl excels in GE Aerospace and CFM International Tooling, while HYDRO leads in Rolls-Royce Tooling. This expertise ensures that RH Aero Systems delivers unparalleled support and solutions to its customers.
4. Quality Assurance: Both Rhinestahl and HYDRO are committed to maintaining high standards of quality. With ISO 9001 certification and specialized industry certifications, RH Aero Systems guarantees reliability and excellence in its products and services.
5. Innovative Engineering: RH Aero Systems brings innovative engineered products to the market, including cutting-edge solutions like the COBRA engine change and FutureDrive NG+ digital turning tool systems. These innovations enhance operational efficiency and performance for aviation operators.
6. Superior Manufacturing: Leveraging a global OEM-quality compliant supply chain and advanced manufacturing capabilities, RH Aero Systems delivers best-in-class standards of quality, reliability, availability, and value to its customers.
7. Skilled Workforce: With a global team of over 750 skilled professionals, RH Aero Systems is equipped with the expertise and resources to reshape the aviation support equipment and services landscape. The team shares a passion for innovation and customer-centric solutions.

"Previously, when you assessed the tooling and GSE market, there were a handful of significant players. But now, in combining Rhinestahl and HYDRO, the two largest and most comprehensive industry leaders, along with the synergies that will be available to all our customers by leveraging the two business's complimentary expertise, competencies, and resources, game changing value will

be created for our customers. These synergies are holistic, providing new and upgraded support and services where the sum is so much greater than the simple sum of the two parts," said Dieter Moeller, CEO and President, Rhinestahl."With OEM leading positions, shared passions in innovation, strong commitments to high-quality and responsive support, plus proven technical execution competence across the support equipment and services lifecycle, I am excited to see how these two industry leading teams will work together to redefine and set new industry standards of customer and industry support," he further added.

Customer-Centric Approach:

RH Aero Systems prioritizes customer satisfaction and aims to exceed expectations across all levels of the aviation industry. The company's holistic approach ensures that OEMs, MROs, and Operators receive tailored solutions that address their unique needs and challenges. From prompt technical support to innovative product offerings, RH Aero Systems is committed to delivering value and excellence to its customers.

Integration Process and Operational Continuity:

As Rhinestahl and HYDRO integrate under RH Aero Systems, customers can expect a seamless transition with uninterrupted business operations. Both companies will continue to operate under their respective brands, leveraging their existing strengths and capabilities while benefiting from the synergies created by the merger. RH Aero Systems' global headquarters will be located in Mason, Ohio, USA, maintaining a strong presence in key aviation markets.

The Future of Aviation Support Equipment and Services:

RH Aero Systems sets a new standard in the aviation support equipment and services market, driven by a shared commitment to innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction. With a comprehensive portfolio of solutions, a global footprint, and a skilled workforce, RH Aero Systems is poised to lead the industry into a new era of excellence and performance.

In conclusion, the formation of RH Aero Systems represents a transformative moment in the aviation support equipment and services sector. By combining the strengths of Rhinestahl and HYDRO, RH Aero Systems is set to redefine industry standards, drive innovation, and deliver unparalleled value to OEMs, MROs, and Operators worldwide.

Ascend Airways awarded Air Operator Certificate in UK

Ascend Airways has received approval from the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for its updated AOC, Type A Operating License, and Route License, signaling the green light for the airline to commence flight operations.

Ascend Airways has received approval from the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for its updated Air Operator Certificate (AOC), Type A Operating License, and Route License, signaling the green light for the airline to commence its flight operations. Ascend Airways, a recent addition to Avia Solutions Group's (ASG) portfolio of ACMI (aircraft, crew, maintenance, and insurance) airlines, is poised to make its mark in the aviation industry.

Avia Solutions Group, recognized as the world's largest ACMI provider boasting a fleet of 212 aircraft, sees the granting of the UK AOC as a strategic move that ensures unrestricted access to the UK ACMI and charter market. This development is expected to bolster ASG's market share significantly, not just in the UK but globally as well. Ascend Airways plans to kick off its operations with a fleet consisting of two Boeing 737 aircraft, with ambitious plans for fleet expansion in the coming years.

Augustinas Riskus, Deputy Chief Commercial Officer, KlasJet said, "After a series of successful collaborations with Marabu Airlines last summer, we are excited to take this partnership to the next level, this long-term contract is a natural progression of our relationship. We look forward to continuing to support Marabu Airlines in providing exceptional travel experiences to their clientele."

Currently headquartered in Ireland, Avia Solutions Group boasts twelve AOCs globally and has set its sights on acquiring and establishing four additional airlines across various countries by the end of 2024. This expansion strategy encompasses regions such as Brazil, Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia, reflecting ASG's commitment to further diversifying its presence and services on a global scale.

Axel Schefe, CEO, Marabu Airlines said, "The transition from spontaneous agreements to a long-term partnership with KlasJet reflects our confidence in their ability to meet our needs and exceed expectations. Our experience working together has set a solid foundation for this collaboration, enabling us to offer even more quality and reliable services to our passengers. We are pleased to solidify our relationship with KlasJet and anticipate a productive cooperation that will benefit our valued passengers."

The granting of the updated certifications to Ascend Airways signifies not only a significant milestone for the airline but also underlines ASG's overarching strategy of expanding its footprint, enhancing market access, and capitalizing on emerging opportunities in the aviation sector. With a clear focus on operational excellence, strategic growth, and market responsiveness, Ascend Airways and Avia Solutions Group are poised to make impactful strides in the dynamic aviation landscape.

IAI joins Sharp Technics K and Incheon International Airport for new Boeing 777 P2F facility

Israel Aerospace Industries with Sharp Technics K and Incheon International Airport Corporation will open a Boeing 777 P2F conversion facility in Korea offering comprehensive solutions and support to partners and clients across the aviation sector.

In a groundbreaking collaboration with AerCap, IAI successfully converted a Boeing 777-300ER, also known as the 'Big Twin', for the first time in history. This converted aircraft has already garnered significant interest with dozens of orders received, and it is on track to obtain certification from aviation authorities shortly. Industry analysts foresee that the converted Boeing 777 passenger-to-freight aircraft will rise to become one of the top freighters globally, given its notable advantages.

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) took part in a significant ceremony with Sharp Technics K (STK) and Incheon International Airport Corporation to lay the cornerstone for a joint Boeing 777 passenger-to-freight conversion facility in Korea. This event saw the attendance of senior officials and representatives from all three companies. Overall, IAI's Aviation Group plays a crucial role in the global aerospace industry, offering comprehensive solutions and support

to a wide range of partners and clients across the aviation sector.

IAI is optimistic about the prospects of this joint venture with STK and Incheon International Airport Corporation, anticipating numerous benefits for the companies involved. This collaboration is expected to contribute to the growth of the Korean aviation industry, foster local expertise, and create job opportunities.

Shmuel Kuzi, Executive VP and General Manager, IAI's Aviation Group said, "Today is a significant milestone in the 'Big Twin' program and our partnership with STK and Incheon International Airport. I appreciate our partners' investment of time and resources in this important project, and I look forward to further developing our strategic cooperation with Korean companies and the South Korean government."

IAI's Aviation Group holds a prominent position in passenger-to-freighter conversions globally, drawing from years of experience and expertise in converting various aircraft types and models. The company is renowned for its Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) activities, offering exceptional customer support and quick responses to aircraft needs. Additionally, IAI leads in the development and production of advanced composite-material technologies, avionic structures, and assemblies.

One notable aspect of IAI's capabilities is its dedicated production line for crafting outer wing boxes for the F-35 and their skins. These capabilities have earned IAI partnerships with major aerospace companies like Lockheed Martin and Boeing, as well as collaborations with leading airlines such as Southwest, Delta, Alaska Airlines, and Wizz Air. Noteworthy lessors such as AerCap and Avalon, along with prominent logistics and cargo companies like Amazon and DHL, also benefit from IAI's expertise and services.

FEAM Aero upgrades MRO Center at Cincinnati/ Northern Kentucky International Airport

The FEAM Aero Hangar 2.0 is a modern 3-bay, extensive-body hangar covering about 150,000 rectangular toes representing a $45 mn funding and is predicted to create over 2 hundred new positions for skilled plane protection experts.

FEAM Aero, a global leader in plane maintenance, is ready to unveil its modern-day addition to the organisation's vast aircraft preservation and repair competencies at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) in 2024. The grand starting rite for the brand new modern-day hangar, called "Hangar 2.0", is scheduled for March 28th 2024. The venture, which started out production on November 1, 2023, represents a huge growth of FEAM Aero's presence at CVG, building upon the success of its existing hangar facility.

Hangar 2.0 is a modern 3-bay, extensive-body hangar that showcases FEAM Aero's dedication to innovation and excellence in aircraft upkeep. Covering about 150,000 rectangular toes, this monumental facility represents a large $45 million funding and is predicted to create over 2 hundred new positions for skilled plane protection experts, contributing to the growth of the neighborhood financial system. The new hangar complements FEAM Aero's present 103,000-square-foot hangar, which was inaugurated in January 2020 at a cost of $19 million. Together, those two centers form the center of FEAM Aero's Technical Center at CVG, a center of know-how and superior generation in aircraft maintenance.

"The opening of Hangar 2.0 marks a new chapter in our journey and growth at CVG Airport," said Cam Murphy, President, FEAM Aero."Our expansion highlights more than our commitment to world-class maintenance services; it represents a significant investment in the community, with over $70 million dedicated since 2020 to nurturing the local economy and fostering aviation industry careers. Demonstrating our dedication to both quality service and community development. The opportunity of opening a new training facility at CVG Airport represents a significant milestone in our mission to build and cultivate the community of tomorrow. By partnering with Epic Flight Academy and leveraging the resources of CVG, FEAM Aero is empowering individuals from all backgrounds to pursue rewarding careers in aviation maintenance," he further added.

In addition to its hangar facilities, FEAM Aero has set up strategic partnerships to decorate the aviation environment at CVG. Collaborating with Epic Flight Academy, FEAM Aero has played a key role in setting up a brand new plane mechanic training facility at CVG Airport. This groundbreaking initiative, scheduled to start in April 2024, displays FEAM Aero's dedication to increasing the aviation maintenance technician group of workers and promoting range within the industry.

"We invite aspiring professionals and educational institutions alike to join us at our recruitment events and discover the exciting career opportunities available at FEAM Aero," said Cam Murphy, President, FEAM Aero. "Together, we can inspire and empower the next generation of aviation professionals," he further added.

The grand starting ceremony of FEAM Aero's Hangar 2.0 will coincide with recruitment activities geared toward attracting pinnacle expertise to join the business enterprise's dynamic crew of plane protection specialists. These activities will provide attendees with a different possibility to explore the contemporary facility at Hangar 2.0, interact with FEAM Aero's experts, and learn about thrilling career prospects in the agency.

Wheels Up to construct new MRO Facility at Palm Beach International Airport

Wheels Up Experience, Inc. will open a new MRO facility at Palm Beach International Airport to serve its geographic network and flight demand density by partnering with MRO providers FEAM Aero and AVEX Aviation for affected staff.

Wheels Up Experience, Inc. is setting a new industry-acclaimed precedent with the coming launch of an innovative maintenance facility located at Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) in 2024. This investment represents a strategic realignment of the company's maintenance resources to better serve its geographic network and flight demand density. Wheels Up has collaborated with MRO providers FEAM Aero and AVEX Aviation in Cincinnati and Broomfield, CO, respectively, to facilitate placement opportunities for affected staff.

To prepare for the opening of the PBI facility, resources will be realigned from the existing facilities that have low utilization rates and low organic network flow and flight traffic. This will result in the closure of current maintenance operations in Cincinnati and Broomfield, CO, and the transfer of mobile service units from Sacramento, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and a select number of units from Burbank, CA to the Eastern U.S. Additionally, resources from Wheels Up's Fort Lauderdale facility will be moved to PBI in the very near future.

"We at Wheels Up are continuously evaluating and acting upon opportunities that will drive efficiencies and control costs, all in service of strengthening our business model and improving our member experience," said George Mattson, CEO, Wheels Up. "The opening of our new state-of-the-art maintenance facility at PBI is a key strategic step, leveraging our resources and locating our facilities in areas of high flight frequency. As a result of these measures, we are improving reliability and efficiency while reducing costs as we continue to drive toward Adjusted EBITDA profitability later this year," he further added.

The shutdowns of the Cincinnati and Broomfield, CO, facilities will be effected immediately. The Fort Lauderdale move has been left to take place post-opening at the Palm Beach facility.

"The decision to close these facilities is not one that we made lightly. Our entire maintenance team is responsible for driving meaningful improvement across key customer experience indicators, particularly total completion rate and on-time performance metrics," said Dave Holtz, Chief Operating Officer, Wheels Up. "Our people are absolutely crucial to our success, and we are highly appreciative of the MRO providers we have partnered with to ensure that we take care of the staff affected by these closures in every way we possibly can," he further added.

Wheels Up is a major player in the U.S. on-demand private aviation market, recognized to be one of the largest companies in the industry. The company provides a global aviation solution that boasts a fleet of about 3,000 aircraft of varying classes and a safe network of about 15,000 charter operators throughout the world, all working in the light of unwavering dedication towards safety and excellence of service. Members and clients get access to charter as well as membership programs, as well as a unique array of commercial travel benefits through a strategic partnership with Delta Air Lines, and safety, security solutions with complex and managed services, all catering to private aviation, individuals, industries, government agencies, and civil organizations.

Airbus selects M1 Composites Technology as first A220 jet repair station in North America

Airbus has designated M1 Composites Technology Inc. based in Laval, Canada, as the premier provider of repair station services for A220 aircraft operators in North America with focus on structural components and flight surfaces such as rudders, elevators, and winglets.

Airbus, a global leader in aviation, has designated M1 Composites Technology Inc. as the premier provider of repair station services for A220 aircraft operators in North America. This strategic decision underscores Airbus's commitment to ensuring top-tier maintenance support for its growing fleet in the region. Based in Laval, Canada, M1 Composites stands as the inaugural designated repair station specifically catering to A220 maintenance requirements in North America. With a robust focus on structural components and flight surfaces such as rudders, elevators, and winglets, M1 Composites is poised to deliver impeccable repair services to enhance the operational efficiency and safety of A220 aircraft.

The A220, renowned for its operational versatility, has witnessed widespread adoption across diverse airline fleets worldwide. With over 325 A220s delivered to 20 airlines spanning five continents, the aircraft has garnered acclaim for its ability to seamlessly serve regional and long-distance routes alike. Notably, the A220 has transported over 100 million passengers, underscoring its popularity among travelers.

Alexandra Cros, Senior Vice President of A220 Customer Services, Airbus said,"With more than 150 A220s operating in North American-based airline fleets today, and another 240+ expected in coming years, we are intently focused on servicing locally our customers and aircraft operators, and providing capable and high-quality repair support in this key market for Airbus and Satair."

As of March 2024, the A220 fleet encompasses more than 1,400 routes and serves over 440 destinations globally. Testament to its market dominance, orders for over 900 A220 aircraft have been placed by around 30 discerning customers, reaffirming its stature as the preferred choice in the small single-aisle aircraft segment.

Lars Zimmer, Global Head of Repair & Production at Satair, an Airbus Services company, said, "As the A220 continues to have an expanded presence in airline fleets in North America, we are pleased to support Airbus as it endeavors to address current and operational needs."

Embraer and AICAT sign MoU for Austrian aerospace industry growth

Embraer and AICAT have signed a MoU for cooperation within the Austrian aerospace sector for joint research, technology development, and integration of Austrian aviation ecosystem into Embraer's aircraft programs' supply chain.

Embraer and AICAT (Austrian Industrial Cooperation & Aviation Technology) have sealed the partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which has been made in order to foster international cooperation within the aerospace sector. This strategic alliance builds upon Embraer's relationships in Austria and seeks to explore new avenues for joint research, technology development, and integration of the Austrian aviation ecosystem into Embraer's aircraft programs' supply chain. AICAT, a part of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO), is Austria's umbrella organization of the entire aviation technology community, counting around 100 companies as members, most of them small and medium-sized enterprises playing essential roles in the aviation supply chain.

The signing ceremony for the MoU took place at Embraer headquarters in São José dos Campos. Following the ceremony, representatives from Austrian aerospace companies and the Austrian Government engaged with Embraer specialists across various technologies to explore potential areas of collaboration.

"For AICAT, an association representing about 100 Austrian aviation companies most of which are SMEs and position themselves in the supply chain, an intensified cooperation with Embraer underpinned by an MoU is a great opportunity and will help both, Embraer and the Austrian Aeronautical sector, creating a more structured collaboration for their mutual benefit", said Reinhard Marak, CEO, AICAT.

Embraer is a global aerospace company headquartered in Brazil and operates in Commercial and Executive Aviation, Defense and Security, and Agricultural Aviation sectors. The company is known for designing, developing, manufacturing, and marketing aircraft and systems, along with offering comprehensive services and support to customers post-sales.

"Embraer and Austria have been building a long-term relationship for many years, and this partnership will continue to advance with the new Memorandum of Understanding. We thank AICAT, the companies, and the Austrian government representatives for this important step in our partnership," said Marcio Monteiro, Market Intelligence Vice-President, Embraer Defense & Security.

Under its founding in 1969, Embraer has delivered over 8,000 aircraft, with an aircraft manufactured by Embraer taking off approximately every 10 seconds worldwide, contributing to the transportation of over 145 million passengers each year.

Embraer is the leading producer of commercial jets with seating capacity between 100 and 150, as well as the major exporter of Brazil of high-value goods. Its industrial footprint spans the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe, with operations encompassing industrial units, offices, service centers, parts distribution facilities, and other activities.

KlasJet to lease two Boeing 737-800 jets to Marabu Airlines

KlasJet has signed a new contract with Marabu Airlines spanning from April to November 2024 and covers the leasing of two Boeing 737-800 aircraft to be used for operating flights from Munich Airport (MUC).

KlasJet, in a major announcement, a renowned charter airline and a member of the respected Avia Solutions Group, has signed a new deal with Marabu Airlines. As an extension of their successful ad-hoc collaborations from the summer of 2023, this contract spans from April to November 2024 and covers the leasing of two Boeing 737-800 aircraft. These planes will be used for operating flights from Munich Airport (MUC) to the top summer holiday destinations.

Currently, KlasJet has a diversified fleet of 14 aircraft. These include Classic Boeing 737s, a BBJ Boeing 737, and Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft with varying seating capacities. Such resources offer KlasJet the ability to meet many diverse travel requirements, from smaller groups to larger passenger loads, for ACMI leasing purposes. Operating within the Avia Solutions Group, a world-leader with a fleet of 212 aircraft, KlasJet reaps the broad resources and expertise of aviation services.

Augustinas Riskus, Deputy Chief Commercial Officer, KlasJet said, "After a series of successful collaborations with Marabu Airlines last summer, we are excited to take this partnership to the next level, this long-term contract is a natural progression of our relationship. We look forward to continuing to support Marabu Airlines in providing exceptional travel experiences to their clientele."

The Avia Solutions Group's portfolio spans a broad spectrum of aviation services, including MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul), pilot and crew training, ground handling, and further associated services. This coverage positions the group to provide end-to-end solutions to aviation clients globally and confirms its position as a leader within the industry.

Axel Schefe, CEO, Marabu Airlines said, "The transition from spontaneous agreements to a long-term partnership with KlasJet reflects our confidence in their ability to meet our needs and exceed expectations. Our experience working together has set a solid foundation for this collaboration, enabling us to offer even more quality and reliable services to our passengers. We are pleased to solidify our relationship with KlasJet and anticipate a productive cooperation that will benefit our valued passengers."

In essence, the KlasJet-Marabu Airlines partnership is an example of strategic cooperation that aims at enhancing customer experience and expanding service offerings.

DG Fuels, Johnson Matthey & bp to build $4 billion SAF plant

DG Fuels has collaborated with Johnson Matthey and bp to deploy Fischer Tropsch CANS technology for its $4 billion SAF plant in St. James Parish, Louisiana with an impressive capacity of 13,000 barrels per day.

DG Fuels, a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) company, has recently announced a groundbreaking collaboration with Johnson Matthey (JM) and bp to deploy Fischer Tropsch (FT) CANS technology for its innovative SAF plant in St. James Parish, Louisiana. This collaboration signifies a significant step forward in the aviation industry's efforts to adopt cleaner and more sustainable fuel solutions.

Michael Darcy, CEO, DG Fuels said, "Using Johnson Matthey and bp's co-developed Fischer Tropsch (FT) CANS technology allows DG Fuels to scale SAF at high volume production and competitive prices for the first time ever. This innovation will take DG Fuels' SAF from the sugar cane fields of Louisiana to cleaner skies all across the world."

The planned $4 billion clean energy complex in St. James Parish is set to become a major hub for sustainable aviation fuel production, with an impressive capacity of 13,000 barrels per day. Once blended, this capacity is projected to meet the fuel requirements for over 30,000 transatlantic flights annually, marking a substantial contribution to reducing the carbon footprint of air travel on a global scale.

Maurits van Tol, Chief Executive for Catalyst Technologies, Johnson Matthey said, "The size of this project is truly exciting and would help take the industry closer to wide-scale use of SAF. DG Fuels has ambitious plans, and the fact it has secured agreements with major airlines demonstrates there is appetite in the market. Our FT CANS technology enables cost-effective deployment across a wide range of project sizes. We look forward to working with DG Fuels as a long-term partner for SAF production."

The strategic partnership between DG Fuels, Johnson Matthey, and bp underscores a shared commitment to sustainability and technological innovation in the aviation sector. By leveraging FT CANS technology, DG Fuels aims to offer SAF at a competitive price point while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with air travel.

The plant is expected to commence production by 2028, signaling a landmark moment in the journey towards a more sustainable aviation industry. With this strategic partnership, DG Fuels, Johnson Matthey, and bp are poised to redefine the future of aviation fuel production, setting a new standard for environmental responsibility and innovation in the sector.

• DG Fuels has chosen Johnson Matthey and bp's co-developed Fischer Tropsch (FT) CANS technology for its first sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) plant.

• Located in Louisiana, USA, it would be the largest announced FT SAF production facility in the world, with a planned capacity of 13,000 barrels per day – capable, after blending to 50%, of producing enough SAF for more than 30,000 transatlantic flights annually.

• DG Fuels has already secured offtake agreements with Delta Air Lines and Air France-KLM, and has a strategic partnership with Airbus to scale up the use of SAF globally.

• Signed at the end of March, this is the tenth sustainable technologies project win in Catalyst Technologies since April 2022, delivering on our strategic milestone for large scale project wins.

"We are extremely excited to be moving forward with Johnson Matthey to execute our unique strategy of high carbon conversion," said Christopher J. Chaput, President, DG Fuels."With this technology, we will create a product that is responsibly made and can be immediately substituted for conventional aviation fuel with no engine adaptations. This partnership is a significant boost to help the aviation industry reach its climate goals," he further added.

The SAF plant in St. James Parish is expected to commence production by 2028, marking a significant milestone in the transition towards a more sustainable aviation industry. DG Fuels has already secured offtake agreements with industry leaders such as Delta Air Lines, Air France-KLM, and Airbus, further highlighting the market demand for sustainable fuel solutions.

"The aviation industry is looking to greatly increase its use of SAF, and we're proud that DG Fuels has selected our technology to be at the heart of their ambitious plans for large scale SAF production," said Noemie Turner, VP Technology Development & Commercialisation, bp. "Our FT CANS technology solution brings together decades of science and engineering expertise from bp and JM, and this project shows its competitiveness across the range of production scales and feedstock sources the industry needs. We're excited to see the relationship with DG Fuels grow, and we look forward to seeing this project come to fruition," he further added.

Overall, the collaboration between DG Fuels, Johnson Matthey, and bp represents a major leap forward in the development and adoption of sustainable aviation fuel solutions. By harnessing cutting-edge technology and strategic partnerships, these companies are paving the way for a more environmentally friendly future in aviation.

Boeing places largest-ever blended SAF order

EPIC Fuels will supply 2.5 mn gallons of SAF to Boeing sourced from Neste, Avfuel will provide 1.5 mn gallons with EPIC Fuels supplying 3.5 mn gallons in total, while World Fuel Services will provide 1.9 mn gallons from World Energy.

Boeing is making significant strides in sustainability by announcing its largest annual purchase of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to date, totaling 9.4 million gallons (35.6 million liters). This initiative is part of Boeing's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and supporting the growth of the SAF industry globally. The purchased SAF is a blend comprising 30% from waste by-products like fats, oils, and greases, and 70% conventional jet fuel. This blended fuel will be utilized for various Boeing operations, including the Boeing ecoDemonstrator program and U.S. commercial flights throughout 2024. This move marks a substantial increase of over 60% from Boeing's SAF purchase in the previous year.

Unblended SAF, also known as "neat" SAF, can significantly reduce carbon emissions by up to 85% over its life cycle. This makes SAF a pivotal tool in the aviation industry's quest to mitigate its climate impact over the coming decades.

"As our focus remains on safety and quality, sustainability continues to be a priority," said Ryan Faucett, vice president of environmental sustainability, Boeing. "Sustainable aviation fuel is essential to decarbonize aviation. About 20% of our fuel usage is a SAF blend, and we continue to increase our use of this fuel to encourage growth in the SAF industry. We are also working to make SAF more available and affordable to our commercial airline customers through collaboration, investment, research and policy development," he further added.

Boeing's purchase of 4 million gallons of blended SAF will be directed to its fuel farms in the Pacific Northwest. EPIC Fuels, a subsidiary of Signature Aviation, will supply 2.5 million gallons sourced from Neste, a leading SAF producer. Additionally, Avfuel will provide 1.5 million gallons of blended SAF from Neste.

Moreover, Boeing is acquiring the CO_2 emissions reduction equivalent to 5.4 million gallons of blended SAF through a process called book-and-claim. In this approach, companies purchase SAF certificates to offset conventional jet fuel consumption. Instead of physically storing the fuel in Boeing's fuel farms, distributors will deliver it to nearby airports for use by airlines and other carriers.

Boeing's book-and-claim agreements entail EPIC Fuels supplying 3.5 million gallons of blended SAF from Neste, while World Fuel Services, a subsidiary of World Kinect, will provide 1.9 million gallons sourced from World Energy, another prominent SAF producer.

This substantial SAF purchase by Boeing represents a significant step towards achieving industry-wide sustainability goals. By actively promoting and investing in sustainable aviation fuel, Boeing is demonstrating its commitment to environmental stewardship and driving positive change within the aviation sector.

Neste to provide SAF to Air New Zealand at Los Angeles International Airport

Neste will supply nine million liters of SAF known as Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel to Air New Zealand marking the largest purchase of SAF from Neste by any airline outside North America and Europe to be delivered before the end of 2024.

Neste, a global leader in renewable fuels, and Air New Zealand have recently inked a significant deal for the supply of nine million liters of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) known as Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel. This agreement marks the largest purchase of SAF from Neste by any airline outside North America and Europe. The SAF will be delivered before the end of 2024 and is set to play a vital role in decarbonizing Air New Zealand's operations.

This partnership builds upon an earlier SAF delivery to Air New Zealand in 2022. The SAF will be produced at Neste's Singapore refinery, which has expanded its SAF production capabilities recently and is ramping up production. The neat SAF will be blended with conventional jet fuel and supplied to Los Angeles International Airport between 1 April and 30 November 2024.

"Decarbonising Air New Zealand's operations is essential for its long-term ability to connect New Zealanders to the world, as well as support the country's trade and tourism sectors, and SAF is a key enabler of this. Sustainable aviation fuel is currently the only solution to significantly reduce emissions from long haul flight, but it currently makes up less than 1% of the global fuel supply. For aviation to reach its net zero carbon emissions goals by 2050, the SAF industry will need to scale significantly. While the SAF supply is small compared with the airline's overall fuel use, it is nine times the size of Air New Zealand's first shipment of SAF from Neste in 2022 and demonstrates growing cooperation between two like-minded organizations to advance the supply and use of SAF," said Dame Therese Walsh, Chair, Air New Zealand.

Sustainable aviation fuel is crucial in significantly reducing emissions from long-haul flights, playing a pivotal role in the aviation industry's ambition to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. While SAF currently makes up less than 1% of the global fuel supply, partnerships like this one with Neste highlight a growing commitment to advancing sustainable aviation practices.

"Neste is fully committed to supporting the decarbonization of aviation and is working closely together with partners like Air New Zealand to accelerate SAF usage. We are proud to support Air New Zealand's decarbonization focus and are looking forward to continuing working together with Air New Zealand and the New Zealand Government to reach their climate goals," said Alexander Kueper, Vice President Renewable Aviation, Neste.

Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel is a renewable alternative to conventional fossil-based jet fuel, offering up to 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over its life cycle. It is made from 100% renewable waste and residue raw materials like used cooking oil and animal fat waste, contributing to a circular economy.

Neste is a pioneer in creating solutions to combat climate change by refining waste and innovative raw materials into renewable fuels and sustainable feedstock. The company aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 million tons annually by 2030.

Air New Zealand, with a history dating back to 1940, has evolved into a modern, fuel-efficient fleet operating Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, Airbus A320s, ATRs, and Bombardier Q300s. With an average fleet age of 8.7 years, the airline continues to prioritize sustainability while providing customers with comfort and efficiency in its aircraft.

In 2023, Air New Zealand flew more than 16 million passengers, showcasing its commitment to serving both domestic and international travelers. This new agreement with Neste underscores the airline's dedication to embracing sustainable practices and reducing its environmental footprint.

The collaboration between Air New Zealand and Neste represents a significant step forward in the aviation industry's transition towards cleaner and more sustainable operations. As SAF usage continues to grow, partnerships like this will play a crucial role in achieving a greener future for aviation.

BAA Training to train incoming Pilots for Luxair

BAA Training has signed a contract where Luxair will send hand-picked pilots to get trained at BAA Training's facilities in Lleida-Alguaire, Spain, through an ATPL Integrated program with annually nominating carefully selected candidates.

BAA Training, an aviation training powerhouse globally, has partnered with Luxair, the national airline of Luxembourg. In a recently signed agreement, Luxair will send hand-picked pilots to get trained at BAA Training's facilities in Lleida-Alguaire, Spain, through an ATPL Integrated program. Luxair will settle upfront the training fees for these selected candidates. Luxair will annually nominate carefully selected candidates for training at BAA Training.

BAA Training's main flight base is located at Lleida-Alguaire International Airport, where Luxair's pilots will get their training program. In addition, the company plans to open more flight bases in the latter half of 2024 and another set in 2025 and 2026 at different locations in Europe. BAA Training has recently placed an order for 48 Cessna 172 Skyhawk aircraft in order to add more aircraft to its training fleet.

Marijus Ravoitis, CEO, BAA Training said, "This partnership arrives when the industry faces a critical shortage of pilots. Luxair's initiative to pre-finance the training of its pilots is a direct and innovative response to this escalating need for skilled aviators. We are prepared to address this demand utilizing our know-how, the expanding training infrastructure, and resources in Spain."

Luxair is under the stable of the Avia Solutions Group, the largest ACMI provider in the world in terms of being the largest operator of aircraft, crews, maintenance, and insurance. The Avia Solutions Group enjoys the backing of a huge network and resources—a vast network with over 12,000 highly skilled professionals in the aviation industry. Being the biggest provider of MRO, pilot and crew training, ground handling, and other supportive services, this group is operating in more than 50 countries worldwide and ensures the best services that the aviation industry can offer.

Trax joins PTC to integrate innovative joint solutions with MRO

Trax and PTC are collaborating to integrate Trax's paperless software platforms and PTC's Servigistics solution to enhance efficiency, optimize service supply chains, and elevate operational effectiveness across airline and MRO operations.

Trax and PTC are joining forces to boost aviation maintenance and engineering through their collaborative integration of Trax's paperless software platforms and PTC's Servigistics solution. This strategic partnership aims to enhance efficiency, optimize service supply chains, and elevate operational effectiveness across airline and MRO maintenance operations. The collaboration between Trax and PTC signifies a forward-thinking approach to advancing aviation maintenance and engineering practices. By leveraging the strengths of both companies, this partnership is poised to drive significant improvements in efficiency, operational excellence, and overall performance within the aviation industry's service supply chain.

"This integration marks a significant milestone in our commitment to delivering unparalleled solutions to the aviation industry. Pairing the strengths of Trax with the advanced capabilities of Servigistics to drive automation and new functionality will unlock immense value, address profoundly complex service supply chain challenges, and enable companies to optimize MRO processes," shared Andrew Schmidt, Executive Vice President, Trax.

The collaboration between Trax, a leading provider of paperless maintenance software, and Servigistics, a top-notch service parts optimization solution, signifies a groundbreaking approach to tackling the intricate challenges within the aviation industry's service supply chain. By seamlessly integrating these cutting-edge platforms, airlines and MROs can streamline their supply chains more effectively, ensuring timely availability of the right parts where they are needed.

"At Trax, we are dedicated to innovation and driving efficiency in aircraft maintenance and overhaul. The collaboration with Servigistics represents a leap forward in our mission, seeking ever-increasing efficiency and delivering greater value to our customers," said Miguel Sosa, Vice President of Product & Software Development, Trax.

Trax, a subsidiary of AAR CORP., is renowned as a premier provider of aviation maintenance mobile and cloud products globally. Their suite of products supports digital signatures, paperless workflows, RFID logistics, biometric security, and real-time information access. Through their eMRO and eMobility solutions, Trax offers comprehensive software designed to manage all aspects of aircraft maintenance.

"Servigistics is committed to revolutionizing service supply chain optimization through advanced data science. Our solution empowers organizations with machine learning and artificial intelligence. Collaborating with Trax furthers our mission to empower organizations with the tools and insights needed to thrive in today's competitive landscape," said Leslie Paulson, DVP and General Manager of the Servigistics business unit, PTC.

PTC, a global leader in industrial technology, offers a wide range of solutions encompassing digital engineering, IoT, and augmented reality. With a strong focus on innovation and digital transformation, PTC empowers organizations to unlock new opportunities and create value in today's digital age.

Swiss-AS provides AMOS to SCAT Airlines

Swiss- AS' has implemented the AMOS software at SCAT Airlines after implementation, partnership, and meticulous planning initiated in 2021 with examination of the existing processes, rigorous testing, and wide-ranging training sessions.

Swiss- AS' AMOS has been implemented successfully at SCAT Airlines, the leading air carrier in Kazakhstan, after a period of relentless implementation, partnership, and meticulous planning initiated in the summer of 2021. For AMOS to be implemented, several phases of implementing it were required, among them the thorough examination of the existing processes, rigorous testing, and wide-ranging training sessions. Involved in a critical phase of the implementation process was also the migration of the data from many different sources and required a substantial time and effort from both parties.

The journey to implement AMOS at SCAT Airlines was challenged by internal and external issues, but the commitment of both parties kept it within the implementation phase by February 2023. Concerned by implementing both the new system as well as the old one, SCAT Airlines opted for a transition period using both. This transition period was increased due to fleet reconstruction and internal events.

The recent AMOS Go-Live for SCAT Airlines indicates the final milestone for the airline, now fully integrated into its operations, after having passed through the transition phase. This milestone provides a very important contribution to SCAT Airlines in finding the path toward modernization and optimization of engineering and maintenance operations at the modern level.

The upgrade of Swiss-AS's AMOS at SCAT Airlines is nothing short of a strategic investment in modernizing and optimizing its engineering and maintenance operations. With advanced software like AMOS, airlines could optimize resource usage, improve decision-making processes, and ensure regulatory compliance, leading to safer and more efficient flight operations.

Moving ahead, SCAT Airlines can go a long way in maximizing the capacity of AMOS to streamline workflows and schedule maintenance tasks for better optimization in overall operations. This successful joint effort between SCAT Airlines and Swiss-AS in partnership and technological innovation is an indication of how changing times and relentless efforts should be incorporated into the aviation industry's continuous evolution and quest for operational excellence.

Textron Aviation handovers two METS Beechcraft King Air 260 aircraft to the U.S. Navy

Textron Aviation has delivered the first two of up to 64 Multi-Engine Training System Beechcraft King Air 260 aircraft to NAVAIR with updated avionics suite and automation features, enhancing the training experience preparing for advanced fleet aircraft.

Textron Aviation has announced the delivery of the first two Multi-Engine Training System (METS) Beechcraft King Air 260 aircraft to Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) as part of a contract that could see up to 64 aircraft delivered. These deliveries mark a significant milestone in Textron Aviation's partnership with NAVAIR and their commitment to providing advanced training solutions. The T-54A variant of the King Air 260 comes with an updated avionics suite and automation features, enhancing the training experience for students and better preparing them for advanced fleet aircraft.

The Beechcraft King Air 260, now designated as the T-54A, is set to replace the T-44C Pegasus aircraft in use by the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) fleet at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. This modernization effort is aimed at updating the fleet with more representative aircraft that align with follow-on fleet aircraft, as the T-44 has been in service for over four decades.

"The T-54A benefits from an active Beechcraft King Air assembly line in Wichita, Kansas, where all required METS avionics and interior modifications are installed on the line; keeping costs down, aircraft conformity consistent across the fleet and optimizing the delivery schedule to the Navy," said Bob Gibbs, vice president for Special Missions Sales, Textron Aviation. "We are thrilled to continue our 47-year relationship of Textron Aviation aircraft conducting multi-engine flight training for Navy, Marine and Coast Guard Aviators," he further added.

The METS-specific capabilities of the T-54A include factory options such as TACAN (Air-to-Air), angle-of-attack (AOA) indicators, V/UHF radio, digital audio system, engine trend monitoring, condition-based maintenance plus, observer/jump seats, passenger mission seats, and full-face oxygen masks.

In addition to the aircraft deliveries,

TRU Simulation + Training Inc., an affiliate of Textron Aviation, secured the METS Ground-Based Training System (GBTS) contract. This contract entails providing the U.S. Navy with a fully integrated training system comprising aircraft and training devices. The scope includes Unit Training Device (UTD) simulators, Operational Flight Trainer (OFT) simulators, Simulator Support Stations (SSS), and Desktop Trainers for avionics training, all tailored to the METS T-54A configuration.

Textron Aviation's special mission capabilities extend beyond military training, encompassing roles such as air ambulance, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), utility transport, aerial survey, flight inspection, and more. The Beechcraft King Air turboprop family, with over 7,700 deliveries globally since 1964, has established itself as the best-selling business turboprop family worldwide. Its versatility, low operating costs, and reliability have made it a preferred choice for various missions across military and commercial sectors, accumulating over 62 million flight hours in its six-decade history.

To support its enlargement plans, SAESM intends to hire about a hundred new personnel via 2026, increasing the plant's general group of workers to 350.

Safran opens Joint Venture with Royal Air Maroc for engine MRO

The Safran and Royal Air Maroc MoU to make the unit bigger, adding 2,000 sq. mtrs (21,500 sq. Ft) of capacity with goals to increase the number of MRO visits from 70 to 100 annually via 2026.

Safran Aircraft Engines Services Morocco (SAESM), a joint challenge among Safran Aircraft Engines and Royal Air Maroc, celebrated its 25th anniversary nowadays with the aid of inaugurating the extension of its Nouaceur plant close to Casablanca's Mohammed V International Airport. The rite become graced by means of the presence of Mohammed ABDELJALIL, Moroccan Minister of Transport and Logistics, Hamid ADDOU, Chairman and CEO of Royal Air Maroc, Jean-Paul ALARY, CEO of Safran Aircraft Engines, and Abdallah Chatter, governor of Nouaceur place.

During the event, the companions additionally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to similarly make the unit bigger, adding 2,000 square meters (21,500 sq. Ft) of capacity. This expansion goal is to increase the number of maintenance visits from 70 to 100 annually via 2026. SAESM is reinforcing its reputation as a center of excellence for the CFM International CFM56 engine family within Safran's worldwide maintenance, Repaire, and overhaul (MRO) network. It offers airlines a complete variety of offerings overlaying the whole MRO manner, from analysis to performance guarantee at the test bench.

The CFM56 engine, developed by Safran Aircraft Engines and GE Aerospace through their CFM International joint project, powers a giant quantity of Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 airliners internationally, with over 33,000 engines added.

"Today marks the beginning of a new phase in our partnership with Safran. This agreement will not only help us grow our Casablanca facility but also boost our expertise in the aeronautical industry. Royal Air Maroc is proud to work with Safran to develop Morocco's aviation sector and enhance our country's position in the global aerospace industry," said Hamid Addou, Chairman Of the Board and CEO, Royal Air Maroc.

To support its enlargement plans, SAESM intends to hire about a hundred new personnel via 2026, increasing the plant's general group of workers to 350. It may also collaborate with local academic establishments, supported by using Royal Air Maroc and Safran Aircraft Engines, to nurture MRO know-how in Morocco.

Jean-Paul Alary, CEO, Safran Aircraft Engines said, "We're delighted to be strengthening our partnership with Royal Air Maroc and harnessing this ecosystem of high-level skills in Morocco, in line with our strong industrial focus on the CFM56. Since it was created 25 years ago, SAESM has become a reference in our global MRO network in terms of operational excellence, innovation and reduction of its carbon footprint."

In line with its commitment to sustainability, the Casablanca facility is investing in sun panels on building roofs and parking zone coloration systems, aiming for a renewable electricity proportion of 30% through 2025, contributing to Safran's intention of reducing CO2 emissions throughout its websites.

Airbus secures order for 6 more H145 helicopters from UK Ministry

Airbus will deliver six Airbus H145 helicopters to The UK Ministry of Defence as a part of the ongoing strategy by the MoD to streamline its helicopter types in service while at the same time increasing their capabilities.

Airbus has received an order from The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) as the latter has procured another six Airbus H145 helicopters. This is part of the ongoing strategy by the MoD to streamline its helicopter types in service while at the same time increasing their capabilities. It replaces the Airbus Pumas currently fulfilling those roles, with the H145s for the duties at Cyprus, an emergency response, and Brunei for supporting UK military training in jungle warfare.

The H145 Jupiter, together with its counterpart H135 Juno, has exhibited excellent reliability and adaptability into a wide variety of roles, including training within the Military Flying Training System (MFTS). The latter will be appropriately allocated as additional roles for the H145 fleet.

Lenny Brown Managing Director, Airbus Helicopters in the UK said, We congratulate the MoD on this smart acquisition which simultaneously provides the right-sized helicopter for the Cyprus and Brunei requirements, represents excellent value for the UK taxpayer, and is another key step in the rationalisation of types in the transport helicopter fleet. The H145 Jupiter, and its sister H135 Juno, continue to demonstrate exceptional reliability and versatility in the training role in the Military Flying Training System (MFTS) and will bring these crucial attributes to their new tasks."

The delivery of six H145 helicopters is scheduled for next year, followed by the addition of these to the existing fleet of 29 H135s and seven H145s based at the Defence Helicopter Flying School located at RAF Shawbury. This rationalization of helicopter types not only lowers the support costs but also gives a clean stream to the operational helicopters to avoid unnecessary operational expenditures.

The newest model of the H145 incorporates an innovative five-bladed rotor design, increasing the helicopter's useful load by 150 kg. The bearingless main rotor design features simplified maintenance operations, which enhances the reliability and serviceability of the helicopter, thereby improving its flight comfort for both passengers and crew.

This capability is underpinning more than 1,675 units of H145 family helicopters in operation, gathering some 7.6 million flight hours. On the other hand, the units are featuring advanced digital avionics with full authority digital engine control (FADEC) through the Helionix suite. The inclusion of a high-performance 4-axis autopilot ensures enhanced safety and reduced workload of the pilot while also removing it from mission monitoring work by the military. With respect to the H145, it has the lowest acoustic footprint and CO_2 emissions in its class.

The aircraft commonality in avionics, for instance, with H135 and H175M models, has come to give substantial pilot training cost savings among other Airbus helicopters. The highly effective Helionix avionics suite facilitates seamless transitions between different Airbus helicopter types, further optimizing the training process and standardization across the fleet.

Northrop Grumman selects L3Harris Corporation to maintain Australian MQ-4C Triton fleet

Northrop Grumman Australia has recently inked a significant contract with L3Harris Corporation focusing on the operation and MRO of command-and-control systems on Australia's MQ-4C Triton uncrewed aircraft fleet ahead of delivery to the RAAF.

Northrop Grumman Australia, a key player in the aerospace and defense sector, has recently inked a significant contract with L3Harris Corporation. The deal focuses on the operation and maintenance of command-and-control systems on Australia's MQ-4C Triton uncrewed aircraft fleet, a crucial step ahead of the platform's delivery to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Northrop Grumman achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing the first flight of Australia's MQ-4C Triton uncrewed aircraft in November 2023. The company is on track to deliver Australia's first Triton in 2024, with all four Australian Tritons under contract progressing smoothly through their production schedules.

As the prime systems integrator for Triton, Northrop Grumman has been collaborating with various suppliers to ensure the integration and maintenance of vital systems and technologies on the platform. This collaborative effort is geared towards providing the necessary capabilities required by the RAAF. The Interim Sustainment Support Contract specifically covers the maintenance of Triton's Wideband Command, Control, and Communications (C3) Subsystem, a crucial component developed by L3Harris Corporation.

Starting in April 2024, L3Harris Corporation will deploy seven communications technicians and field service representatives to work closely with the Northrop Grumman team. This partnership underscores the commitment of both companies to deliver next-generation technology solutions that enhance Australia's national security.Christine Zeitz, chief executive and general manager for Australia & New Zealand, Northrop Grumman said, "L3Harris will support Triton's wideband C3 functionality as we work collectively to deliver next-generation technology solutions that will help keep Australia safe."

The MQ-4C Triton, designed for both the U.S. Navy and the RAAF, is a versatile platform that supports various missions such as maritime patrol, signals intelligence, search and rescue, and communications relay. These aircraft play a crucial role in providing persistent surveillance, aiding in predicting adversary behavior, and facilitating better planning for joint military responses.

Andrew Rushbrook, managing director, L3Harris Communications Australia Pty Ltd, and regional vice president, L3Harris said, "L3Harris is delighted to be working with Northrop Grumman Australia to deliver this critical capability to the Commonwealth. Our wideband C3 solution for Australia's MQ-4C Triton will help establish a world-class sovereign capability."

To support the progressive delivery of Triton systems into Australia, Northrop Grumman is establishing a dynamic support environment. This includes setting up ground stations at RAAF Edinburgh, South Australia, and facilitating air vehicles into RAAF Tindal, Northern Territory. Additionally, the company is focused on building a highly qualified Australian workforce across these locations to ensure efficient operations and support for Triton activities.

Australia's involvement in the Triton cooperative program underscores the collaborative efforts between U.S. and Australian defense forces, aiming to share valuable data collected by their respective Triton aircraft. Overall, Northrop Grumman's dedication to pushing the boundaries of aerospace and defense technology is evident in its commitment to solving complex challenges and delivering innovative solutions that safeguard national security.

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Ontic appoints Jack Karapetyan as VP of Global MRO Operations

In his new position as VP, Jack Karapetyan will take a look at a comprehensive review of what Ontic has been doing in MRO operations and to make sure he will be adopting a cohesive and globally aligned approach across the organization.

Ontic, a prominent licensor and manufacturer of complex engineered parts worldwide, announced a dramatic shift in its organizational profile with Jack Karapetyan's appointment to the newly created role of Vice President and General Manager of Global MRO Operations. This move represents a material shift in focus towards enhancing Ontic's manufacturing, repair, and overhaul (MRO) operations.

Jack Karapetyan has been the joint general manager of Ontic's Chatsworth, CA site alongside Terry Streb and has plenty of operational experience behind him. His experience in several operational improvement initiatives undertaken at the Chatsworth site should be leveraged in getting the new organization involved, both within their current operations and getting new MRO opportunities to be attracted.

In his new position, Jack Karapetyan will take a look at a comprehensive review of what Ontic has been doing in MRO operations and to make sure he will be adopting a cohesive and globally aligned approach across the organization. He is designated to drive growth and excellence within the MRO segment, further solidifying Ontic's position as the leader in aerospace and defense industries.

Brian Sartain, Chief Operating Officer, Ontic said, "I'm excited to welcome Jack to this newly created role. Creating this strategically significant position will enable us to focus more on our MRO customers, improving existing operations and setting us up for future success. "We are ambitious about this new direction and I look forward to working with Jack to make Ontic the service benchmark other MRO companies are marked against."

Given Karapetyan's change of venue, Terry Streb will assume full responsibility as Vice President and General Manager of Ontic's Chatsworth site. This strategic realignment signifies that Ontic is optimizing its operations and leading effectively in the aerospace and defense sectors.

Jack Karapetyan, Vice President and General Manager of Global MRO Operations, Ontic said, "I am thrilled to be taking on this new challenge at Ontic. There's a lot of work to do and I'm already in conversation with some customers. MRO is a cornerstone of our industry and I'm looking forward to expanding our operations in this area."

The appointment of Jack Karapetyan to take over the position of leading the entire Global MRO Operations in Ontic shows the strategic move that Ontic has taken towards enhancing operational excellence, fostering customer-centric solutions, and driving sustainable growth in the MRO segment. With a strong leadership team in place, Ontic is poised to set new benchmarks in the MRO industry and raise its service offerings to meet evolving customer needs.

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(*Audited figure as on 31st August, 2023)

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International CALENDAR

2024

Date	Event	Venue
07 – 09 May 2024	IATA Ground Handling conference	Iceland
28 – 30 May 2024	Aircraft Interiors EXPO	Hamburg, Germany
28 – 30 May 2024	EBACE 2024	Geneva, Switzerland
30 Apr – 2 May 2024	Global Aerospace Summit 2024	Abu Dhabi, UAE
02 –0 4 June 2024	IATA AGM & World Air Transport Summit	Dubai, UAE
05 –06 Jun 2024	Engine Leasing, Trading & Finance Europe	London, UK
06 –08 Jun 2024	France Air Expo Lyon 2024	Lyon, France
12 – 14 June 2024	Aircraft Cabin Innovation Summit USA 2024	Dallas Fort Worth, Texas
16 – 22 June 2024	Paris Air Show	Le Bourget Exhibition Centre
26 – 27 June 2024	MRO BEER	Vilnius, Lithuania
02 – 05 Sept 2024	Egypt International Airshow 2024	Egypt
10 – 11 Sept 2024	AeroEngines Europe	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
08 – 10 Oct 2024	World Aviation Festival 2024	RAI, Amsterdam
04 – 06 Sept 2024	Inter Airport China	Beijing, China
24 – 26 Sept 2024	MRO Asia-Pacific	Singapore
22 – 24 Oct 2024	MRO Europe	Barcelona, Spain
29 – 31 Oct 2024	Air Expo Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi, UAE
12 – 14 Nov 2024	TIACA Air Cargo Forum	Miami, FL

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