

## Safran signs on European NH90 engines support



**S**afran Helicopter Engines has signed a 10-year agreement with NAHEMA (NATO Helicopter Management Corporation), to support RTM322-powered NH90 operated by means of the French Army Light Aviation (ALAT) and French Navy. This agreement additionally covers the NH90 operated by Belgian Army and Navy and the Royal Netherlands Armed Forces. This agreement will cover 130 rotorcraft in coming years for a turnover of 180 Million Euros. It is first Safran's Global Support Package (GSP) agreement signed to aid NH90 fleet.

This contract satisfies the NAHEMA and Nations requirement for optimum availability of engines all through their seek and rescue and military operations, each at home or while on deployment.

The GSP guarantees turboshaft availability at a fixed price per engine flying hour, and allows military operators to cognize on their core activities.

This close technical partnership with the OEM provides the client with full budget management as the agreement lasts.

Fortunato di Marzio, NAHEMA General Manager, said, "This GSP will allow the French, the Belgian and the Dutch NH90 operators to benefit from a very effective engine-support for their RTM322 engines, especially during their operational tasks. The contract is the result of a very good and fruitful partnership between NAHEMA and Safran Helicopter Engines."

Franck Saudo, Safran Helicopter Engines Executive Vice President Support & Services, said, "This contract marks a major new milestone in our partnership with NAHEMA and French, Belgian and Dutch armed forces. We will deliver world-class services to guarantee their engine availability; thus demonstrating that the GSP model is particularly well-suited to supporting the engine fleets of modern air forces." ■

## Jet2.com finalises order for Boeing 737-800s



**J**et2.com have finalized an order for four Next Generation 737-800s worth \$384 million at present list prices from Boeing.

Carrier has a total of 34 Boeing airplanes following eight deliveries in 2016.

Jet2.com, an all-Boeing carrier, earlier had 30 Next Generation 737-800s on order, eight have been delivered already in 2016. ■

## Boeing delivers 500th 787 Dreamliner

**B**oeing has delivered its 500th 787 Dreamliner, a 787-8, to Colombia-based carrier Avianca Airlines.

Mark Jenks, vice president and general manager, 787 program of Boeing Commercial Airplanes marked, "Achieving 500 deliveries – the fastest to 500 for twin aisles – is a great accomplishment, made possible by the hard work and dedication of our employees and global suppliers".

Since 2011, the 787 Dreamliner have flown 696,000 revenue flights, with 133 million passengers around the globe.

The 787 family has been flying in more than 530 routes, with customers opening more than 120 new nonstop routes around the world. ■

## First Legacy 450 delivered by Embraer to Canada's AirSprint



**E**mbraer Executive Jets delivered the first Legacy 450 mid-light business jet to AirSprint, Inc., a Canadian privately held fractional aircraft ownership company based in Calgary, Alberta, calling the first Legacy 450 delivery in Canada.

The purchase agreement for up to 12 Legacy 450, which include two firm orders, was signed earlier in July 2016. This agreement has a predicted value of USD 198 million at the present list price, if all options are exercised.

"This first delivery is not only evidence of our growing presence in the Canadian market, but it's also an important milestone in renewing Canada's largest fractional aircraft fleet with one of the most innovative business jets in the industry," said Marco Tulio Pellegrini, President & CEO, Embraer Executive Jets. "AirSprint customers will benefit from the Legacy 450's comfort, performance, efficiency, and availability for local and transoceanic missions."

In recent times, Embraer and AirSprint

paired up for a Legacy 450 demo flight to Hawaii, demonstrating the aircraft's long range capabilities.

The 2,428 mile (3,907 km) trip from Oakland (CA) to Maui was completed without any difficulties in just over 5 hours and will be submitted to the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) and Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) as a speed record attempt between two recognized city pairs.

The Legacy 450 is certified to fly 2,900 nm (5,371 km) with four passengers and NBAA IFR reserves.

"The Legacy 450 is an exciting and important addition as we grow and evolve our fleet of aircraft," said James Elian, president and COO of AirSprint. "AirSprint is proud to play a role in the personal and professional lives of successful Canadians. Our Fractional Owners trust us daily to take them, their colleagues, and their loved ones to places of work and leisure. With the addition of the Legacy 450, we will be able to enhance their experience by providing faster, non-stop access to further away destinations, all with a level of comfort and luxury not previously available. We are thrilled to offer this new level of service to our Owners, and to introduce the Legacy 450 to the Canadian market." ■

## Bombardier delivers its first CRJ200 special freighter aircraft

**B**ombardier Commercial Aircraft has delivered the first CRJ200 Special Freighter (CRJ200SF) aircraft to launch operator Gulf & Caribbean Cargo, Inc. Db a IFL Group (IFL Group) of Waterford, Michigan.

The CRJ100SF/CRJ200SF jets are reformed from the passenger version of the aircraft by Aeronautical Engineers, Inc. (AEI) of Miami who is a Bombardier-licensed Third Party Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) provider. The freighter design includes a large 94 in. x 77 in. (238.7 cm x 195.6 cm) cargo door, hold up to 14,840 lbs. (6,731 kg) of payload on the main deck and offer eight 61.5" X 88" pallet positions for containerization.

"CRJ100 and 200 jets are the assets upon which regional airlines

have built their existence, however they are gradually being replaced in favor of larger aircraft and are finding homes in secondary markets with modifications such as AEI's freighter conversions," said David Speirs, Vice President, Asset Management, Bombardier Commercial Aircraft. "We are continuing to see growing interest in these pre-owned aircraft from both traditional and emerging sectors of the industry."

"The CRJ100 and 200 operator base has grown by about 120 per cent over the past eight or nine years, a strong indication of the aircraft's continuing strength, versatility and appeal," added Mr. Speirs.

"To date, we have received commitments for 45 aircraft conversions from a

variety of operators and we fully expect to convert over 100 aircraft over the life of the program," said Robert Convey, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Aeronautical Engineers. "I believe that most CRJ100SF, CRJ200SF aircraft will be operated on longer-range regional services with thin demand that require the speed of a jet but can't support larger narrow-body freighters."

"Speed and on-time performance are vital factors for success in a growing air freight industry," said Michael Church, President, IFL Group. "The reliability of the CRJ aircraft have made their mark in the highly-competitive and fast-paced world of regional airline operations and we're confident that will continue in our air freight business." ■



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## Airlink adds 11 ERJ 140s and extends its Pool Program Contract



**S**outh Africa's Airlink is adding 11 Embraer ERJ 140 jets to its fleet. This will increase the number of Embraer regional jets the airline operates to 30. The airline has also extended its current Flight Hour Pool Program contract for another eight years and expanded it to incorporate the ERJ 140s. The Pool Program covers more than 350 distinct components for Airlink's 30 ERJ aircraft and delivers support to the airline 24/7.

"Airlink is a successful and rapidly growing business. The addition of a further 11 ERJ aircraft is a major vote of confidence in the platform's capabil-

ity, as well as in its suitability for the expanding African market. The decision to extend the existing Pool contract is a clear demonstration that the program delivers what customers need – aircraft availability and competitive operating costs", said Simon Newitt, Vice President, Africa, Latin America & Portugal, Embraer Commercial Aviation.

Rodger Foster, CEO of Airlink, said, "The Embraer Pool Program is the most complete solution available to support our growing fleet of Embraer regional jets. It's a low investment model that delivers a high return in availability and costs,

giving us the flexibility we need as we continue to grow. Our partnership with Embraer is a key enabler of our strategy, and allows us to concentrate on our core business."

Embraer has been present in the African continent since 1978, when the first Bandeirante turboprop started operation. Currently, there are 127 Embraer aircraft in operation with 39 airlines in 19 African countries, performing a major part in connectivity.

The Pool Program, which is now supporting more than 50% of ERJ customers worldwide, is devised to minimize airlines' up-front investment in high-value repairable inventories and resources, while taking advantage of Embraer's technical expertise and its gigantic component service provider network. The outcome is significant savings on repair and inventory costs, and a cut in warehousing space requirements that virtually eliminates the need for repair management resources, and ultimately, delivering assured performance levels. ■

## Rockwell Collins bags flight services contract from DITCO

**T**he Defense Information System Agency (DISA)/Defense Information Technology Contracting Organization (DITCO) has rewarded a Data Link Service Provider (DSP) 4 contract to Rockwell Collins. The DSP 4 contract, with options, represents a potential five year agreement for the provision of Command and Control (C2) communications, broadband cabin services, global flight planning and flight deck safety provisions.

Under the new contract, Rockwell Collins will arrange aircraft data link, voice and value-added communication services to the United States Government (USG) and military to include United States Air Force Air Mobility Command (AMC) Transport and Very Important Person Special Air Mission (VIPSAM) aircraft. The company's ARINCDirectSM services facilitate global communications with

USG aircraft to provide extremely capable and direct air traffic control (ATC) routing, which will lessen mission time and fuel costs.

ARINCDirect's comprehensive global flight planning and international trip support services will also support AMC.

"As the communications service provider for the DSP 4 contract, Rockwell Collins' ARINCDirect will deliver continuous and uninterrupted worldwide operational C2 and ATC related services such as Controller-Pilot Data Link Communications



(CPDLC) for AMC and VIPSAM aircraft," said David Poltorak, vice president, Business and Government Aviation Services for Rockwell Collins. "We are proud to support the government and these aircraft in successfully completing their missions and we look forward to working together in the coming years." ■



## Rockwell Collins and Taqnia Defense sign a contract on avionics opportunities in Saudi Arabia



**R**ockwell Collins has signed an agreement with Taqnia Aeronautics and defense and security technology Taqnia subsidiaries, to cooperate on military rotary and fixed wing avionics opportunities in the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia. Work under the agreement will center on aircraft manufactured, assembled and upgraded in country.

“Rockwell Collins is expanding its presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and is committed to providing

technical job opportunities to local citizens,” said Claude Alber, vice president and managing director, Europe, Middle East and Africa for Rockwell Collins. “Rockwell Collins is a global leader in avionics and can contribute to economic growth and knowledge transfer in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.”

Rockwell Collins has been a supplier to the Armed Forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for over 50 years and is already manufacturing and supporting avionics and military communications in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a private Saudi company.

“The agreement with Rockwell Collins is a major step in the evolution of local Saudi aerospace industry capabilities which is fully in line with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 and the National Transformation Program 2020,” said Major General (retired) Ali Al-Ghamdi, CEO of Taqnia Aeronautics.” ■

## Bombardier Q400 selected by Island Air for fleet renewal and expansion



**B**ombardier Commercial Aircraft declared that it has delivered the first of three Q400 turboprops ordered by Irish leasing company Elix Aviation Capital (“Elix”). The aircraft, which was delivered in a 78-seat configuration, is expected to start service with Hawaii Island Air (Island Air) in early 2017. Island Air is Hawaii’s a back-up regional airline and second oldest carrier.

“We are delighted to welcome Island Air to the growing family of Q400 aircraft operators and are proud that the airline selected the Q400 as it re-fleets and looks to enhance inter-island connectivity,” said Fred Cromer, President, Bombardier Commercial Aircraft. “The technologically

advanced, environmentally friendly Q400 aircraft is ideal for operations in Hawaii’s hot, humid, topographically diverse landscape and will serve Island Air well as it strives to achieve its business objectives.”

“As we look to expand our regional route network and connect local residents and visitors across the islands, the reliable, operationally flexible and cost efficient Q400 turboprop is the perfect choice to take our airline to the next level,” said David Uchiyama, Chief Executive Officer and President, Hawaii Island Air. “Additionally, the comprehensive support from Bombardier in acquiring the aircraft and integrating them into

our network reconfirms our decision to utilize this manufacturer and superior product for our fleet renewal and expansion strategy.”

“The modern Q400 turboprop is a valuable asset in our portfolio because it is ideally suited to meet the needs of diverse regional airlines worldwide,” said Antonis Simigdalas, Chief Executive Officer, Elix Aviation Capital Limited. “This latest aircraft acquisition will figure prominently in our plans as we continue to grow and we are pleased to see that the Island Air network will also benefit from this transaction.”

The Q400 aircraft features better noise reduction and vibration suppression systems to allow passengers to enjoy a peaceful cabin experience. The aircraft burns 30 percent less fuel and produces lower emissions on short-haul routes, making it more eco friendly in comparison with other aircraft presently serving the Hawaii market. In addition, with its reduced noise footprint there will be less disruption to communities as it soars above. ■

## Boeing T-X accomplishes first flight



**B**oeing and partner Saab completed the first flight of their all-new T-X aircraft, which is constructed especially for the U.S. Air Force's training needs.

During the 55-minute flight, lead T-X Test Pilot Steven Schmidt and Chief Pilot for Air Force Programs Dan Draeger, who

was seated behind Schmidt, validated main aspects of the single-engine jet and exposed the achievement of the low-risk design.

"I've been a part of this team since the beginning, and it was really exciting to be the first to train and fly," Schmidt

said. "The aircraft met all expectations. It's well designed and offers superior handling characteristics. The cockpit is intuitive, spacious and adjustable, so everything is within easy reach."

"It was a smooth flight and a successful test mission," Draeger added. "I had a great all-around view throughout the flight from the instructor's seat, which is critical during training."

Both pilots trained for the flight using the complete Boeing T-X system, which consists of ground-based training and simulation.

With one engine, twin tails, stadium seating and an exceptional cockpit with embedded training, the Boeing T-X is more economical and extensible than the previous, existing aircraft.

Boeing and Saab revealed their first two T-X aircraft in September. The second is presently in ground testing and expected to fly in early 2017.

T-X will take over the Air Force's aging T-38 aircraft. Initial operating capability is programmed for 2024. ■

## Gulfstream G600 takes flight ahead of schedule



**G**ulfstream's new G600 large-cabin business jet flew for the first time on Saturday, beginning a flight test program that is set to lead to type certification and initial deliveries in 2018. The U.S. manufacturer has handed over two other G600 test aircraft into its flight test center and these are expected to make first flights early in 2017 after being fitted with test equipment.

The first test aircraft took off from Gulfstream's headquarters at Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport at 1:50 p.m. and flew for 2 hours and 53 minutes. Experimental test pilots Scott Martin and Todd Abler, along with flight test engineer Nathaniel Rutland, flew the aircraft.

The first G600 is now being used for envelope expansion and flutter testing. Gulfstream expects the G600's flight test program to follow a pattern similar to that of its smaller G500 sister ship, with which it shares a high degree of technical commonality. Gulfstream has finished more than 57,000 hours of ground laboratory testing for the two new models.

"Launching the G600's flight-test program is a milestone for us and our customers, who have guided the vision for this aircraft from the beginning," said Gulfstream president Mark Burns. "We look forward to delivering this aircraft to them in 2018. Today's flight, which went flawlessly, represents a significant step

forward in the journey to certification and delivery. The flight went exactly as anticipated, thanks in large part to the investments that we have made in our ground-based laboratories."

Meanwhile, the new G500 model being developed in tandem with the G600 is ahead of schedule to attain type certification, with projected first deliveries having been brought forward to late 2017. Its maximum range is 5,000 nm. As of December 19, the five G500 test aircraft had performed 494 flights, logging 2,015 flight hours.

The cabin interior of the G600 is almost three feet longer than that of the G500 (at 45 feet 2 inches versus 41 feet 6 inches). The larger model has a higher maximum takeoff weight of 91,600 pounds (versus 76,840 pounds). It is powered by a pair of 15,680-pound-thrust Pratt & Whitney Canada PW815GA turbofans.

The G600 cabin, which Gulfstream claims to be the longest in its class, can include four separate areas for up to 19 passengers (with sleeping accommodation for 9). Like the G500, it has 14 large windows granting enough of natural light and panoramic views. Cabin altitude is set at 4,850 feet and passengers also benefit from 100 percent fresh air. ■

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## SpiceJet takes off with AMOS



**S**wiss-AS declared a new business association with SpiceJet, one of India's noted low cost airlines, regarding the Swiss Aircraft Maintenance & Engineering System AMOS. AMOS will be rolled out and used by over 600 employees in the Technical department of the airline.

Some representatives of the SpiceJet technical department staff are already

familiar with AMOS, which helped the airline not only during the evaluation phase, but will also be useful in the future implementation process. "India has become a strategic market for us and, with SpiceJet on board, we are proud to continue this Indian story of success," stated Ronald Schaeuffele, CEO of Swiss-AS.

SpiceJet is delighted to begin the AMOS project and the airline foresees a short implementation period to benefit from best practice processes with the launch of this software. The basic approach to introduce AMOS aligns perfectly with the expected fleet growth at SpiceJet to support efficiency profit and better cost control measures. SpiceJet will double the present fleet with the 55 B737 MAX aircraft on order.

For the carrier, implementing a new MRO software during this challenging period will bring efficiency benefits and allow the existing and new aircraft to be directly monitored and maintained in AMOS. Experience has proven, via the numerous low cost carriers already members of the AMOS customer community, that expansive fleet growth projects have been successfully and economically managed using enhanced fleet management processes. ■

## Air France Industries appointed Géry Mortreux as Executive Vice President

**G**éry Mortreux has been appointed executive vice president of Air France Industries, effective January 1, 2017, taking over from Anne Brachet, who was appointed as executive vice president AIR FRANCE KLM Engineering & Maintenance in early December.

Mortreux, said, "The mission awaiting me is full of thrilling challenges. In these demanding times for many airlines, and in a fast-growing MRO market, I will concentrate on boosting the

performance and competitiveness of Air France Industries to enhance the operational excellence of Air France, the AIR FRANCE KLM group, and AFI KLM E&M client airlines."

An alumnus of ENSMA, the National School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering in Poitiers, with an Executive MBA from top business school HEC Paris, Géry Mortreux, started out at Air Inter in 1989, where he occupied a number of positions in the maintenance sphere.

In 1996, he joined Air France as 737/727 Engineering manager, later becoming 747/767 Production manager. In 2001, he became A320 Fleet manager, and subsequently (2005) Supply Chain Director, followed by his appointment as VP Components Industrial Operations in 2006.

In 2007, he moved to Sabena Technics in Brussels as EVP Engineering and Maintenance, Civil Aircraft, before his appointment as Technical director of Corsair International in 2008, and subsequently as chief operating officer and Accountable manager in 2011. ■



## Lufthansa's first Airbus A350-900 to fly from Munich to Delhi



**L**ufthansa has received its first A350-900 on December 19, 2016, which is the most modern long haul aircraft worldwide and which will be based at Lufthansa's Munich Hub.

The first regular commercial flight will be from Munich to Delhi on February 10, 2017.

From February 2017 onwards, Lufthansa will station the first ten Airbus A350-900 aircrafts in Munich. The first flight destinations are Delhi and Boston.

"We are looking forward to welcoming our first A350-900 shortly before Christmas. And already in February, our passengers will be able to enjoy a higher level of comfort on their flights to Delhi as we have now made further improvements to key components of the A350-900's cabin interior. This includes, among other things, a newly designed self-service area in Business Class, new seats with ergonomically designed cushions in Economy Class, larger screens in all classes and improved broadband internet services," says Thomas Winkelmann, CEO of the Munich Hub. ■



## Russia's S7 Airlines joins the E-Jets operators' family



**E**mbraer has announced that S7 Airlines will be the first operator of the E170 in the country. This comes just weeks after receiving the Type Certificates from the Russian authorities for the E170 and E175 jets.

The airline signed an agreement with GE Capital Aviation Services (GECAS) to lease 17 E170 pre-owned jets, therefore not impacting Embraer's order backlog.

The airline will start to receive the aircraft in the first half of 2017.

"Once again, GECAS joins Embraer to provide aircraft to the Russian market," said Arjan Meijer, Chief Commercial Officer, Embraer Commercial Aviation.

"New E170s will allow us to gain momentum in the development of regional air transportation. We see this segment as highly potential. Today, air transpor-

tation is concentrated in Moscow, and passengers from Ural cities often have to fly to the Far East through a connecting flight in Moscow. The first Embraers will be based at the Novosibirsk Tolmachevo airport which is located well enough to serve as an efficient hub for other regions. The new type of airlines will allow us to launch flights from small and hard to reach cities, where the use of medium-haul aircrafts is impossible," said Vladimir Obyedkov, CEO of S7 Airlines.

"The introduction of the E170 into the S7 fleet is the result of our thorough analysis of the airline's growing needs," said Alec Burger, president & CEO, GECAS.

"The E170 offers strong economics and is well-suited to help S7 serve the Russian markets."

The E-Jets are already well established in several countries in the region— Poland, Finland, and Bulgaria – and in CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries where Embraer customers operate E-Jets in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

The E190 and the E195 were certified by Russia in 2012, and Saratov Airlines has been flying the E195 since 2013. ■

## airBaltic begins revenue service with Bombardier CS300 aircraft

**B**ombardier Commercial Aircraft congratulated launch operator airBaltic at the wonderful execution of the CS300 aircraft's first commercial flight. With 120 passengers aboard, which includes local media, the flight departed Riga and landed in Amsterdam. airBaltic is operating the CS300 aircraft 145-seat, two class configuration. The airline has ordered a total of 20 CS300 aircraft.

"airBaltic has been counting down the days to this landmark moment. During its maiden commercial flight today, the CS300 aircraft performed beyond our expectations and offered a new level of travel experience for our customers," said Martin Gauss, CEO, airBaltic. "We look forward to serving many communities across Western Europe and the



Eastern markets with the CS300 aircraft – the largest variant in the world's most efficient and environmentally friendly family of airliners."

"As one of the World's Most Innovative Airlines, airBaltic's flawless entry-into-service of the state-of-the-art CS300 aircraft signals the airline's progress with its fleet modernization strategy,"

said Fred Cromer, President, Bombardier Commercial Aircraft. "The CS300 aircraft's entry-into-service also confirms Bombardier's successful execution on our commitment to deliver the only all-new family of single-aisle airliners the 100- to 150-seat market in 30 years."

"Today's commercial flight highlights the remarkable journey between airBaltic and Bombardier as the CS300 aircraft is brought to market," said Rob Dewar, Vice President, C Series Aircraft Program, Bombardier Commercial Aircraft. "We salute airBaltic, our employees, suppliers and industry stakeholders for their steadfast loyalty to the success of the C Series aircraft program."

Since entering revenue carrier with SWISS, the CS100 aircraft has completed more than 1,600 flights — sporting over 156,560 passengers, covering over 1,181 500 km and serving 18 locations. ■

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
<b>Procurement Fraud Management</b>	18-20 Jan, 2017	Singapore
<b>MRO Middle East</b>	8-9 Feb, 2017	Dubai World Trade Centre
<b>The 4th China Aviation New Technology Forum (CANTF) 2017</b>	12 -13 April, 2017	Shanghai, China
<b>Civil Avionics International Forum 2017</b>	18 -19 April, 2017	Pullman Shanghai South Hotel, China
<b>Rotorcraft Asia 2017</b>	18-20 April 2017	Changi Exhibition Centre, Singapore
<b>Unmanned Systems Asia</b>	18-20 April 2017	Changi Exhibition Centre, Singapore
<b>MRO Americas</b>	25-27 April, 2017	Orange county convention centre, Orlando, Florida
<b>Civil Aircraft Industry International Forum 2017</b>	10-11 May 2017	Shanghai, China
<b>The 7th Airport Construction Summit</b>	10-12 May 2017	Shanghai, China
<b>China Aerospace Propulsion Technology Summit 2017</b>	24-25 May 2017	Shenyang, China
<b>AP&amp;M Europe</b>	31 May- 1 June, 2017	Olympia, London, UK

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