

Honeywell signs GKN Aerospace for MRO of Honeywell's wheels and brakes for F-35 variants

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US Air Force receives second F-15EX fighter aircraft eight months ahead of schedule

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Sanad expands the aircraft engine portfolio by signing USD 55 million deal with Commercial Bank of Dubai

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MAY 01ST, 2021



AvAir signs their largest acquisition with Iberia Maintenance

AvAir has secured their largest acquisition to date with Iberia Maintenance to gain more than 1.5 million consumable parts and 30,000 tagged rotatable components.

Brandon Wesson, Executive Vice President of Sales for AvAir said, "We are grateful Iberia gave us the opportunity to provide a solution that goes far beyond a traditional purchase. This inventory puts AvAir in an unrivalled position to support our customers during this recovery and well into the future."

Iván González Vallejo, Director of Strategy and Supply Chain for Iberia Maintenance said, "AvAir created a strategic solution that addressed our needs. This agreement not only provides liquidity, but a rapid adjustment of our asset needs going forward and the establishment of a working relationship with AvAir that will improve how we

can better support our customers in the future."

Iberia Maintenance offers Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul services to more than 50 customers worldwide including all IAG airlines, Iberia, Iberia Express, Aer Lingus, British Airways, Level and Vueling; OEMs and other customers from all five continents. Iberia Maintenance provides Engine Overhaul Services for CFM56, V2500 and RB211 engines in its facility in Madrid; Heavy Maintenance for Airbus fleet in its hangars in Madrid and Barcelona; Component Repair Services and Line Maintenance Services across multiple locations in Spain and Latin America.

AJW Technique signs strategic partnership with Aerontii

AJW Technique has signed a strategic partnership with Aerontii to complement its North American sales. AJW's state-of-the-art facility provides repair and overhaul services to over 1000 customers across 100 countries.

press release

AJW Technique signs strategic partnership with Aerontii



Rob Gogo, Director of Customer Experience at AJW Technique said, "We are delighted to implement a strategic partnership with Aerontii and are confident that we will see further reach and reward for AJW Technique and our North American customer experience."

As part of AJW Group, established in 1932, with a reputation for high quality, efficient and cost-effective repair solutions, AJW Technique boasts a wide range of capabilities across Avionics, Electrical, Electro-Mechanical, Fuel Systems, Galley Equipment, Hydraulics, Instruments, Oxygen, Pneumatics, Power Generation and is a renowned centre of excellence for Safety Slide repair and fulfilment since 2012.

AJW Technique has a large team of skilled technicians, with decades of experience, alongside engineering, procurement, and customer experience specialists.



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MRO
BUSINESS **talks**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on the entire aerospace industry. Steadily the industry is picking up its numbers. Passenger traffic is up again, the hangars are back for routine maintenance checks and things are falling back in place.

In the special Interview series organized by MRO Business Today we will talk to some of the brilliant minds of the Aerospace industry. Come and Listen in to the Aerospace MRO experts speak on the return of MRO Business and latest MRO trends post pandemic in our special Interview series

‘MROBusinessTalks’

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Czech Airlines Technics expand service portfolio by providing MRO services to 737 MAX customers

Czech Airlines Technics recently received authorization from the Civil Aviation Authority of the Czech Republic making it eligible to provide maintenance to Boeing 737 MAX customers. The Czech MRO hangar at Václav Havel Airport Prague will now provide overhauls for most modern version of 737 aircraft types. LOT Polish Airlines became the first B737 MAX customer in the middle of April 2021

“Boeing 737 MAX aircraft are being included in airline fleets all over the world. Therefore, we have decided that now is the right time to expand our service portfolio with this aircraft type, thus offering customers our assistance upon their gradual return to service. In addition, quieter, more economical and more environmentally friendly aircraft will be increasingly sought after due to the current situation in aviation and greater emphasis on sustainable travel. As such, they will become the future direction of our base maintenance division, too” said Pavel Haleš, Chairman of the Czech Airlines Technics Board of Directors, said.

LOT Polish Airlines is the first customer with whom CSAT has entered into a co-operation agreement after obtaining the new authorization. Since mid-April 2021, CSAT mechanics have been performing the Boeing 737-8 MAX (SP-LVB registration) overhaul for the Polish national

carrier. This is the historically first overhaul of this type of aircraft performed in the hangar F in Prague. In addition, the expansion of the base maintenance service portfolio will promote long-term cooperation not only with LOT, but also with other customers from the segment of air carriers and leasing companies.

Base Maintenance work is also a part of the package of services offered by Czech Airlines Technics to clients interested in long-term aircraft parking.

“As there is a great demand for aircraft storage on the market, we will secure the parking of additional six Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft at Václav Havel Airport Prague for major leasing companies in the coming weeks. Thanks to the extension of our base maintenance division authorisation with this aircraft type, we will also provide owners with hangar maintenance and ensure the aircraft airworthiness as soon as new operators are found,” Pavel Haleš added, commenting

on the company's latest achievement.

Last year, despite the COVID-19 pandemics, which has had a major impact on the entire aviation sector, Czech Airlines Technics managed to successfully complete over 70 base maintenance overhauls on Boeing 737, Airbus A320 Family and ATR aircraft. Finnair, Transavia Airlines, Czech Airlines, Smartwings and NEOS are among the most important Czech Airlines Technics clients in the base maintenance division. In 2020, a team of CSAT mechanics also worked on projects for new customers, namely Jet2.com, Austrian Airlines and clients from both the government and private sectors.

Regular mandatory checks, more demanding repairs, modifications to aircraft systems and structures, cabin modifications, engine exchanges and exchanges and repairs of landing gear and other aircraft components are a part of aircraft base maintenance services provided.

Gulf Air extends contract with AFI KLM E&M for total equipment support of Airbus A320 fleet

Gulf Air has renewed the contract with AFI KLM E&M for total equipment support for its Airbus A320neo/ceo family fleet. Under the agreement, AFI KLM E&M will provide comprehensive component maintenance-By-the-Hour support covering component exchange, repair, overhaul, modification, reliability monitoring and logistics services for Gulf Air's new fleet of A320neo family aircraft and the older A320ceo fleet until they are phased out. This agreement is a renewal of an earlier contract for similar support services for a term of 6 years.

“AFI KLM E&M has demonstrated, during our relationship spanning over more than 10 years, that they are the right partner for Gulf Air as we drive forward with our fleet renewal programme in preparation to welcome more new aircraft to replace and modernize our fleet. AFI KLM E&M was able to adapt its components offers to our renewed fleet. Throughout a long and positive relationship, we were able to appreciate the quality of service and the reliability that AFI KLM

E&M brings. Their expertise and their Airline-MRO profile, which gives them a perfect understanding of our operations, convinced us to extend our partnership,” said Captain Waleed AlAlawi, Gulf Air Acting Chief Executive Officer.

AFI KLM E&M programme, renowned for its flexibility and high level of customization, is well established and popular among its global customers. For a fixed rate per hour, the airlines select a range of support services and pay a corresponding flight per hour rate, which is predetermined. In this

way, operators are able to keep operating costs low and also minimize fixed asset inventory holdings in terms of spares or maintenance equipment.

“Gulf Air's renewed confidence in us is undoubtedly an asset for our development in a region where MRO needs are growing rapidly. Our leading position in component maintenance, repair and adaptive solutions ensures that AFI KLM E&M delivers unmatched reliability and experience to our customers,” said Fabrice Defrance, AFI KLM E&M SVP Commercial

Honeywell signs GKN Aerospace for MRO of Honeywell's wheels and brakes for F-35 variants

Honeywell and GKN Aerospace's Fokker Landing Gear business in the Netherlands have signed a license and parts supply agreement for an authorized service center for Honeywell's wheels and brakes on the F-35 military fighter jet.



In 2016, GKN Aerospace's Fokker Landing Gear was chosen by the F-35 Joint Program Office (JPO) to maintain and service landing gear components for the European F-35 fleet.

The 10-year, nonexclusive agreement between Honeywell and GKN Aerospace will cover the entire European market and bring significant benefits to both current and future owners and operators of the F-35. This agreement will substantially reduce the logistical footprint of supporting the regional fleet with a Netherlands-based depot, thus resulting in a lower cost of ownership for F-35 operators.

As part of the license agreement, GKN Aerospace will provide repair, overhaul and maintenance of Honeywell's wheels and brakes covering all variants of the F-35.

"Our license agreement with GKN Aerospace will provide considerable benefits to both owners and operators of the F-35 in Europe," said Cooper Cullen, senior director, Defense and Space, EMEAL, Honeywell Aerospace. "There are currently an estimated 126 F-35 aircraft in Europe, with more than 450 aircraft forecasted in 10 years' time. A dedicated repair, overhaul and maintenance facility was needed in Europe that can service this large fleet, as opposed to sending every asset to the U.S., which not only incurs significant time and cost, but also affects operational readiness."

"There was an urgent need in the region for a service center able to provide repair, maintenance and overhaul of the F-35 wheels and brakes for the European market locally, thus our partnership with Honeywell will provide immense cost and time savings for F-35 operators and owners," said Suku Kurien program director, Lockheed Martin, GKN Aerospace. "Additionally, we can leverage Honeywell's extensive knowledge and know-how and our expertise in this area, resulting in a win-win proposition for all."

Honeywell delivers a wide range of content to the F-35, and each F-35 built contains 100 unique Honeywell parts. Therefore, Honeywell can provide several upgrades, retrofits and modifications on this highly advanced joint strike fighter. Honeywell technology on the aircraft includes avionics, inertial navigation systems, engine fuel controls, cockpit and avionics cooling, wheels and brakes, and a thermal management system.

Panasonic Avionics and 8tree partner to provide dentCHECK dent mapping service

Panasonic Avionics Corporation and 8tree today announced a partnership to make available the revolutionary and OEM-approved dentCHECK dent-mapping/reporting service at select Panasonic Technical Services (PTS) regional line stations: Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), London Heathrow (LHR) and Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport (SYD).



This new service offering will allow Panasonic Avionics customers yet another convenient, accurate and efficient way to protect their commercial aircraft investment, avoiding unnecessary cost and time delays. Further, the service will complement PTS's existing line of best-in-class products and services, continuing its history of being a premier service solution provider.

Panasonic Avionics supplies and services In-Flight Entertainment and Communication (IFEC) systems. Their customer base includes more than 300 airlines located across the globe.

As a key business unit within Panasonic Avionics, PTS provides Spares, Repairs, Line Maintenance and Technical Services, which includes Training, Technical Publications and Support Services, at more than 50 locations globally. PTS's customized solutions are designed to ensure equipment serviceability at the lowest possible through-life cost.

AFI KLM E&M and Corendon Dutch Airlines extends component support agreement to cover 737NG and 737 MAX

AFI KLM E&M and Corendon Dutch Airlines have renewed and extended the component support agreement that has been in place between the companies for several years. The contract provides for adaptive services, including maintenance and repair as well as the provision of spare parts. The contract extension now covers Corendon Dutch Airlines' Boeing 737NG and upcoming 737MAX fleets. Maintenance operations will be carried out by AFI KLM E&M and Boeing partner teams under their joint 737 Component Support Program (CSP).

“We are delighted to have concluded this component support contract with AFI KLM E&M. We believe that this contract will deliver great value to Corendon Dutch Airlines both in terms of the quality of the support provided and in the overall contract cost. We opted for a reliable concept with a trusted partner,” said Freek van der Pal, Managing Director of Corendon Dutch Airlines.

AFI KLM E&M counts Corendon Dutch Airlines among its long-standing customers. The Airline-MRO provides engine and component maintenance services to the Dutch airline under a cooperation agreement that began in 2014. AFI KLM E&M has adapted its offer to convince Corendon Dutch Airlines to continue this partnership, adding to its offer the rental of its hangars in Amsterdam-Schiphol.

Ton Dortmans, Executive Vice Presi-



dent of KLM E&M, declared: “This agreement is a renewed sign of Corendon’s trust in AFI KLM E&M services. We are delighted to pursue our partnership and to continue delivering very high level support for Corendon Dutch Airlines.”

With this new contract on the Boeing 737NG and 737MAX, AFI KLM E&M confirms its leading MRO position on the Boeing 737MAX product, which has been allowed to resume flights for several months. With extensive experience on new platforms industrialization, AFI KLM E&M managed to developed

capabilities tailored to operator needs.

Olaf Hoftijzer, AFI KLM E&M Vice President Sales Europe & Key Accounts, added: “Our expertise on the 737 derives from our privileged position as an MRO owned by airlines which themselves operate this aircraft. This means we can guarantee our client’s stable, predictable performance and all-round knowledge of the operational issues likely to arise during revenue service.”

AFI KLM E&M have created a unique component maintenance program (CSP), available for the 737 all series (Next-Gen and MAX). Based on a large-scale pooling arrangement generating substantial economies of scale, the CSP program offers customers top-flight service quality and pricing. Large numbers of airlines all around the world have already opted for CSP 777 and 737, making AFI KLM E&M and Boeing leading component support providers for the global 777 and 737 fleets.

C&L expands ERJ 145 inventory at Maine MRO facility

C&L Aerospace has purchased nine ERJ 145 aircraft from a European-based operator for teardown. The package consists of nine complete ERJ 145 aircraft and 14 AE3007 Rolls Royce Engines. All aircraft are located in Clermont-Ferrand, France, where they are currently being torn down, with expected completion in October of 2021. Parts from these aircraft will be located at C&L’s global warehouses, with the majority being stored at the company’s main headquarters in Bangor, Maine.

“C&L has been investing in our ERJ 135/145 program for many years now,” said Warrick Hood, Senior Vice President, C&L Aerospace. “We support operators around the world in a variety of ways including spare parts supply and exchanges to power-by-the-hour programs and consignment inventories. Having parts available on-site at our MRO facility in Maine is a huge benefit for our ERJ maintenance customers as well.”

As with all of C&L’s inventory, these parts will be inspected and made ready for sale, which includes photographing and barcoding each part and corresponding documentation which is sent as viewable links on all customer quotes allowing more transparency for the customer during the buying process.





New Zealand's Civil Aviation Authority approves Execujet MRO services

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of New Zealand has approved Execujet MRO Services to maintain aircraft in New Zealand, a business aviation market that Execujet sees has growth potential. Execujet MRO Services New Zealand has achieved a CAA of New Zealand Part 145 approval covering facilities in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. The approval will support line and limited base maintenance. Heavier inspections can be performed at one of Execujet's Australian east coast facilities at Sydney Airport or Melbourne Essendon Airport.

Grant Ingall, Regional VP Australasia at Execujet MRO Services said, "New Zealand is a growing market for business aviation. New Zealand based business jets are a mix of small, medium

and long-range business jets, with all segments holding very good potential for growth as the advantages of business aviation are being more widely recognised in that market."

"With the backing of the established Australian bases, Execujet's re-entry into the New Zealand market will provide a solid platform for maintenance support across many aircraft types to help promote further growth. Once international air restrictions are eased, we anticipate there will be more business jets from overseas passing through New Zealand again because the country is world-renowned as an exclusive travel destination," he continued

The CAA of New Zealand approval has been granted to initially cover Dassault Falcon 2000EX series aircraft, Embraer Phenom 100 and Bombardier Challenger 604, but will be extended to other aircraft models as customer needs arise.

Execujet's facilities in Australia and New Zealand are all authorised by Dassault Aviation. The decision to expand into New Zealand means regional Falcon operators will enjoy the benefits of having an in-country authorised facility that can undertake, for example, work covered by the manufacturer warranty. Business jets passing through New Zealand also need the services of a certified line maintenance services provider such as Execujet.

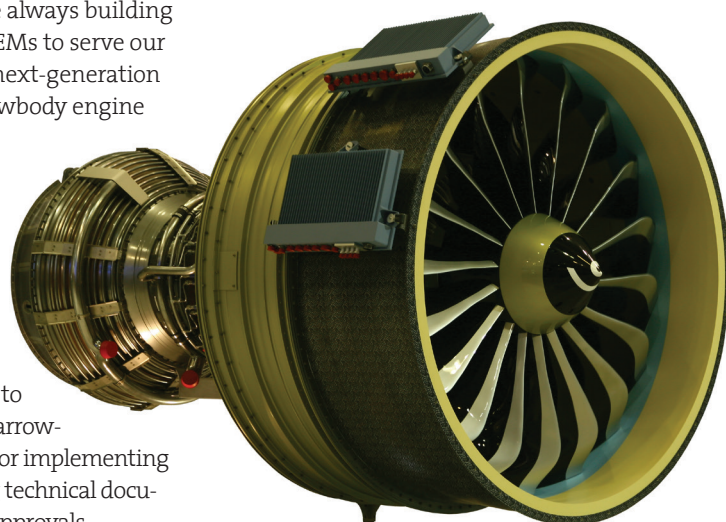
CFM International signs GATES for MRO support for LEAP 1A/1B engines

GA Telesis Engine Services (GATES) announces the signing of an agreement with CFM International (CFM) to provide MRO support for LEAP-1A/-1B engines. Through this agreement, GATES will have the rights and licenses to obtain airworthiness authority certification for MRO services on the LEAP-1A, which powers the Airbus A320neo Family, and LEAP-1B, the exclusive powerplant for the Boeing 737 MAX.

Russ Shelton, President of the Engine Strategy Group, said, "We are always building on our MRO capabilities and strengthening partnerships with OEMs to serve our customers, and their evolving maintenance needs intelligently. The next-generation LEAP engine is a natural evolution for GATES as an established narrowbody engine shop in Europe with expertise with the CFM56 engine family."

Gaël Méheust, President and CEO of CFM International said, "It is a real pleasure to expand our relationship with GATES to include both LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B engines. From our experience with them supporting the CFM56 product line, we expect them to bring their proven expertise in MRO to support LEAP customer operations."

GATES has a longstanding relationship with CFM as a licensed overhaul shop for CFM56-5B/-7B engines. The latest agreement builds on that partnership, expanding the suite of MRO offerings to LEAP engines to better support engine maintenance requirements of new-generation narrowbody aircraft. GA Telesis Engines Services will commence preparations for implementing the LEAP program at its facility in Helsinki, Finland, including reviewing technical documents, employee training, and obtaining necessary aviation authority approvals.



Shin-Nihon Helicopters becomes first Japanese company to operate Bell 407GX i helicopters

Japan's Shin-Nihon Helicopters recently took delivery of two Bell 407GX i helicopters and became the first Japanese company to purchase and operate the 407GX i aircraft. This purchase adds to Shin-Nihon Helicopters all Bell fleet which includes the Bell 206, Bell 412, and Bell 427 helicopters.

The Bell 407GX i is equipped with the GARMIN G1000H Nxi and Rolls-Royce C47E/4 dual-channel FADEC turbine engine, creating an enhanced flying experience with ultra-modern display systems and improved power.

Jacinto Monge, managing director for Bell North Asia said, "The Bell 407GX i builds on its heritage as a helicopter that is known for responsive and smooth operation, versatility, and efficient engine power. Coupled with low operating costs, the Bell 407GX i is the ideal choice for Shin-Nihon Helicopters whose focus is on conducting their utility missions safely and efficiently."

A longstanding Bell customer since its establishment in 1960, Shin-Nihon Helicopters will use both helicopters to conduct power-line patrol missions for electric power companies.



Global Helicopter Services signs Safran's Support-By-Hour contract for H225 heli

Safran Helicopter Engines has signed a Support-By-Hour (SBH) contract with Global Helicopter Service (GHS). As a part of the contract, Safran will cover the MRO and service agreement for a total of 2 Makila 2A1 engines of H225 helicopter.

Francis Larribau, Safran Helicopter Engines Germany CEO said, "We are proud that GHS has placed its confidence in Safran Helicopter Engines and its SBH® support contract, and we look forward to delivering them world-class services and supporting them in their most demanding missions."

Safran Helicopter Engines Germany supports more than 300 operators fly-

ing in Germany, Scandinavia, Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia, with almost 2,000 engines. The support-by-the-hour program makes engine operating costs predictable, eliminates cash peaks, and allows flexibility for scheduled and unscheduled MRO coverage. It almost covers 50 per cent of Safran Helicopter Engines' customer turbines' flying hours.

Global Helicopter Service is a German helicopter service provider and operates H225 on utility and humanitarian support missions in Africa. These services include Part 145 maintenance, Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation (CAMO) services, forward aeromedical evacuation, pax & freight air transport, firefighting, and air training organization (ATO) services.



Bombardier opens new Line Maintenance Station at Geneva Airport

In the most recent addition to Bombardier's rapidly growing Services and Support network in Europe, Bombardier has opened a new Line Maintenance Station at Geneva Airport. This center will provide services by highly skilled technicians who are certified to maintain Challenger 300, Challenger 350, Challenger 604, Challenger 605, Challenger 650, Challenger 850 and all Global series business jets, including Bombardier's flagship Global 7500 aircraft

This addition is an integral part of our overall mission to enhance OEM support for our operators in Europe, and we are very pleased to offer our customers turn-key service solutions for aircraft and crew members," said Jean-Christophe Gallagher, Executive Vice President, Services and Support, and Corporate Strategy, Bombardier. "In keeping with our commitment to offer an exceptional customer experience, we are delighted to provide our customers with expanded support in Europe."

This station offers customers access

to 10,000 sq. m (over 107,000 sq. ft.) of hangar space and is ideally situated adjacent to business aviation terminal C3 and its handling agents. Geneva Airpark personnel also offer premium services such as hangaring aircraft in clean, temperature-controlled conditions, tire pressure checks, oxygen tank refills, fuel tank drainage, and 24/7 cleaning of aircraft interiors.

The new Line Maintenance Station builds on Bombardier's series of announcements regarding enhancements to its worldwide customer service

network. As the seventh European Line Maintenance Station and tenth worldwide, the new facility in Geneva joins Bombardier's award-winning network of nine service centers and a total of 30 Customer Response Team mobile units around the globe, all equipped to support Bombardier Learjet, Challenger and Global business aircraft. Since 2017, Bombardier began rapidly expanding its service center footprint worldwide and is currently on the way to growing its Services and Support infrastructure footprint by 50 per cent.

Sheltair adds 19th full-service FBO at Melbourne International Airport

Sheltair recently announced the addition of its 19th full-service FBO at the Melbourne International Airport expanding its existing 250,000 square-foot hangar facility, with 12,400 square feet in FBO terminal and office space and two large cabin class size hangars that combine for 52,000 square feet. They will offer the customers a full range of services, including t-hangars, large box hangars, exclusive-use corporate hangars, 24-hour secured access, ample parking, and an on-site FBO backed by its award-winning brand.

Sheltair has acquired Apex Executive Jet Center at Orlando Melbourne International Airport and received the approval of Melbourne Airport Authority and in less than 30 days. The family-owned company will retain the Apex Executive Jet Center team, including the respected leadership of General Manager Jamie Toler, Customer Service Manager Jessica Blews, and Line Service Manager Adam Morrow.

Sheltair MLB's General Manager, Jamie Toler said, "Being a resident of Brevard County for over 20 years, I have proudly witnessed the growth of the Orlando Melbourne International Airport. Sheltair's values will further solidify our relationship with airport tenants and the Melbourne community for years to come."

Mark Busalacchi, Director of Marketing and Business Development at MLB said, "We look forward to expanding on what



is already a strong partnership with Sheltair as it continues to grow at MLB. We're confident that Sheltair's nationally acclaimed FBO brand will elevate the overall customer experience for our critically important general aviation and corporate community here at MLB."

Lisa Holland, President of Sheltair said, "The acquisition of our newest location is a testament to Sheltair's commitment to serving the general aviation market throughout Florida and beyond. We look forward to supporting the continued economic growth of the Melbourne community by providing top-tier gen-

eral aviation services and amenities that are set apart by our award-winning VIP customer care programs."

Sheltair is a partner of the Orlando Melbourne International Airport since 1988 and has served Florida's Space Coast for more than thirty years, connecting general aviation traffic with high-demand destinations for tech and space exploration, including Kennedy Space Center, Patrick Space Force Base, Port Canaveral, and quick access to Central Florida. In addition—to provide expedited services to international traffic to and from the Caribbean, Bahamas, and South America—Sheltair MLB will continue to provide US Customs clearance seven days per week. Its location on the airport field grants easy access to three runways—the longest being 10,181 feet—along with access to a variety of aircraft vendors and services.

Airborne Maintenance & Engineering Services completes renovation and expansion of its facility

Airborne Maintenance & Engineering Services completed the renovation and expansion of its Component Repair/Overhaul (CRO) and Manufacturing facility in about 17 weeks. During the renovation, Airborne's partnership with the University of Akron advanced into Phase II of furthering Supersonic Particle Deposition (SPD) research, commonly known as "cold spray technology." This collaboration, established in 2015, is designed to drive economic growth through advanced manufacturing in the State of Ohio.

"This investment demonstrates Airborne's continued drive to provide the most efficient, state-of-the-art repair services," said Todd France, president of Airborne Maintenance & Engineering Services, "and aligns with our commitment to provide unsurpassed customer service."

The University of Akron's grant recently allowed the school to install two vertical mills, one nitrogen generation system and one sheet metal shear in Airborne's newly renovated CRO facility at the Wilmington Air Park, along with

an additional paint booth and sand blasting booth. Airborne's renovation increased the footprint of its Manufacturing division while expanding ceilings and removing walls to support the additional machinery and equipment.

"The University of Akron has been a great partner throughout the years," said Brad Carucci, Airborne Director of Component Repair/Overhaul and Manufacturing. "This renovation and expansion project reflects Airborne's promise to provide additional repair opportunities and solutions for com-

ponents that would have been deemed beyond economical repair. The Cold Spray Phase II Joint R&D initiative will build on the initial groundbreaking research from this collaboration and aim to implement the SPD process as a commercially viable solution for use in aircraft repairs."

The SPD process involves using a supersonic jet of expanded gas to spray metal powder onto a solid surface with sufficient energy to cause bonding with the surface without creating a heat-affected zone.

JET MS ventures into heavy demand market by opening new line maintenance station at Nice Airport

Jet Maintenance Solutions (JET MS) is all set to open a new line maintenance station at Nice Côte d'Azur Airport in France to widen its reach as a part of their global expansion and offer its extensive service portfolio to a growing client base.

Nice has been the leading airport for private aircraft measured by take-offs in Europe for over 2 years having more than 2,050 recorded departures. JET MS has already established a dedicated team for line maintenance operations consisting of top-notch engineers and specialists, including business development officials and sales managers, to support commercial procedures. Additionally, JET MS will offer Mobile Repair Team (MRT) services to surrounding airports like Cannes, Marseille and Toulon to be able to serve its current and future clients.

Jet Maintenance Solutions CEO Vytis Zalimas said, "By opening our doors to new clients in this picturesque city of the French Riviera, we are entering a new and demand heavy market. Having had over 2,050 movements even during the pandemic in 2020, the airport shows a strong demand for sophisticated private aircraft infrastructure. With a



combination of our know-how, globally acclaimed reputation and leading balance of cost-effectiveness and quality, we are sure to have a strong foothold in this market. By being a part of Avia

Solutions Group which includes FL Technics, a global one-stop shop for MRO solutions boasting a portfolio of over 70 line stations across the globe, our shared know-how will allow us to reach our full potential when conducting line maintenance procedures at our station in Nice. With the successful beginning of operations at this location, we are already looking at more potential business aviation centres and FBO organisations where we could offer our services."

Jet Maintenance Solutions is firmly positioned to perform routine checks and provide AOG support to business and regional aircraft. This comes on the back of plans to expand operations and meet market demand, through the opening of new line maintenance stations that will be situated in the most lucrative locations for business aviation representatives. Currently, the company plans to open a new Line Maintenance station in London, UK, in early autumn.

Delta placed additional order of 25 A321neo along with 100 A321

Delta Air Lines has placed a firm order for 25 A321neo (New Engine Option) aircraft. This is in addition to Delta's 2017 order of 100 A321neo aircraft. These planes will be powered by Pratt & Whitney PW1100G-JM engines. Additionally, Delta has accelerated delivery of two A350-900 aircraft as well as two A330-900neo aircraft.

“With our customers ready to reclaim the joy of travel, this agreement positions Delta for growth while accounting for the planned retirements of older narrowbody aircraft in our fleet, reducing our carbon footprint, increasing efficiency and elevating the customer experience,” said Mahendra Nair, Delta’s Senior Vice President – Fleet Strategy. “We thank Airbus for their steadfast partnership during the pandemic and look forward to working with them as we take delivery of the A321neo as well as

our accelerated A350 and A330-900neo deliveries.”

“We have managed the challenges of the last year together with our customers, and it is gratifying to be taking steps like this one towards the regrowth of our industry with our long standing partner, Delta,” said Christian Scherer, Airbus Chief Commercial Officer.

Overall, A320neo Family aircraft deliver per-seat fuel improvements of 20 per cent, along with additional range of up to 500 nautical miles or two metric tons of extra payload.

First delivered in April 2017, the A321neo shares 95 per cent airframe commonality with the Airbus A320 Family, facilitating seamless integration into existing single-aisle fleets. The A321neo also shares a common type rating with the rest of the A320 Family, permitting A320 Family pilots to fly the A321neo without additional training.

This latest order from Delta Air Lines brings the A321neo’s total order since introduction to nearly 3,500, with more than 500 aircraft already in fleets around the world.

Spirit AeroSystem & Evergreen Technologies come together to form Spirit Evergreen Aftermarket Solutions

Spirit AeroSystems has expanded their aftermarket presence in Asia-Pacific region by signing a joint venture agreement with Evergreen Aviation Technologies Corporation (EGAT). The new agreement is expected to complement Spirit’s recent acquisition of Applied Aerodynamics and last year’s acquisition of select Bombardier assets, and further strengthen its global maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) capabilities. Under the joint venture agreement, Spirit and EGAT will form a new company, Spirit Evergreen Aftermarket Solutions (SEAS), and will transfer repair capabilities to SEAS, increasing manufacturing expertise and services to meet growing fleet demands in the region.

Jim Lickteig, Senior Director of Aftermarket Solutions at Spirit AeroSystems said, “Spirit AeroSystems is strategically expanding our capabilities in the Asia-Pacific region because the local fleet operators need affordable, efficient repairs, and we’re in a position to deliver on that need with our expertise and quality MRO services. By embarking on these new relationships, we will be better prepared to help passenger and freight carriers in the region remain competitive as the industry continues to recover from the pandemic.”

Previously, Spirit entered into a multi-year agreement with EGAT in September 2020 in which Spirit provided maintenance services in the Taiwan facility on products the aerostructures company manufactures, including the 777 GE90/Trent800 nacelle, 737 CFM56-7B thrust reverser, and flight control surfaces



along with broader nacelle MRO services on the CF6 powered aircraft and A320. By enhancing this existing commercial agreement, Spirit and EGAT will continue working to expand capabilities to better service customers in the region.

Kin Chong, executive vice president of Business Coordination Division at EGAT said, “EGAT is excited to enter into the business venture with Spirit to collectively

deliver optimal business propositions to fleet operators and partners in the region. EGAT’s corporate values of transparency, honesty and integrity infuses well with Spirit’s transparency, collaboration and inspiration. Carriers in the region can expect more responsive service solutions.”

In addition to Taiwan, Spirit also operates MRO locations in Wichita, Kan., Dallas, Tex., Western Europe, North Africa, and East Asia.

Spirit AeroSystems expands MRO infrastructure by acquiring Applied Aerodynamic assets

Spirit AeroSystems recently acquired the assets of Applied Aerodynamics thereby adding to their list of select Bombardier assets. Applied Aerodynamics is a high-quality composite maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) company based in Farmer Branch, Texas. This acquisition expands Spirit's existing MRO infrastructure in the region with the addition of Applied Aerodynamics' expertise, workforce, defense scope of work and 120,000-square-foot facility. The expansion allows Spirit to conduct a wider range of repairs on more products to help North American fleet operators and defense customers to be more competitive by reducing administrative hassles and costs while also increasing quality and turnaround times.

Jim Lickteig, senior director of Aftermarket Solutions at Spirit AeroSystems said, "Spirit AeroSystems is investing heavily in MRO capabilities to improve the customer experience as part of its strategic transformation to be a more balanced, global company and Applied Aerodynamics is an obvious fit to help us achieve this goal. With this acquisition, we're prepared to help customers where they need us the most as they rise out of this pandemic. By providing customized, high-quality MRO solutions, we can help operators control their costs and improve efficiencies and speed because of the added capacity."

With broader MRO capabilities, fleet operators can consolidate vendors which will help to streamline communication efforts, reduce administrative costs, and

increase efficiencies. In addition, with a more prominent presence near an international airport, inventory can be quickly airfreighted, further helping to drive down costs and increase speed. The Applied Aerodynamics acquisition enables Spirit to expand beyond MRO services for thrust reversers and nacelles on the 737 and 777 with new services for a broader range of fleets. These additional composite repairs include radomes, flight controls, lats, slats, flaps, spoilers, ailerons, winglets, and main landing gear doors for the 737, 747, 757, 767, A320, A321, 787 models. For defense, Spirit acquires a new scope of work for C17 flight controls and Coast Guard bearings.

"Spirit AeroSystems has been a trusted partner for many years because we share a common goal of delivering high-

quality solutions with unrivaled pricing and efficiencies to help customers maximize airtime," said Brad Teel, founder and president of Applied Aerodynamics. "In addition to our values, this acquisition is a natural fit because we complement each other's services, expertise and capabilities. This will benefit the aviation industry significantly as it begins to bounce back from a challenging year and will require high-quality, affordable partners more than ever."

Spirit will be expanding the capabilities of Applied Aerodynamics to its other MRO locations, including Wichita, Kan., Western Europe, North Africa, and East Asia, over the next year as part of its ongoing commitment to helping customers increase their competitiveness in the market.

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise grows its 737 MAX portfolio with firm order of 15 jets

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise is planning to grow its 737 MAX portfolio with an order for 15 737-8 jets. DAE had been investing in the 737 MAX by buying jets from existing customers and leasing them back to the carriers. The new order is DAE's first direct 737 MAX purchase from Boeing as it modernizes its portfolio for better economic and environmental performance.

Firoz Tarapore, Chief Executive Officer of DAE said, "We are delighted to deepen our already strong relationship with Boeing. Including this order, we own and manage 162 Boeing aircraft. An increasing number of global aviation regulators are returning the MAX to the skies. We are confident in the success of these aircraft as domestic and regional air travel is seeing strong signs of recovery."

The new purchase is DAE's second investment in the 737 MAX in the past year. In the third quarter of 2020, the lessor signed an agreement with American Airlines to purchase and lease back 18

new 737-8 airplanes. Since the agreement, the lessor has delivered 17 of the jets to the US carrier. DAE previously completed a similar purchase-leaseback deal with Brazilian carrier GOL for five 737-8s.

"DAE has been instrumental in helping its customers realize the operating economics and environmental performance of the 737-8. We are delighted that they have come back to add more 737 aircraft to its growth plan as it positions itself for the recovery in commercial passenger traffic," said Ihssane Mounir, Boeing senior vice president of Commercial Sales and Marketing. "We are honored

by DAE's trust in the 737 family and we look forward to partnering with them to serve the fleet requirements of airlines around the world."

The 737-8 is a member of the 737 MAX family which is designed to offer more fuel efficiency, reliability and flexibility in the single-aisle market. The airplane can fly 3,550 nautical miles – about 600 miles farther than its predecessor – allowing airlines to offer new and more direct routes for passengers. Compared to the airplanes it replaces, the 737-8 also delivers superior efficiency, using 16 per cent less fuel and significantly reducing CO2 emissions and operating costs.

US Air Force receives second F-15EX fighter aircraft eight months ahead of schedule

Boeing officially delivered a second F-15EX fighter aircraft to the US Air Force eight months before the contract requirement. The F-15EX is a ready-now replacement for the F-15C that includes best-in-class payload, range and speed and an all-new digital infrastructure.



Prat Kumar, Boeing vice president and F-15 program manager said, "Moving from contract award to delivery in a matter of months enables the US Air Force to get a head start on flight testing and demonstrates our commitment to exceeding expectations. Along with state-of-the-art avionics and survivability suite, the new F-15EX includes

almost 3 miles of high-speed digital data bus to enable open architecture, which will keep it evolving ahead of threats for decades."

The second F-15EX arrived at Eglin Air Force Base to begin testing with the first EX that was delivered last month.

"Delivering the F-15EX to defend our freedom is a source of intense pride for

the Boeing and industry team," added Kumar.

In July 2020, the US Air Force awarded Boeing an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract for up to 200 F-15EXs to replace the undefeated but aging F-15C. The Air Force has announced initial basing locations in Florida and Oregon.

Boeing marks milestone with production of first of five Poseidons for Royal Norwegian Air Force

The first P-8A Poseidon fuselage for Norway arrived recently at Boeing facilities in Renton, Washington, from Spirit AeroSystems in Wichita, Kansas, marking a major milestone in the production of the first of five Poseidons for the Royal Norwegian Air Force.



A derivative of the Boeing 737 Next-Generation commercial aircraft, the P-8 is first assembled at Boeing Commercial Airplanes' 737 production line, where the fuselage receives additional wiring and systems needed to support military components, equipment and operation. The aircraft is then delivered to Boeing's Defense, Space & Security unit for the installation of military systems, testing and delivery to military customers.

"Boeing uses a proven in-line production process to efficiently build the aircraft," said Christian Thomsen, P-8A Europe program manager. "Implement-

ing established best practices and common, commercial production-system tools enables the team to reduce flow time and cost while ensuring quality and on-time delivery to our customers."

Norway is expected to receive its first P-8 later this year. In total, five P-8s will eventually replace Norway's current fleet of six P-3 Orions and three DA-20 Jet Falcons and will provide advanced capabilities to maintain situational awareness in neighboring waters on and below the surface of the ocean.

To date, Boeing has delivered 104 P-8 aircraft to the US Navy and customers in Australia, India and UK.

VSE Corporation awarded USD 37.5 million new contract with US Air Force and US Government foreign ally

VSE Corporation recently announced about USD37.5 million new contracts with the US Air Force and US Government foreign ally. Activity under both contracts is expected to commence during the second quarter 2021. As per the contract VSE will provide corrosion control treatment, prevention and repair maintenance on the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft and associated support equipment for three years. Apart from this VSE will also support the VAW-120 Fleet Replacement Squadron attached to the Airborne Command & Control and Logistics Wing at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

“These contract awards reflect the continued execution of our Federal & Defense Services’ vehicle and aviation MRO strategy introduced last year, one that emphasizes multi-year growth in higher-margin segment backlog,” said John Cuomo, President and CEO of VSE Corporation. “We continue to pursue new niche MRO opportunities with US and allied foreign militaries as we leverage our technical expertise and proven project management capabilities.”

“We remain focused on growing our MRO capabilities through a combination of both organic and inorganic growth, while pursuing less commoditized, higher-margin opportunities,”

said Robert Moore, Federal & Defense Services Group President. “We are honored to have been selected for these awards following competitive bidding processes. We look forward to providing our customers with world-class, on-demand MRO support to ensure continued operational readiness of their mission-critical assets.”

The second contract is to provide maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services for more than one hundred Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) and FMTV companion trailers for a US Government foreign ally for approximately one year. This work will be performed at VSE’s Vehicle MRO facility in Texarkana, Arkansas.

Saab marks milestone delivery of first airframe section for T-7A Red Hawk

In a recent key delivery Saab has shipped its first aft airframe section for the T-7A Red Hawk program. This is an important delivery in the Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) program to its T-7A Red Hawk advanced trainer aircraft partner, Boeing.

The production and shipment of this aft airframe section is the latest milestone in Saab’s contribution to the design and development of the T-7A Red Hawk trainer for the United States Air Force. On completion of the EMD production phase, Saab’s brand new facility in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA will undertake Saab’s production of the aft sections for the T-7A program.

“The T-7A Red Hawk represents a remarkable engineering feat of aircraft development; all achieved through excellent collaboration with Boeing and the use of digital engineering and advanced manufacturing. It has been extremely rewarding to pioneer this accelerated development timeline and to deliver the resulting accuracy, visibility, and communication into production,” said Jonas Hjelm, Senior Vice President and head of Saab business area, Aeronautics.

The aft fuselage was designed and built by Saab, under the T-7A partnership with Boeing. Upon arrival in St Louis, the Saab aft section will be spliced to the forward fuselage, prior to installation of the wings, fins and tail assembly to become a complete static test airframe. This airframe will be used for structural testing on the ground during the EMD phase of the program.

The T-7A Red Hawk is an all-new advanced pilot training system designed for the USAir Force to train the next generation of combat pilots for decades to come. The aircraft has benefited from Saab and Boeing’s “breaking the norm” approach to military aircraft design, engineering and production, which saw the preceding T-X aircraft go from concept to first flight in just 36 months.



French Armed Forces signed purchase order for eight H225M French Air and VSR700 prototype for Navy

The French Armed Forces have recently signed an order to purchase eight additional H225Ms and a second VSR700 prototype. The H225Ms will be operated by the French Air and Space Force. The VSR700 is an unmanned aerial system being developed for the French Navy in partnership with Naval Group. This order is part of a Stimulus plan to support the national aeronautical industry announced by the French government in 2020. For Airbus Helicopters, the plan also includes an order for two H145s for the Sécurité Civile and 10 H160s for the French Gendarmerie Nationale.



Bruno Even, Airbus Helicopters CEO said, "We are very thankful to the French government for their support of the aeronautical industry through the Stimulus plan. This is a win-win situation as the aircraft fulfill a real operational need for the French armed forces and this order allows Airbus Helicopters to secure jobs and key skills in the medium term. The French armed forces are facing increasing and varied challenges and I am confident that the H225M, thanks to its excellent range and multirole capacity, will be an efficient and reliable asset that will enhance their operations at home and abroad. The VSR700 is also a crucial programme. It will provide the French Navy with a highly capable autonomous platform and it will pave the way for future unmanned systems within the Airbus Helicopters portfolio."

Like the rest of the aeronautical indus-

try, the helicopter industry has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. 2020 saw the worldwide market decrease by 50%. The support of the French government will help secure 960 jobs during the next three years for Airbus Helicopters and its suppliers.

These contracts will benefit the French helicopter industry as a whole, including other key French aerospace providers such as Safran Helicopters Engines with the H225M's Makila 2A engines, Safran Power Units with the Saphir 20 auxiliary power unit, Safran Electronic Defense with the electro-optical system Euroflir 410M NG and the Sigma inertial navigation system, and Thales with the VUHF radio TRA6034 and IFF transponder TSC4000. But with more than 300 French Tier 1 suppliers involved in the H225M's supply chain, the contract will also benefit a variety of small and medium

enterprises. The VSR700 is based on the Cabri G2 light helicopter built by local SME Hélicoptères Guimbal.

First deliveries of the H225Ms are planned to start in 2024 and will fulfill the Air and Space Force's operational needs and the long awaited replacement of the Puma fleet.

Thanks to a modular and versatile configuration allowing the integration of diverse equipment, the aircraft will be dedicated to a wide range of military missions including combat/search and rescue, medical evacuation, support to the population in times of crisis, and tactical training. While based in the Air and Space Force's Cazaux base in Southwest France, the helicopters will be deployed across the country and will also support the French armed forces' operations overseas.

With more than 104 helicopters in service and more than 143,000 flight hours accumulated to date, the H225M is a recognized combat-proven, versatile and reliable workhorse for military missions worldwide. Among the essential operational advantages offered by the 11-tonne helicopter is the in-flight refueling capacity, already tested by the French and Brazilian air forces.

The first prototype of the VSR700 performed its maiden flight in 2020 and has recently begun expanding its flight envelope.

Bell expands European footprint by marking 60th delivery of 505 aircraft in Europe

Bell Textron recently delivered another Bell 505 to Montenegro Air Force thus marking its 60th delivery in Europe. The Bell 505 is known for its versatility and reliability. The platform has broad appeal and operates in a wide range of missions such as private owner, utility, aerial inspections, public safety, military training, and tourism.

Patrick Moulay, Senior Vice President, International Business said, “Delivering 60 505s to Europe is an exciting milestone for Bell. This achievement is a testament to the performance of the Bell 505 and our customers’ confidence in the aircraft. Beyond the success of the Bell 505 in Europe, we see momentum in demand for the aircraft across international markets. We look forward to seeing more growth in the future.”

In 2020, Bell delivered more 505 aircraft to Europe than to any other continent some of the customers include: ABR Invest, Elicompany, Montenegro Air Force, Centaurium Aviation, and Mountainflyers.



Bell supports European customers regionally by delivering aircraft out of Bell support center in Prague, supplying parts out of the Bell Supply Center in Amsterdam and offering Bell 505

training through HeliDeal in France. Bell looks forward to increasing the number of Bell aircraft in the region and expanding our European footprint.

Israeli Air Force extends contract with Boeing for integrated logistics support for Apache fleet

Israeli Air Force has signed up Boeing for integrated logistics support for Israel’s AH-64A-model and D-model Apache helicopters. Boeing will deliver logistical, program, engineering and technical support, A- and D-model technical publications, D-model unique repairs, an in-country field service representative, and overhaul material kits for various drivetrain systems, including transmissions and gearboxes. This contract is a direct commercial sale awarded in December 2020 and is a five-year follow-on contract that builds on Boeing’s current IAF Apache support.

“This tailored support package and Boeing’s decades of vertical lift experience bring superior global sustainment expertise to our Israeli customer and elevates the capability of their Apache fleet to support key missions,” said Indra Duivenvoorde, director of Europe and Israel services for Boeing.

Boeing has been delivering support for the IAF’s fleet of Apache helicopters for decades and currently provides transactional spares, A-model repairs, support and test equipment, and engineering project support for the IAF. A Boeing field service representative has been co-located with the customer since 1991 to provide on-site technical support.

In addition to the US Army, Israel is one of 16 partner nations around the globe operating the Apache as its primary attack helicopter, with multiple global defense forces expressing high interest. More than 2,500 helicopters have been delivered worldwide.



Sanad expands the aircraft engine portfolio by signing USD 55 million deal with Commercial Bank of Dubai

Sanad Capital recently closed a USD 55 million debt financing deal with the Commercial Bank of Dubai, one of the UAE's leading financial institutions. This first ever collaboration will fund the purchase of two new GENx and XWB engines that were recently acquired through a long-term sale and leaseback agreement.

Dubai is a strong validation of Sanad Capital's ability to attract liquidity that supports growth targets, especially in the challenging current environment. We look forward to growing our relationship with the Commercial Bank of Dubai as part of Sanad's ongoing commitment to support the global aviation industry in years to come."

Dr. Bernd van Linder, Chief Executive Officer, CBD said, "We are delighted to partner with Sanad and support them as they look to grow and expand their business. Sanad Capital has an exemplary performance track record in the aircraft engine and component leasing space, and we look forward to strengthening our relationship and facilitating their future expansion as well."

Just last year Sanad Capital announced a USD 900 million plus deal with Etihad Airways which covers the additional spare engines and rotatable components, including a sale-and-leaseback (SLB) agreement for an additional GENx engine and a Rolls Royce Trent XWB engine, with a second XWB spare option.

Sanad Capital, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mubadala Investment Company and the global aerospace engineering and leasing solutions leader.



Barfield spreads its roots in Unmanned Aerial Vehicle market

Barfield in an attempt to expand its active participation in the UAV industry has recently signed an agreement with Donecle to sell and support its airplane inspection drone solution in the Americas. This agreement is another milestone in the development of Barfield's UAV growth strategy.

Herve Page, Barfield's Chief Executive Officer said, "We are extremely happy to be partnering with Donecle. We have been studying the Donecle development and results with AFI KLM E&M and found that Donecle is now offering solutions which are not only increasing the quality of airplane inspection but increasing the team productivity as well. This is exactly the type of solutions Barfield brings to the market and we strive to continue along these lines for this strategic addition to our expertise in aircraft engineering."

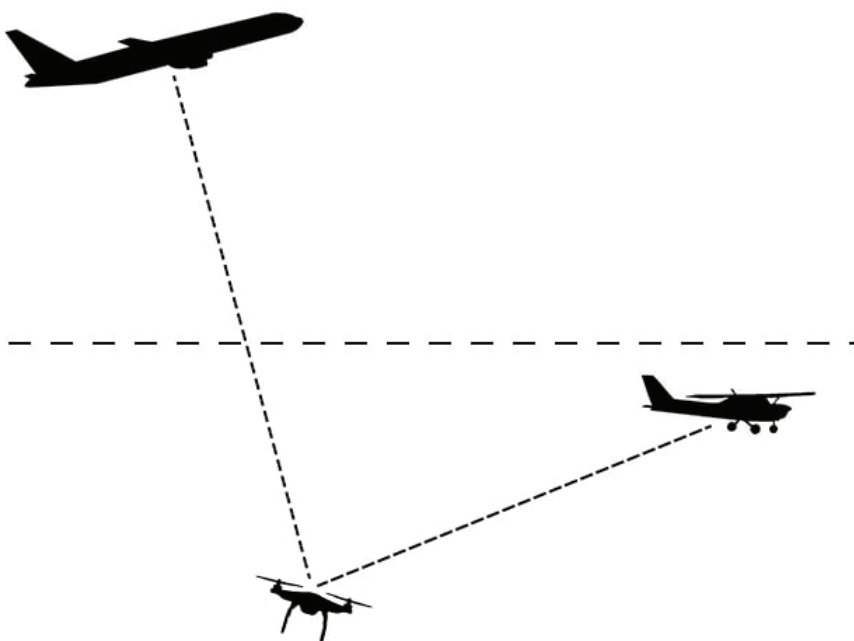
Matthieu Claybrough, Donecle's Chief Executive Officer & Cofounder said, "Barfield's expertise and reputation in the MRO and aircraft services is a perfect fit to bring Donecle products and solutions to the Americas. This is an important step forward in our overall development strategy."

DONECLE is an innovative Inspection Drone manufacturer, whose product allows a range of airplane structure inspections.



uAvionix receives patent for safe and secure UAS integration into National Airspace Systems

uAvionix has been recently received a new patent that aids safe and secure integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into National Airspace Systems (NAS). US Patent 10,991,260, titled "Intelligent Non-Disruptive ADS-B Integration for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)" provides the ability for UAS to take advantage of the safety benefits of ADS-B while minimizing spectrum utilization.



Christian Ramsey, President of uAvionix said, "uAvionix is a firm believer in the benefits of a cooperative airspace for UAS integration. Recognizing the concerns of over-use of the spectrum by regulators – Inert and Alert is a means to leverage ADS-B for collision avoidance while significantly reducing those concerns."

uAvionix first revealed this concept in a 2018 white paper titled "ADS-B Inert and Alert – A Solution to the ADS-B Spectrum Concerns." The Inert and Alert Concept preserves spectrum by allowing the onboard UAS ADS-B solution to remain "inert" in a non-broadcasting "listen" mode until a safety-critical event such as a C2 lost-link or other aircraft proximity triggers it to begin broadcasting its ADS-B position as an "alert". Once the conditions are safe again, the system reverts again to its "inert" state.

Airbus introduces Vertex demonstrator to test advanced autonomous features on helicopter Flightlab

Airbus is introducing autonomous features to its helicopter Flightlab through a project code-named Vertex. These technologies aim to simplify mission preparation and management, reduce helicopter pilot workload, and further increase safety.

The autonomous technology bricks set to integrate the Flightlab are: vision based sensors and algorithms for situational awareness and obstacle detection; fly-by-wire for enhanced auto-pilot; and an advanced human-machine-interface – in the form of a touchscreen and head worn display for inflight monitoring and control.

The combination of these technologies will enable a system that can manage navigation and route preparation, automatic take-off and landing, as well as following a predefined flight path. The incremental integration of these technologies onto the helicopter

Flightlab has begun ahead of a complete demonstration in 2023. Airbus' Urban Air Mobility will also benefit from this technology as an essential stepping stone towards autonomous flight.

"We are excited by the potential that the Vertex demonstrator project has to offer," said Grazia Vittadini, Chief Technology Officer, Airbus. "By using our platform-agnostic flying laboratory to mature these technologies, we have an agile and efficient test bed that will support the development of future autonomous systems that could later equip Airbus' current helicopter range and (e)VTOL platforms."

Airbus' mission is not to move ahead

with autonomy as a target in itself, but to explore autonomous technologies alongside other technological innovations. In doing so, Airbus is able to analyse the potential to enhance future operations, and at the same time, leverage these opportunities to further improve aircraft safety.

Vertex is managed by Airbus UpNext, an Airbus subsidiary created to give future technologies a development fast-track by building demonstrators at speed and scale, evaluating, maturing and validating new products and services that encompass radical technological breakthroughs.

Airbus A400M successfully conducts air-to-air refueling certification campaign

The Airbus A400M new generation airlifter has successfully conducted a major helicopter air-to-air refueling certification campaign, completing the majority of its development and certification objectives. Airbus Defence and Space aims to achieve full helicopter air-to-air refuelling certification later this year with the conclusion of all mandatory night operation trials.



The flight tests, performed in coordination with the French Armament General Directorate (DGA), involved operations with two French Air Force H225M helicopters.

The campaign took place in day and night conditions over the west coast of France at between 1,000 ft and 10,000 ft and flight speeds as low as 105 knots. During those flights, a total of 81 wet contacts and transfers of 6.5 tonnes of fuel were achieved, which included simultaneous refuelling of two helicopters for the first time. The tests confirmed the positive results of the dry and wet contact operations conducted in 2019 and 2020.

Helicopter air-to-air refuelling is a unique military capability and key for Special Forces operations, involving aircraft with different flight profiles and sharing a very limited common flight envelope, requiring close formation flying patterns at low altitudes and night time conditions.

With this capability the A400M becomes one of the few tanker aircraft in the world capable of such operations. The multi-purpose H225M is one of the few helicopters in the world capable of in-flight refuelling, extending the standard 700 NM range by up to 10 hours flight time.

True Blue Power adds most powerful lithium-ion battery for longer running and back-up power

True Blue Power has added a 60 amp-hour lithium-ion battery to its Gen5 Product line. This TB60 saves up to 50 pounds per battery, significantly reducing aircraft empty weight and increasing useful load.

Van Winter, Market Development Manager for True Blue Power said, "This battery is a beast. It's our most powerful battery designed for the most powerful aircraft. It's ideal for larger Part 25 aircraft, Part 29 rotorcraft, military and UAS platforms needing higher amp-hours for longer-running emergency and back-up power."

The TB60 is certified to TSO-C179b, RTCA DO-311A, RTCA DO-160G and RTCA DO-178C Design Assurance Level A. The battery delivers superior reliability and performance and offers on-condition maintenance. The result is zero capacity checks and reduced maintenance costs by up to 90 percent. It is ideal for use in rugged environments and outperforms all other aircraft batteries in extreme temperatures, from -40°C to 70°C.

Some of the benefits of TB60 lithium-ion battery are:

- Ultra-lightweight and powerful Weighs 55 per cent less and delivers more amp hours per pound than any other aircraft battery

- Real-time monitoring Communicates real-time state-of-charge (SOC) and state-of-health (SOH) data
- Built-in Test (BIT) indicator Provides SOC data without the need for external test equipment, load banks or auxiliary power
- Battery configurations programmed for each specific aircraft Charge current limit, end-of-life capacity, minimum dispatch capacity and engine-start readiness
- 8 years useful battery life Up to 4x longer than lead-acid and 3 years longer than NiCad batteries
- Environmentally friendly Eliminates toxic metals and acid spills, significantly reduces carbon emissions and can be recycled or disposed of in area landfills



Former US under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Ellen M Lord joins AAR's Board

Ellen M. Lord, former Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment for the United States Department of Defense has been appointed to the Board of Directors at AAR.

John M. Holmes, AAR President and Chief Executive Officer said, "Ellen brings significant aerospace and defense expertise as well strong leadership experience from her time as the President and CEO of Textron Systems and most recently as Under Secretary with the US Department of Defense. Ellen will bring a valuable perspective to our Board and our Company. We look forward to her contributions and are very pleased to welcome Ellen to AAR."

Ms. Lord, 61, served as the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment for the United States Department of Defense from August 2017 until January 2021. In this role, she was responsible for all matters pertaining to acquisition; developmental testing;

contract administration; logistics and materiel readiness; installations and environment; operational energy; chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons; the acquisition workforce; and the defense industrial base.

Prior to her government service, Ms. Lord served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Textron Systems from October 2012 to August 2017, where she led a multi-billion dollar company with products and services supporting defense, homeland security, aerospace and infrastructure protection. Prior to that, she served in other leadership positions at Textron Systems and related companies. She is the former Vice Chairman of the National Defense Industrial Association and has previously served

on the boards of the US Naval Institute, the US India Business Council and the Defense Technology Initiative. She was recently appointed to the board of Voyager Space Holdings and serves as an advisor to a number of companies.



Andrew Masson appointed as the VP, Product and Portfolio Management at Panasonic Avionics

Andrew Masson recently quit as the CEO of Adient Aerospace to join Panasonic Avionics as the Vice President of Product and Portfolio Management. Adient Aerospace is an aircraft seat joint venture of Boeing with Adient.

At Panasonic, Andy will lead its global Product & Portfolio Management team and guide the company's product and services strategy to deliver innovations and value to customers. He will improve and expand customer-focused product management processes and manage development and execution across the product lifecycle for Panasonic's market-leading IFEC products, digital solutions and after-market services.

Andy will report to Ken Sain, Chief Executive Officer of Panasonic Avionics. Sain said, "I am confident that Andy's broad and relevant experience, track record and enthusiasm will greatly enhance Panasonic's product portfolio to benefit customers worldwide. He will build upon a legacy of innovation as we continually

strive to make flying an experience everyone looks forward to."

Prior to his tenure with Adient Aerospace, Andy held several leadership positions at Boeing, including Director of Engineering and Chief Engineer for Modifications and Freighter Conversions, and Director of Interior Modifications and Inflight Entertainment (IFE). Andy also served as Executive Vice President, Engineering and Operations for Continental Data Graphics (CDG) and UK Managing Director.

He began his career at CDG as Operations Director, 787 Operations Manager and Service Bulletin Retrofit Engineer.

He holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the University of Hertfordshire in the UK and will be based in Irvine, California.



Eve Laurier joins Bombardier as VP, Communications, Public Affairs and Marketing

Bombardier appointed Ève Laurier as Vice President, Communications, Public Affairs and Marketing. Ève will report directly to Bombardier President and CEO Éric Martel and will lead the company's community engagement, employee and customer outreach, and steward the brand journey internally and externally, around the world.

“Ève is a proven leader with a creative, innovative mindset and team-oriented approach,” said Éric Martel. “Bombardier’s employees and customers are at the heart of our strategic vision—Ève’s insight, energy and enthusiasm will be a driving force in executing the next phase of our strategy and in achieving the full potential of our industry-leading business aviation franchise.”

Ève brings more than 20 years of experience in the fields of public relations, communications, corporate marketing and branding. She most recently served as a General Manager at Edelman, a worldwide communications firm

that partners with businesses and organizations to evolve, promote and protect their brands and reputations.

“We would also like to thank Mike Nadolski, who has decided to leave the company, for his many contributions during the last five years at Bombardier and wish him continued success in all his future endeavours,” Martel added.

Based in Montréal, Québec, Ève holds an Executive Master’s in Business Administration from McGill-HEC Montréal and a bachelor’s degree in Commerce and Marketing from Concordia University. She will join the company mid-May 2021.



Rajeev Bhalla appointed as the Director at Next Level Aviation

Next level Aviation has named seasoned senior finance executive Rajeev Bhalla as the Director to their Board of Directors. Mr Bhalla is a leader in the aerospace used serviceable materials (USM) market and brings wide-ranging financial, operational, and strategic expertise to the company as it plans substantial growth in the coming years, both organically and through acquisition.



Next Level Chairman and CEO Jack Gordon said, “We are excited to welcome Rajeev Bhalla as a Director at Next Level Aviation. Rajeev’s impressive career makes him an invaluable resource and advisor for the senior management team at Next Level Aviation as we plan our strategic future growth.”

Gordon continued, “In addition to adding Rajeev to our Board of Directors, he will also chair our Audit Committee as a financial expert and be a member of our Governance Committee.”

“Next Level Aviation’s admirable position in the used serviceable materials market and strong focus on operational efficiency makes it an exciting time to join the Board. I look forward to

bringing my aerospace and defense market knowledge, as well as financial expertise, to drive long-term growth and profitability for the company,” Bhalla said.

Bhalla’s background includes demonstrated discipline and expertise in finance, governance, and team development. This comes through current work as a Cerberus Operating Partner, board of director roles as well as experience in a number of successful companies. He has worked with Circor International as the Executive Vice President, CFO of Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky aircraft. He has also worked as the VP of Finance and CFO of Lockheed Martin Corporation and Partner at PWC.

I Major top management changes at Avolon

Avolon has made some major management changes in the face of the pandemic. Felipe Campos, Avolon's head of Latin America is promoted as the Chief Technical Officer. An engineer by profession Campos has a wide range of aviation experience. He will be based in Dublin and as a customer focused executive, he will bring deep commercial perspective and strategic insight to his new role. In his previous post of Avolon's Latin America operations, Campos was responsible for all of Avolon's activity in that region since 2016.



Before joining Avolon Felipe spent time with GE Aviation and also with the airline groups LATAM and TAM, where he started his career in aviation in 2005. Felipe holds an MSc in Naval Engineering and Project Management from Escola Politécnica at the University of São Paulo. He also holds an MBA from IBMEC.

In the next important management announcement Steven Graham is appointed as the Head of Americas at Avolon.



He has been Head of North America since 2017 and in his new role that will expand to incorporate North and Latin America. Based in New York, he will lead all of Avolon's activity in these regions.

Steven was one of the co-founders of Avolon in 2010. He has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Actuarial Mathematics and Statistics from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.



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Bill Thompson appointed as the Director of EirTrade Aviation

Bill Thompson has been appointed as the Director at EirTrade Aviation to pioneer their expansion into the US.

Bill has a strong pedigree and wealth of experience having worked in the aviation aftermarket for over 30 years. Previously Bill worked at Delta Material Services (DMS) where he held the position of Senior Vice President of Commercial. Prior to joining DMS, Bill worked as Senior Vice President at Aer-Sale, Inc. where he launched their used serviceable materials business, assembling a team of more than 50 industry professionals positioned in 7 worldwide locations and successfully managed the dismantling of more than 350 commercial aircraft engines.

Prior to that, Bill served as Vice President, Sales & Marketing at GE Aviation Materials during its inception where his team successfully increased annual sales

volume and contribution margins over a five-year period. During this tenure "aged" inventory was reduced through a sales-based modelling system and non-strategic product lines were successfully divested with minimal financial exposure.

Prior to working for GE Aviation, Bill served as a Corporate Director, Engine Sales and Marketing for Premier Turbines, a division of Sabreliner Corporation, from 1995 through 1999 where he launched the company's engine division. Previous assignments also include Vice President of Flight Programs at Rolls-Royce Oakland Engine Services and Manager, Customer Service for the Airline Engine Services division of Aviall that later became GE Dallas.



Martin Taylor joins Aerogility as a Non-Executive Director

Martin Taylor, a 40-year veteran of BAE Systems is appointed to the Board of Directors as a Non-Executive Director at Aerogility.

Martin is, and remains, Managing Director, Future Combat Air Systems (FCAS), at BAE Systems – Air. FCAS brings together BAE Systems' Combat Air Acquisition Programme Bid Team, Tempest Technology activities and Turkey TF-X market.

Gary Vickers, CEO, Aerogility said, "Martin's experience and expertise in aerospace and defense makes him an ideal member of the Aerogility board and we are delighted to welcome him to our company. We work with leading defense and civil aviation organizations to optimize their operations with our model-based AI forecasting and planning solutions, and Martin's guidance will be very valuable as we continue to grow our global business."

Martin Taylor commented: "The aerospace and defense world is becoming digitized at an increasing pace and the industry needs cutting-edge solutions. Aerogility is the forefront of these developments and I am excited to be working with its talented team. I look forward to supporting the company as it delivers innovative solutions to customers around the world."

Martin began his career as an aerodynamicist at British Aerospace Military Aircraft Division. During his time at the organization he was promoted to Head of Project for the Harrier programme before moving to Fort Worth, Texas, as the BAE Systems Programme Director on the Joint Strike Fighter Programme (now known as F-35).

Hani Salaheldin appointed as the Chairman and CEO of EGYPTAIR Maintenance & Engineering

Hani Salaheldin has been promoted as the Chairman and CEO of EGYPTAIR MAINTENANCE & ENGINEERING Company. Salaheldin gained extensive practical experience through his work in a variety of departments with various activities, the last of which was assuming the position of Chief Inspector at EGYPTAIR Airlines Company, preceded by several positions in EGYPTAIR MAINTENANCE & ENGINEERING, including Director of Materials, Director of Base Maintenance, Director of Tools, Calibration and GSE, and Director of Line Maintenance. He will be succeeding Tarek Abdel Aliem.

He received many training and qualification courses in leadership, management, and quality assurance skills, and he also worked as an aviation accident investigator, in addition to obtaining many engineering licenses for aircraft types operating in EGYPTAIR.

International CALENDAR

2021

**03-05
JUN**

France Air Expo
Lyon Bron Airport – LFLY

**08-10
JUN**

Cabin Ops Safety Conference
The Parisian Macao, Macao, SAR, China

**08-10
JUN**

Safety and Flight Ops Conference
The Parisian Macao, Macao, SAR, China

**22-23
JUN**

Aviation Festival Asia 2020
Suntec Convention Centre, Singapore

**15-16
SEP**

**16th Annual MRO Russia & CIS 2021
conference and exhibition**
Moscow World Trade Center

**12-14
OCT**

World Cargo Symposium
Hilton Bomonti, Istanbul, Turkey

**15-18
NOV**

33rd IATA Ground Handling Conference
Prague, Czech Republic

**15-18
NOV**

Global Airport & Passenger Symposium
Prague, Czech Republic

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