

Volga-Dnepr Airlines, Panalpina helps Babcock for helicopter delivery

Vallair, Contrail Aviation Support partner for CFM56-7B engines

SriLankan Engineering carried out 1st C-check on Airbus A320neo

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April 01st, 2019

Jet MS completes 7800 landings inspection for Bombardier CL604



Jet Maintenance Solutions (Jet MS) has become one of the first MRO companies in the world to complete the 7800 landings inspection on a Bombardier Challenger 604 (CL604) type aircraft. There are just 5-10 CL604s globally that reached such milestone. Base maintenance work was also done after 48 months of exploitation.

To carry out the 7800 landings inspection, Jet MS engineers had to remove almost all of the main aircraft parts and components like engines, inner and backside fuel tanks, stabilizer and many others, which are not done during usual inspections after 48 and 96 months of aircraft operation.

"The experience and professionalism of Jet MS team, close coordination with aircraft producer, have enabled us to complete this challenging project successfully. This is a major achievement for our company and proof of our ability to solve complex and non-standard cases effectively," said Darius Saluga, CEO at Jet Maintenance Solutions.

Aircraft was almost disassembled, and all construction parts were inspected

and a number of non-destructive tests (NDT) such as x-ray, eddy current, ultrasonic, magnetic were performed.

If NDTs related works usually make up to 3 per cent of all base maintenance works scope, in this particular 7800 landings inspection they made up to 30 per cent.

For this aircraft type, 7800 landings inspection is quite rare in the market, as most of CL604s have not yet reached that milestone. This aircraft was used for intensive short-haul flights. It has made from 30 per cent to 90 per cent more landings than average CL604 makes.

Jet MS had to coordinate all technical issues with Bombardier while performing NDT. They had to communicate on technical documentation non-conformance cases and order the urgent basis (AOG) development for the standards that were not available in the market yet, search, set-up and tune of scanning probes and many more.

"Despite all the challenges, Jet MS team managed to get this maintenance project done efficiently and with quality, meeting demands of aircraft owner, "adds D. Saluga.

Sabena technics introduces its new maintenance site

Sabena technics has acquired the assets of the company New EAS which will be now known as Sabena technics PGF.

The Group's new site which is based in Perpignan-Rivesaltes (France), employs 165 people and has three hangars which will accommodate a wide-body aircraft and up to five narrow-body aircraft for civil and military base maintenance operations.

"This acquisition is perfectly aligned with our external growth strategy and reflects our desire to strengthen our presence in a very dynamic MRO market. Thanks to the complementarity of our sites, our customers will benefit from extended services with ever more quality and competitiveness, "said Philippe Rochet, Chief Operating Officer of Sabena technics.

With the help of the Group's other subsidiaries in terms of inventories, tools, industrial resources and innovative digital solutions, the Perpignan site has reached an occupancy rate of 100 per cent only a month after its acquisition and is already receiving positive feedback from its customers.

"I wanted to thank all the staff of Sabena technics PGF, for their welcome, their reactivity and their professionalism during the maintenance check of our customer's Airbus A330-300 aircraft. They were able to show adaptability on this project and the motivation of the production teams was very appreciable," said Vincent Rigaudie, Production Manager at Air France.



Qatar Airways reaches historic landmark with delivery of 250th aircraft



Qatar Airways receives its 250th aircraft, an Airbus A350-900 from Toulouse, France. The aircraft joins the airline's state-of-the-art fleet, where the average age of aircraft is not more than five years.

This milestone was achieved by the airline just 22 years after it began its operation. Qatar Airways now has 203 passenger aircraft, 25 Cargo and 22 Qatar Executive jets.

Qatar Airways was the global launch customer of the Airbus A350-900 and was the first airline in the world to operate every family of Airbus' modern airliner portfolio.

The airline operates its aircraft via its hub, Hamad International Airport (HIA) to over 160 destinations worldwide.

Recently, the airline has launched some new destinations which include, Gothenburg, Sweden; Mombasa, Kenya and Da Nang, Vietnam. They will also add a number of new destinations to their network including Lisbon, Portugal; Malta; Rabat, Morocco; Izmir, Turkey; Malaysia; Davao, Philippines; and Mogadishu, Somalia.

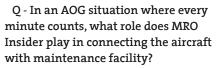




Exclusive Interview

'MRO Insider' - Digital One-Stop-Shop for aviation maintenance service

A web-based marketplace for submitting and obtaining maintenance quote requests for corporate aircraft, MRO Insider was founded in 2016 to improve upon the current system of word-of-mouth referrals for aviation maintenance services. Within a year of launch, the company added over 400 corporate aircraft and more than 100 maintenance locations. MRO Insider's Co-founder and VP of Sales, Andy Nixon talks about the challenges faced in this competitive market and the future of MRO Insider in an exclusive interview with Swati.K



A - After a free account has been created, aircraft owner/operators can quickly search AOG providers based on airport identifier, airport name, or city name. Providers are sorted by distance from that location and helpful information is displayed such as the AOG phone number, location, company description, and more. Our goal with AOG continues to be eliminating the aircraft owner/operator need to download multiple facility mobile apps for AOG support; instead they can visit our site for a list of all options in the area.

Q - Once subscribed to MRO Insider what are the benefits provided to MROs and the aircraft owner/operators?

A - Aircraft owner/operators can compare multiple proposals by submitting just one request. Important details can then be compared including estimated price, input date available, downtime, facility reviews, and other peritnent information. They can then accept/decline proposals through the site and provide valuable feedback to the facilities. This feedback benefits both parties over the long run. Owner/operators can also view their quote request history, including previous messages, quotes received, and more.

For maintenance Facilities (MRO's), the huge advantage lies in receiving quote requests from owner/operators they may not have access to, or some long-term customers who have adopted MRO Insider as a time saving, organizational tool. The platform automatically sorts

which facilities receive the request for quote based on capability and radius (if selected by owner/operator). We have several facilities that have opted to join our network instead of hiring additional sales people, stating the cost savings and penetration our company is able to generate.

Archaic sites have come and gone in the industry, and many required the MRO to scroll through random lists of maintenance events posted on a board. By automating our platform, we created a marketplace that requires much less effort on the facility side. They receive an e-mail alert, log in, and simply upload their quote, enter estimated downtime, and include a message with the proposal submission. They can respond to questions the owner/operator may have, and use our built-in messaging feature to conduct their follow up.

Q - In aviation MRO circles, where word of mouth is a preferred mode of business, what challenges did you face in your attempt at creating a transparency in the MRO industry?

A - The biggest challenge with any new business is getting the word out about the company and what problem you set out to solve. Unfortunately, the aviation industry deals with brokers on a regular basis, and it's frequently assumed that we are brokering maintenance. That has been a difficult hurdle to overcome, but easy enough when it's explained that we don't accept finders' fees, commissions, or add any charges for our services to owner/operators. Our owner/operator feedback has been great once they begin to utilize the site, saving them time and



money, and introducing them to new maintenance providers they may not have been aware of. Time is money; we strive to help save everyone both!

Q - With the worldwide commercial aviation market approaching close to a \$100 billion in coming decade, digitization and modernisation is the key for survival in this ever-changing market. What role does the latest technology of digital thread play in MRO functions?

A - Digitization and embracing technology were both major factors in the idea and launch of MRO Insider. Uploading times and cycles, automatically updating maintenance tracking, digitally recording log book entries – all of these once-tedious tasks have now been digitalized. Like any industry, those who can recognize and adapt their processes to meet the needs of the customer are the companies who can withstand the turbulence of change. Aircraft maintenance quoting is one piece of the puzzle. We are eighteen months in, and we have yet to meet a single owner/operator who has said they prefer the old-fashioned way of obtaining maintenance quotes after using our system.

Q - MRO Insider recently added Facility Specific Maintenance Request Capability. Can you elaborate more on the same?

A - Our initial platform would send a request for quote to any facility meeting the capability and radius for that type of airframe, engine, etc. With this new feature, aircraft owner/operators can now request a quote from a specific

Maintenance. Quotes. Delivered.



With 1 Click, Receive Multiple Quotes For:

Airframe | Engine | Avionics | Paint | Interior AOG | NDT | APU | Landing Gear | Wheels/Brakes Component/Accessory | Propeller/Rotorblade



"Normally we would use a West Coast OEM facility for a GoGo WiFi installation on an aircraft coming onto our charter certificate. Using MRO Insider, we received a quote saving us \$25,000! That is certainly incentive to find a way to get to the East Coast for this installation."

Sean Wright
VP of Maintenance Operations
Silver Air

No commissions. No finders fees. No hidden costs. Ever.

www.mroinsider.com



facility by choosing from a drop-down menu of all subscribed locations. This allows facilities with loyal customers to still receive RFQ's through our marketplace, which allows the owner/operators to take advantage of our rewards program and other benefits of utilizing the site.

Q - In today's digital world, tons of information is encrypted and stored safely, yet security and cyber breach remains a looming threat. How do you deal with the security issues revolving around your web-based tool?

A - We know our customers expect the same level of security that our team expects from vendors, and as a result we have incorporated customer privacy and data security as part of our company mission and values. We have dedicated server space with a professional organization and have multi-level encryption on all user accounts. We allow owner/operators to withhold their contact information when submitting a request,

so that they can maintain their privacy up until they accept a quote and select which facility they will be utilizing for their maintenance.

Q - Where do you visualise the current digital technology in Aerospace MRO 5 years from now?

A - With technology just beginning to work its way into the industry, the next five years has a lot of potential if we can work together. I think that there will be a significant push to utilize technology to streamline every aspect of MRO operations – whether you are working on engines and airframes or parts and components. With that being said, we can only review the data if it exists. The faster we can accept, implement and embrace the current technology in the industry, the further we will be in 5 years. The industry needs to pull together to embrace these changes to propel ourselves further.

Q - Lastly what makes MRO Insider a world leader in achieving digital transformation?

A - One of our biggest industry advantages is remaining to be a non-affiliated third party company. This allows our team to think outside the box and focus 100% of our energy to create or streamline the methods used in the aviation industry. We founded this company to provide transparency and begin to democratize the maintenance industry. The goals we continue to strive for are making corporate aviation ownership affordable and minimize the number of frustrated owner/operators who opt to sell their aircraft due to their lack of options available. Our marketplace allows MRO's of all sizes to compete on a level playing field, giving owner/operators the tools and knowledge they need to make informed maintenance decisions.





Volga-Dnepr Airlines, Panalpina helps Babcock for helicopter delivery

Volga-Dnepr Airlines and logistics partner Panalpina completed the exchange of two helicopter types for Babcock located on the opposite sides of the globe – in the UK and Australia.

Volga-Dnepr Airlines' aerospace logistics specialists were brought in to make the exchange of two AugustaWestland AW139 helicopters as seamless and timely as possible from the UK to their new home in Melbourne, Australia, and the transfer of two Sikorsky S-92 in the opposite direction from Darwin, Australia, to Aberdeen in Scotland.

Volga-Dnepr used one of its iconic Antonov 124-100 ramp-loading freighters for the connections between the UK-Australia-UK, an aircraft capable of accommodating up to 12 helicopters in its cargo hold depending on their size and weight. Glasgow Prestwick was chosen as the

UK point of departure for the AW139

helicopters as well as for the arrival of the S-92's. In the first stage of the project, two 5.5 ton, 16.7-metre long AugustaWestland AW139 helicopters – safely wrapped and with dismounted blades - were delivered by road from Aberdeen to Prestwick, where Volga-Dnepr's team of experts oversaw the precise loading process into the An-124-100 using only the aircraft's ramp. After unloading in Melbourne, the Antonov 124 departed to Darwin, where the two 7-ton S-92 helicopters were ready for loading ahead of their journey to join up with Babcock's business unit in Aberdeen. This second flight was performed at the lower altitude of 8,000 meters to maintain the cargo hold pressure level requested by the customer. All dismounted parts were delivered together with the helicopters.

"Over almost three decades, Volga-Dnepr Airlines has accumulated vast

experience and knowledge from the deliveries of more than 40 types of helicopters. Our team of professionals has organised and performed the transportation of over 5,000 machines of various manufacturers for humanitarian missions, medical, fire-fighting, law enforcement, tourism and other civil purposes, as well as for aerospace exhibitions and airshows, and they know the special transportation requirements of each of them. In our fleet, we have not only Antonov 124 freighters which, for example, can carry up to six AW139's on one flight, but also the modernized IL-76TD-90VD ramp aircraft for deliveries of smaller and lighter types of helicopters. On this latest occasion, we were delighted to be able to support Panalpina and Babcock in their mission and to achieve all their objectives," said Rinat Akhmetov, Commercial Executive, Volga-Dnepr Airlines.





Exclusive Interview

Etihad Airways Engineering's Global Take-Off

In today's robust competition and in the race for survival in aviation sector Abdul Khaliq Saeed, CEO of Etihad Airways Engineering talks about the universal problem of shortage of engineering talent, challenges faced by Independent MROs and South Asia as an upcoming MRO hub. In an exclusive interview with Swati Ketkar, he also mentions feeling extremely proud of their new Airbus A350 maintenance service and their plans for global expansion.

Q - Can you explain very briefly about the new Airbus A350 maintenance service?

A-Etihad Airways Engineering services most major aircraft types and adding the Airbus A350 allows us to offer C-Checks, modifications, livery and maintenance to this latest aircraft type. This means that we are expanding our offering to both our existing customers as well as attracting new customers with this aircraft type.

Q- Recently Etihad Airways Engineering signed MoU's with Fabrica Arentina De Aviones and Tarmac Aerosave to expand globally. What are other countries you are looking at?

A-We are proud of our recent collaborations with FAdeA and Tarmac Aerosave which offer us a greater geographic reach. We are a global MRO, who just happens to be centrally based in the Middle East. Our geographic location is



lines from a variety of regions, as well as having all of the necessary capabilities to support leasing companies as they transition assets into different fleets across the globe. We continually look to expand our collaborations and partnerships with organisations worldwide.

Q- South-Asia as an emerging MRO market in future - Your views

A-We have worked with a number of Asian carriers and agree that South Asia represents a promising emerging market and our team is actively working on growing our business in this region. Our work in this area includes design engineering, cabin modifications, components, and airframe which allow us to offer a one-stop shop for all aircraft maintenance services.

Q- Recruitment of skilled workforce in MRO is a global problem. How do you plan to tackle this problem?

A-The shortage of engineering talent within aviation is a global issue and Etihad Airways Engineering is committed to supporting the growth of the industry. We have an excellent Part 147 training facility at our base in Abu Dhabi, with 161 currently enrolled in our Engineering Graduate programme. Of these, 54 participants are female, which indicates that our support of 'Women in Aviation' initiatives is demonstrating results. From the previous programme, 28 students now have their basic licenses and are working on different aircraft types. We collaborate with five Universities and Colleges within the UAE to ensure that our graduate programmes and career streams are well supported. It is essential that MROs invest in their staff and encourage the next generation

of maintenance professionals, to ensure the continuity of their business.

Q - Recently your team flew from Abu Dhabi to France to carry out Airbus A350 checks? Do you find this economical or viable in future?

A-We are proud to collaborate with TARMAC in France which enabled us to complete our first A350 C-check at their facility and offers an extra solution for our customers globally. We collaborate with various partners across the world, which is an important factor in giving us a global reach. We are also extremely proud that we have now been able to launch A350 maintenance at our home facility in Abu Dhabi.

Q - Etihad Airways Engineering is the largest commercial Independent MRO in Middle East, what according to you are the challenges faced by MROs in today's times?

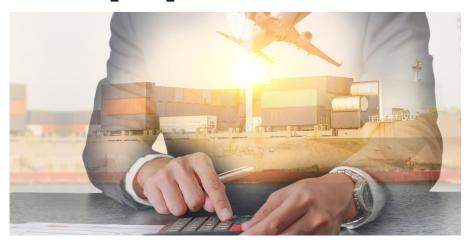
A-As OEMs increasingly seek to claim a share of the MRO aftermarket and access to new aircraft types becomes constricted, remaining focused on the needs of the customer and ensuring that their operation is supported is imperative. As part of an aviation group, we understand this challenge and have leveraged our position to work in collaboration with a number of the largest OEMs to provide support for the operator as next generation aircraft types are introduced, while ensuring that their legacy fleet utilisation is maximised through predictive maintenance and cabin upgrade programmes.

Q- In the race for leading MROs in the world, where does Abu Dhabi stand? And what according to you will take it to the top of the ladder?

A-Etihad Airways Engineering is a well-respected player in the MRO industry, with a loyal client base as well as the ability to attract and support new clients. Our client base represents many of the world's leading airlines and OEMs. We are focused and committed to deliver an extremely high standard of engineering services, strong client relationship management and on-time performance that will support our clients and our growth into the future. Off the back of a strong 2018, we look forward to continuing growth in-line with our business strategy.



Locatory.com to provide new service for aircraft spare parts sellers



Locatory.com has launched a new service called Locatory Distributor for spare parts stock sellers. If the companies order this service, they get an outsourced Locatory.com sales manager for aircraft spare parts distribution and inventory management. These sales managers can help companies that have stock to find clients by using Locatory's marketplace where aviation companies are daily searching for aircraft parts.

Also, the sales manager will have great expertise in the field and will speak the language which is needed for the region. The company can delegate managers that speak fluent English, Spanish, Arabic and many other languages.

"There are many small companies that have aviation parts stock but no staff to sell it. Or, there are big aviation companies that have spare parts stock and would like to increase their profit. Either way, Locatory.com comes in with a service that creates value to both and becomes like a bridge to different markets and between the seller and the buyer," said Dainius Meilunas, CEO at Locatory.com.

Locatory.com international sales team will also help the companies to sell spare parts stock in Asia, the Americas, Europe, Russia & CIS, and Africa

"Our new service will be interesting for the companies because we are responsible for everything. From human resources to sales processes – the only thing for our client will be

to wait for the results. Therefore, they will eliminate the costs of in-house personnel that has to be paid and trained. We shall give the full package with a skillful and very experienced professional that has been working in the sales of spare parts aftermarket at least for 8 years. Besides the manager, the company will receive all the tools, including the locatory.com website that is being visited by MRO, airlines, Repair shops, and other market players at least 80 thousand times per month", adds Dainius Meilunas, CEO. "We have the know-how of spare parts industry that others don't. And with this service we get closer to our clients and fit their needs. Moreover, this is a time-saving service that will benefit the client. which needs to distribute its goods in a fastest manner possible."

The companies that choose Locatory Distributor will receive various benefits. The sales managers will evaluate the stock if needed and consult about pricing to help leverage sales potential. Besides that, the assigned managers will raise interest in aircraft parts stock by taking advantage of Locatory.com marketplace tools, get RFQs and send purchase orders directly to clients. Every client will get monthly reports and all the relevant data on sales processes. The progress assessment will help clients recognise what is working within sales process and keep things on track. The representatives can also arrange shipping with up to 55 per cent lower rates compared to the standard rates on the market.

Smart solutions to determine future of Aviation MRO, not Brexit

While aviation MRO teams face Brexit-uncertainty, Aerogility, a predictive maintenance software company believes that the intelligent software solutions which will be crucial to figuring out the future trade-offs and options for the industry.

Gary Vickers, CEO of Aerogility said, "In 2019, we are already seeing key trends shaping the MRO sector despite the current uncertainties. Global aviation software companies are utilising advanced optimisation techniques to enhance their MRO maintenance forecasts and are continuing to leverage big data analytics. This is being augmented with model-driven simulations with the capability to create comprehensive predictive maintenance forecasts more easily, more accurately, and faster.

"We can't consider the health of any industry this year without mentioning Brexit. Its impact is impossible to predict, but by using forecasting technologies, any changes in aviation policy and regulation can be evaluated quickly. Based on these policy decisions, we can generate optimal maintenance schedules automatically to keep the business fully operational," added Vickers.

Aerogility has been providing smart MRO forecasting through its intelligent multi-agents-based solution to companies like easyJet and Rolls-Royce. They also support companies in making more informed business-critical decisions, delivering higher fleet availability, lower costs and safer operations.

Vickers concludes, "By intelligently planning and forecasting multiple what-if scenarios, MRO planners and fleet managers can evaluate all the viable options to manage any situation facing their fleet in the coming months and beyond."





Traditionally, component OEM relationships lie predominately with aircraft manufacturers and, to some degree, airlines with larger fleets. If an OEM is looking to grow its share of the aftermarket, they would need to form new relationships with a diverse customer base, including airlines with smaller fleets, MROs, leasing companies and thousands of brokers world-wide

The larger OEMs tend to be structured to cater for the needs of high-volume users of their components rather than ad hoc requests for a single part or repair. Additionally, any new airline customer is likely to require an outsourced nose-to-tail solution and be unwilling or unable to manage relationships with multiple component OEMs.

Forward-thinking component OEMs, who don't necessarily have the right aftermarket support services to compete with aggregators or nimble trading organisations, are starting to overcome those challenges by viewing established aftermarket providers as companies to collaborate with, rather than compete against.

The aftermarket has been AJW's business for nearly 90 years and we know it well. We can offer customised route-to-market solutions and much more, having established relationships with over 1,000 customers – airlines, MROs and leasing companies – globally.

Mutual benefits

Along with the advantages for the component OEM, there are also benefits to an aftermarket provider from a collaborative relationship.

Aftermarket providers like AJW benefit from the technical, reliability and Service Bulletin/Airworthiness Directive support that a component OEM can provide. They also drive a competitive MRO cost base with the ability to invest in new assets at a better price. Component OEMs put strategies in place to address the aftermarket in new platforms, making these collaborative relationships all the more important.

As an example, AJW has a working



agreement with a leading component OEM which is highly selective in choosing the businesses it works with. The OEM benefits from the relationship as AJW provides a cost-effective and established route to the wider aftermarket. This generates revenue streams across sales and repairs that they wouldn't normally receive, as well as an over-flow repair from AJW's MRO, AJW Technique, as it's one of the OEM's licensed repair shops.

The OEM is a key manufacturer of components used across the wide range of aircraft types that AJW supports including Airbus A320 and A330 families, Boeing commercial platforms and Bombardier Business Jets. This in turn enables AJW to consolidate demand from multiple customers through a single source, leading to greater purchasing power.

For one OEM, the scale of our relationship has resulted in well over 3,000 transactions – including more than 1,300 parts approved by the OEM - in both repairs and parts supply.

AJW works in partnership with a number of component OEMs, all of whom have come to understand the commercial benefits of collaboration in driving additional revenue. This clearly demonstrates why AJW is seen as partner and customer rather than a competitor. More importantly, collaborating with AJW is a valuable and effective means of reaching the aftermarket.

Adding customer satisfaction and value

By working together, OEMs and aftermarket specialists deliver benefits for

airlines that stretch far beyond keeping up with day-to-day maintenance requirements.

AJW's relationship with component OEMs rightly reassures customers of the highest standards of parts and repairs, while maintaining a high standard of customer service through the management of a complex vendor base. We regard ourselves as an OEMcentric organisation.

Component repairs through AJW either go to one of our OEM partners, or an established, highly-selective network of MROs including our own facility, AJW Technique located in Montréal, Canada. The level of trust is such that AJW Technique is an OEM approved facility for multiple safety critical components.

Where necessary, an aftermarket provider can also be a facilitator and a value engineer, problem solving on an airline's behalf. AJW works closely with the OEM to ensure the best turnaround times.

So rather than taking a competitive approach, extending the hand of friendship to component OEMs has enabled AJW to build partnerships, and highly effective agreements, that deliver streamlined and cost-effective nose-to-tail solution that the airlines want and need.

For airlines, an independent specialist that understands the industry's supply chain and can manage it successfully, integrating with all of its component parts, can lead the pack when it comes to being a reliable and trustworthy partner.

This feature is written by Christopher Whiteside, CEO and President of AJW Group



Etihad Airways adopts innovative real time flight tracking technology

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has successfully implemented the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) recommendations for flight tracking ahead of the General Civil Aviation Authority's (GCAA's) proposed deadline of 1 June 2019.

With an ICAO completion date of 8 November 2018, Etihad Airways not only met the GADSS recommendation of tracking its flights with position updates every 15 minutes under normal conditions, but also at the frequency of once-per minute when an aircraft is in distress - exceeding a component of ICAO's 2021 requirements.

Etihad Airways and SITA have achieved this superior capability with the adoption of SITAONAIR's AIRCOM Flight-Tracker system, which utilises FlightA- ware data services to provide the precise position, speed and altitude of the airlines airborne fleet worldwide.

FlightAware integrates global aircraft position data from the Aireon spacebased automatic dependent surveillance broadcast (ADS-B) system, hosted on the Iridium NEXT satellite constellation. The Aireon space-based ADS-B system provides universal coverage of ADS-B equipped aircraft, with positions updated at least once per minute globally, enabling Etihad Airways to modernise its flight tracking capabilities across the entire globe.

John Wright, Vice President Network Operations, Etihad Airways said, "Safety of our guests and crew at Etihad Airways remains our number one priority. Implementing this technology across our entire network is an exciting and ground-breaking milestone and we're thrilled to have achieved this before the local mandate is in full effect."

As an international airline operating across some areas with limited ground-based receivers and air traffic surveillance, Etihad Airways now has comprehensive coverage, eliminating gaps over the oceanic regions, large parts of the African continent and polar airspace.

"In addition to the provision of realtime 4D aircraft positions, the technology offers other insightful capabilities to both anticipate and avoid adverse weather conditions and optimise fuel efficiency," adds Wright.

Also, by leveraging existing onboard ADS-B OUT technology, Etihad Airways is able to operate this new flight tracking system without the need to install new equipment on its aircraft.





Astronics launches new ambient lighting for aircraft cabins



Astronics PGA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Astronics Corporation has launched the new Nuancia RGBW Strip Lights to provide flexible illumination options for aircraft seats and cabins. With this system, aircraft manufacturers and airlines can programme moodlighting systems to accommodate more than 16 million colors, create preset color scenarios, and present color changes.

"There is a significant increase in ambi-

ent lighting interest from airlines and aircraft OEMs, so to service our customers, we've taken our existing ultra-reliable lighting products and re-engineered them to provide the industry's smallest bend radius and closest set LEDs for a flexible, consistent color experience," commented Fabrice Berthelot, President of Astronics PGA. "The possibilities for exciting new cabin lighting designs are immense."

Nuancia is the first cabin lighting product offering customisable lengths from 100 millimeter (mm) to 2,500 mm and with LEDs placed in 50 mm increments, which reduces gaps between lights for a smooth, continuous color wash.

At only 6 mm thick and with a 50 mm bend radius, Nuancia is the most flexible product available to illuminate the cabin environment - ceilings, alcoves, seats, walls, windows, and more. Customers can install Nuancia in straight or curved applications, via multiple mounting methods, to highlight the cabin without any hot spots. A dedicated lighting management system controls the strip lights to ensure smooth transitions between lighting phases for various airplane operations, such as takeoff, meal service, or inflight entertainment time. The system uses red, green, blue, and white (RGBW) LED technology to deliver the industry's most comprehensive set of color choices with options for a range of white lights, from cool to warm settings.





Vallair, Contrail Aviation Support partner for CFM56-7B engines

Vallair, an aviation company headquartered in Luxembourg has partnered with Contrail Aviation Support LLC for three CFM56-7B engines.

Vallair purchased one CFM56-7B from Contrail with 9,500 cycles remaining, and this was fitted to the Boeing 737NG (MSN36118) in January, which is under lease to SpiceJet. In turn, Contrail acquired two run-out CFM56-7B engines from Vallair, previously removed from this same aircraft, for tear-down. The dismantled components will support the growth of Contrail's surplus engine parts line of business.

"A mature engine market often creates an increased supply of spare engines and used serviceable material, which can be fed into cost-effective solutions for owners of mature aircraft," said Gregoire Lebigot, President & CEO at Vallair. "Contrail is pursuing its aim of offering attractive asset end-of-life solutions and this deal further validates them as a leading supplier of CFM56-3/-5/-7 and V2500A5 engine components. Vallair is pleased to become part of Contrail's ex-



panding network of acquisition and asset leasing partners."

"We're excited about this transaction with Vallair, as it epitomises our cooperative mentality when working diligently and swiftly with our partners around the world," said Steve Williamson, Director of Acquisitions at Contrail. "Together, we were able to maximise value for all parties concerned. That is, we instantly monetised the available greentime of a serviceable CFM56-7B engine that benefited our partner's leased Boeing 737NG, and we

purchased two unserviceable CFM56-7Bs to feed our parts material line of business. We couldn't be more pleased. We look forward to continue executing on our solutions strategy with our customers by leveraging our portfolio of serviceable engines, and when appropriate, helping customers avoid costly engine shop visits while being a gateway to profitably moving their unserviceable engines."

"Vallair is an extremely valued partner to us, both as a customer and a vendor," affirmed Contrail's CEO Joe Kuhn. "This transaction builds off a successful 2018 for Contrail that saw us close over twenty similar marquee deals. While the foundation of our 20-year company is in engine parts, we're actively building on that legacy through our trading and leasing efforts by, in part, efficiently developing a strong pipeline of assets that will continue to feed our engine material business. We look forward to continuing our momentum with Vallair and doing more transactions with them when opportunities occur."

US Bangla Airlines takes delivery of ATR 72-600 from Dubai Aerospace Enterprise



Photo ushair com

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) Ltd., one of the largest aircraft leasing companies in the world has delivered an ATR 72-600 to Bangladesh-based US Bangla Airlines. The aircraft was handed over to the airline during a celebration at the ATR facility in Toulouse, France.

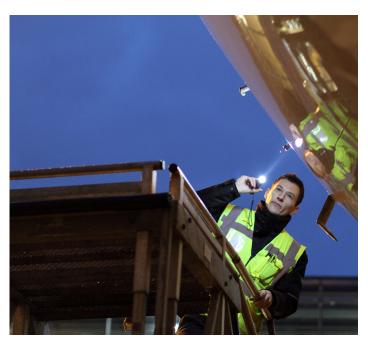
"We are delighted to welcome US Bangla as our newest customer, as we are delighted to include Bangladesh in our growing global footprint," said Firoz Tarapore, Chief Executive Officer of DAE. "Our delivery of US Bangla's ATR once again demonstrates DAE's ability to effectively address the changing fleet requirements of our customers and our ability to execute such agreements swiftly. We look forward to a strong relationship with US Bangla."

"We are very happy to accept the brandnew ATR72-600 from Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) Ltd – one of the top lessors of the world. We are adding this aircraft to our fleet to meet the growing market demand in domestic sectors and to provide even better services," said Mohammed Abdullah Al Mamun, Managing Director of US-Bangla Airlines. "We hope that our relationship with DAE will further expand and strengthen as we continue to grow as an airline of formidable presence."

This factory new ATR is the final aircraft of an order of 20 ATR 72-600 aircraft which DAE placed with the manufacturer in 2014.



Magnetic MRO obtains EASA's approval for CAMO services on 2 new wide-bodies



Magnetic MRO has received EASA's approval to provide continuing airworthiness management (CAMO) services on wide-bodies Airbus 330 and Boeing 777, as well as Embraer 145 aircraft type.

A few weeks before receiving the updated CAMO approval certificate, the company had also decided to take over Direct Maintenance, a Dutch company that's specialised in Line Maintenance for wide-body aircraft.

Magnetic MRO's Continuing Airworthiness Manager Andrei Pavlov said, "The expansion of the CAMO capability that adds new wide-body aircraft to our portfolio complements the company's recent business acquisition. This strategic alignment certainly creates a good base of synergy for Magnetic MRO's future business achievements in the wide-body market."

Pavlov also added that Magnetic MRO's CAMO approval was extended to sustain the company's relationship with the development and growth of their current customers, and create an opportunity for potential future partnerships with new customers.





SriLankan Engineering carried out 1st C-check on Airbus A320neo



SriLankan Engineering has successfully completed its first C-check on an Airbus A320neo aircraft of SrilLankan Airlines at its main hub at Colombo's

Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA).

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has given SriLankan Engineer-

ing the certification to carry out Base Maintenance operations on aircraft of the Airbus A320 and A330 families as per EASA Part-145 specifications. The company also has EASA certifications for its Line Maintenance and Engineering Workshops and carries out EASA certified Training.

Recently, SriLankan Engineering's main facility at BIA had undergone a significant modernisation programme which included expanding the floor area in its main hangar to allow more aircraft to be served simultaneously; and adding a hangar door to its main hangar to allow programmes to be carried out in any type of weather. Some important enhancements were also carried out on its A320 aircraft hangar.

SR Technics renews wheels & brakes services contract with SWISS

Andres Lamprecht, Head of Component Maintenance Switzerland, commented about the contract renewal: "We very much appreciate that SWISS continues to trust SR Technics with the maintenance and overhaul of one of the critical elements of their aircraft. We are fully committed to providing outstanding performance and on-time delivery."

Head of Commercials & Logistics at SWISS, Patrick Heiz, noted, "The fact that SR Technics has its home base in Zurich and offered a market oriented contract played an important part in deciding to extend the current wheels and brakes services with SR Technics. We are confident that we can rely on the excellent shop performance, as in recent years."

Lufthansa Technik sets up AVIATION DataHub

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KLM UK Engineering, BA CityFlyer sign contract for Line Maintenance Support

KLM UK Engineering has signed a line maintenance contract with BA CityFlyer. The company will begin with this line maintenance contract with BA CityFlyer at Glasgow on their Embraer fleet from April 2019.

Wayne Easlea, Operations Director at KLM UK Engineering Limited said, "We are delighted that BA CityFlyer have extended their line maintenance contract with KLM UK Engineering, we have been providing line maintenance support for them at other locations during the last few years and look forward to developing this partnership further during 2019."

Dave Cooper, Head of Engineering Operations at BA CityFlyer said, "We are delighted to extend the current line maintenance support from KLM UK Engineering to cover Glasgow."



Defence exclusive

New York Air National Guard receive first HC-130J from Lockheed Martin



Lockheed Martin, a global security and aerospace company has delivered the first of four HC-130J Combat King II aircraft today to representatives from the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing (RQW).

The 102nd Rescue Squadron (RQS) at Francis S. Grabreski Air National Guard Base, New York will operate the HC-130J. Currently, the 102nd RQS, which is part of the 106th Rescue Wing (RQW), operates a legacy fleet of HC-130P/N variant

Combat King I aircraft, which will be replaced by four new HC-130Js.

The HC-130Js will be used by the squadron to refuel the New York Air National Guard's 101st RQS HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, which were manufactured by Lockheed Martin's Sikorsky business in Stratford, Connecticut.

The crews from 106th RQW uses HC-130s to extend the range of combat search and rescue helicopters by providing air refuelling in hostile or contested airspace. Other mission capabilities include performing tactical delivery of pararescue teams, small bundles, zodiac watercraft or four-wheel drive all-terrain vehicles; and providing direct assistance to survivors in advance of a recovery vehicle. The HC-130J is also used for airdrop, airland, and helicopter air-to-air refuelling and forward-area ground refuelling missions.

Malaysia and Korea gets AW189 helicopters for fire fighting

Malaysia Fire and Rescue Department (Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia) and Korea's Seoul Fire Department is all set to begin operations with their newly added Leonardo AW189 helicopters. They will soon be followed by the Tokyo Fire Department.

Leonardo has been widening its reach across the Asia Pacific region. Their aircraft' are being used for public utility operations such as search and rescue, firefighting, and disaster relief. The AW139, AW169 and AW189 helicopters join an already impressive fleet of Leonardo helicopters across countries in the region with Malaysia, South Korea, Japan and Australia.

Leonardo plays an important role in the Malaysian helicopter market as they have been expanding their presence and increasing their capabilities through a continued plan of investment. They have a regional hub for Customer Support and Training near



Kuala Lumpur. They have been present in the region for many years with hundreds of helicopters performing missions such as offshore and passenger transport, utility, law enforcement, homeland security, emergency medical services, search and rescue, maritime patrol, military naval roles and armed reconnaissance. Leonardo has also been providing a range of security and defence capabilities to the Malaysian government and products, such as air traffic control systems to commercial customers.

AAR Mobility Systems to produce 463L cargo pallets for the US Air Force

AR has been secured a \$10.8 million order from the US Air Force for the production of 463L cargo pallets. The cargo pallets will be manufactured at AAR's Mobility Systems business unit in Cadillac, Michigan.

"AAR continues to provide this crucial, strategic asset to the U.S. Air Force to ensure it meets its worldwide operational requirements," said Lee Krantz, Senior Vice President, AAR Mobility Systems. "As a trusted source, AAR is proud to provide the 463L pallet to the U.S. Armed Forces, its allies andother US Government agencies."

AAR continues to be the world leader in the design and production of the cargo pallets. The 463L USAF design uses a lightweight balsa wood core that continues to provide unparalleled strength-to-weight performance and reliability compared to alternative commercial pallet designs. The pallets are designed to be loaded and off-loaded on a variety of military and commercial aircraft.



IAF receives its first four Chinook helicopters



hoto: Boei

The first four Chinook CH-47F helicopters which were inducted by Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa to the Indian Air Force (IAF) will increase within a year to a fleet size of 15 choppers. The helicopters were purchased from the US firm Boeing for \$1.5 billion. It will be almost most certainly be followed by an

additional order.

Chinook can be used in war and in disaster relief missions in peacetime. It has a distinctive double rotor, one at each end of the helicopter. The current Chinook CH-47F resembles the CH-47A that first hauled cargo in the Vietnam War but today's version is far more

capable. It can lift 22,500 kg and its digital advanced flight control system (DAFCS) enables it to hover at a precise spot, such as with its cargo compartment opening onto the edge of a building's roof, allowing people marooned on the roof due to floods or to clamber on board

The newly delivered Chinook CH-47F will replace the Russian Mi-26 in the heavy lift class, the first helicopter category in which America has superseded Russia's dominance in India. The Russian Mi-35s will also be retired after the introduction of Boeing's Apache AH-64E attack helicopters. Russia's Kamov-28s and Kamov-31s will be shut out from a third category if the Sikorsky MH-60 Romeo is selected as the Navy's new multi-role helicopter (NMRH).

The Chinook is one of Boeing's biggest winners, with around 19 countries flying 900 Chinooks and more than half of those by the US military.

AerSale, Aero Air / Erickson Aero Tanker to build firefighting air tanker



AerSale and Aero Air / Erickson Aero Tanker have signed a contract to build another firefighting air tanker for the company's fleet at AerSale's MRO facility in Goodyear, Arizona. From April 1st the conversion work on the MD-87 aircraft will formally begin. This will be the sixth aircraft modification by AerSale at Goodyear.

After the completion of the modification, the new Erickson Aero Tanker will cruise at 450 knots and carry 3,000 gallons of fire retardant in all environments up to 40 degrees Celsius. It will have a 900-mile loaded strike range, need only a 5,200-foot runway loaded, and both take off and land fully loaded.

Besides converting the air tankers' original MD-87 aircraft, AerSale will also conduct all heavy maintenance on the Erickson Aero Tanker fleet.

Airbus honours the Royal Malaysian Air Force



Royal Malaysian Air Force has become the world's highest Airbus H225M military flyer in 2018. To commemorate this milestone Airbus Helicopters held a ceremony in honour of the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

Fabrice Rochereau, Head of Sales, Airbus Helicopters South East Asia & Pacific and Raymond Lim, Head of Country, Airbus Malaysia presented General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Affendi Bin Buang TUDM, Chief of Air Force with an award.

Pilots of the Royal Malaysian Air Force's H225M who have attained 500, 1,000 and 1,500 flight hours respectively on the H225M helicopter were also presented with flight hours achievement awards.

The Royal Malaysian Air Force's fleet of 12 H225M helicopters has been operational since 2012. Designed for the most challenging missions, these H225Ms have been used for several exercises and humanitarian missions, including flood rescue and lifesaving operations. Together, they have accomplished 16,000 flight hours



Executives in Focus

Anca Mihalache joins APOC Aviation as Vice President Engine Trading

POC Aviation has appointed Anca Mihalache to head up its new engine trading division. She will be responsible for developing the leasing platform for APOC Aviation,



fostering relationships with airlines, looking after investors and repair shops; managing the engine sales; trade engines with leases attached or as naked assets; and evaluating engine stock for trading, leasing or teardown.

Previously, Mihalache worked at Vallair where she was the Head of Trading & Leasing and was responsible for managing sales operations and developing strategies and profit targets for all aircraft, engines, engine parts and airframe components.

She has worked in trading, leasing, sales & marketing within the aviation industry for more than 10 years and also has six years of managerial expertise.

Anca Mihalache
APOC Aviation

Before joining Vallair, Mihalache worked for Aero Care as Sales & Purchasing Manager.

She has Bachelor's Degrees in Commercial Transactions & Business

Administration from the National Academy of Economics and PR & Communication from the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in Bucharest.

"APOC is a young and ambitious company and I have been given the opportunity to set-up an engines trading department from scratch," said Mihalache. "It will be a challenge to build a new lease and teardown portfolio, but I am confident that we will quickly achieve our goals."

Max Wooldrik, Founder & Managing Director, APOC Aviation said, "We're excited to welcome Anca to the team. We plan to become a recognised force for innovation in the trading, leasing and part-out markets and her experience and commercial acumen will be valuable assets as she spearheads the APOC engine division."

Nigel Woodall joins AJW group as Group Sales Director

A JW Group has appointed Nigel Woodall as Group Sales Director. In his new role, Woodall will be responsible for driving sales across AJW Group globally.

Woodall will be based at AJW Group's Headquarters in Slinfold, West Sussex and will report to Tom De Geytere, Chief Sales Officer of AJW Group.

With 40 years of management experience, Woodall worked with various companies in the aviation industry. He held the position of Senior Vice President Customer Support at Meggitt. Prior to that, he also worked at Lufthansa Technik AG, Honeywell Aerospace and British Airways. Woodall is also a trained and licenced aircraft engineer.

President and CEO of AJW Group, Christopher Whiteside said, "Nigel's proven track record of success in customer services and management make him the ideal candidate for this position. His skills will be of utmost importance to the business as we continue to expand globally and bolster our client base. It is my pleasure to welcome him as a valued member of the AJW Group team."

Nigel Woodall, Group Sales Director at AJW Group said, "I am very much looking forward to joining AJW Group in the position of Group Sales Director. The opportunity to help drive and deepen our customer business relationships to support our growth across the globe is one that I will relish, and I look forward to working alongside AJW's world-renowned and talented team."

Priscilla Ang joins GA Telesis as Director of Business Development Asia-Pacific

A Telesis recruits Priscilla Ang as Director of Business Development for the Asia-Pacific Region. In her new role, Ang will be responsible for developing new relationships and maintaining existing relationships with airlines, financial institutions, and MRO's in the Asia-Pacific region from her base in Singapore.

With a career spanning over 20 years in the aviation sector, Ang worked with companies like with Aircastle, Boullioun Aviation Services, and The Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan.

Most recently, she was the member of Titan Singapore Aircraft Leasing team, where she served from 2014 through 2018 as Manager, Marketing & Lease Administration. There she was responsible for marketing, lease placement, and managing customer relationships.

"We are thrilled that Priscilla is joining our team," said Marc Cho, Chief Investment Officer and President of Leasing, Investments, Finance, and Trading at GA Telesis. "Priscilla will be essential to accelerating our growth and expansion in the Asia-Pacific region."



Lufthansa Cargo's Vice President Germany J. Florian Pfaff moves to Asia

The current Vice President Germany of Lufthansa Cargo, J. Florian Pfaff will move to Asia with effect from 1 June 2019.

Based in Singapore, he will take over as Vice President Asia Pacific.

Dorothea von Boxberg, Member of the Executive Board and Chief Commercial Officer will continue to be Pfaff's reporting head.

In 1989, Pfaff began his career at Lufthansa Cargo. He was appointed General Manager Sales and Marketing Germany in 1994 after holding various marketing positions.

President Global Account Management in January 2005. In May 2006, he took over the responsibility of sales and handling in more than 90 countries and 120 stations in Europe and Africa. Since May 2011 Pfaff has been Vice President Germany and has headed Lufthansa Cargo's entire sales and handling activities in its home market Germany.

> The company is yet to finalise a successor for Pfaff present posi-

Pfaff's predecessor in Singapore, Frank Naeve, has been appointed as Vice President Airline Sales for The

> Americas. He will take up his new position, based in New York City, during April 2019.

Germany J. Florian Pfaff Lufthansa Cargo's



Marie Hebert joins AJW Technique as Human **Resource Director**

JW Technique has appointed Ma-Arie Hebert as Human Resources Director. In her new role, Marie will be responsible for all HR operations at AJW Technique including labour relations, payroll, benefits and pension plans. She will also have to help advance AJW Technique's wider HR strategy to support the business' ambitious growth plans.

Marie will be based at AJW Technique's MRO facility in Montreal, Canada and will report to Gavin Simmonds, General Manager of AJW Technique.

With a career spanning over 25 years in the Human Resources industry, Marie joins the business from McCarthy Tétrault LLP where she has held the position of National HR Manager, Compensation and Benefits

"The continuous improvement and growth of our MRO facility, AJW Technique is a credit to our driven and talented team," said Christopher Whiteside, President and CEO of AJW Group. "Marie's experience will be instrumental in further strengthening our team and processes as the business continuously evolves. I am delighted to welcome her to AJW Group."

Marie Hebert, Human Resources Director at AJW Technique said "I am thrilled to take on the role of Human Resources Director at AJW Technique, a business I have long admired. In my new role, I will play an integral part in supporting the company's HR strategy and I look forward to working with the innovative team."

Brad Foreman takes office as the new CEO of GDC Technics

 ${f B}$ rad Foreman, a former naval aviator was recently announced as the new CEO of GDC Technics. This appointment holds importance in view of GDC Technics new expanding partnerships with Oriole Capital Group, Trive Capital and MAZ Avia-

"With business experience in 47 countries, and a history of leading aerospace and defence groups towards profitable market growth, Mr Foreman's knowledge and capability will serve as a guiding light at the forefront of GDC's future expansion," said Mohammad Alzeer, Chairman, GDC Technics. "His established knowledge of both US and international aerospace and defence markets ensures GDC will be well positioned to compete for a variety of programs that leverage the company's unique capabilities," added Alzeer.

Foreman has held many important positions in the industry as the Chairman of the Board of Thales Defence and Security for Thales USA, and President and CEO of Thales Avionics. Prior to Thales, he held various positions at Boeing Company, including Director of the B717 Program office.

"It is an exciting time at GDC and a real privilege to lead the company's next phase of expansion," commented Brad Foreman. "GDC is clearly unique in the industry in terms of scale and in-house capabilities and I look forward to building on the company's customer-focused reputation for quality and innovation," added Foreman.

After the strategic partnership of GDC with new players the company plans to maintain its industry leadership in VVIP modification services, while leveraging the firm's comprehensive capabilities in design, composite/structural engineering and certification into new markets such as commercial and military modifications, communication and avionics upgrades, structural modifications and support services.

International Events

MRO EVENTS			
DATE	EVENT	VENUE	
09-11 April 2019	MRO Americas	Atlanta, Georgia, USA	
04-06 June 2019	AP&M Europe	Frankfurt, Germany	
18-19 Sept 2019	15th Maintenance Cost Conference (MCC)	Athens, Greece	
15-17 Oct 2019	MRO Europe	London, UK	
06-07 Feb 2020	3rd Aerospace & Defence MRO South Asia Summit 2020	New Delhi, India	

AIRSHOWS			
DATE	EVENT	VENUE	
17-23 June 2019	Paris Airshow	Le Bourget, Paris, France	
20-24 July 2020	Farnborough International Airshow 2020	Farnborough, England	
17-21 Nov 2019	Dubai Airshow	DWC, Dubai, UAE	
11-16 Feb 2020	Singapore Airshow	Changi Exhibition Centre, Singapore	

OTHER AVIATION EVENTS			
DATE	EVENT	VENUE	
02-04 April 2019	Safety and Flight Ops Conference 2019	Barcelona, Spain	
02-04 April 2019	Aircraft Interiors Expo 2019	Hamburg Messe, Germany	
11-09 April 2019	Rotorcraft Asia 2019	Changi Exhibition Centre, Singapore	
11-09 April 2019	Unmanned Systems Asia 2019	Changi Exhibition Centre, Singapore	
16-18 April 2019	ABACE	Shanghai, China	
22-23 April 2019	Saudi Drones Summit & Expo	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	
30 April- 2 May 2019	22nd World Aviation Training Summit	Orlando, Florida, USA	
01 April- 03 May 2019	AIR Convention Asia 2019	Bangkok, Thailand	
07 - 09 May 2019	ISTAT Asia	Shanghai, China	
21- 23 May 2019	EBACE	Geneva, Switzerland	
26 - 29 May 2019	IATA Ground Handling Conference	Madrid, Spain	
11 - 13 June 2019	Cabin Operations Safety Conference	Istanbul, Turkey	
23 - 26 June 2019	World Financial Symposium	Miami, Florida, USA	
25 - 27 June 2019	Aviation Data Conference	Athens, Greece	
27 - 28 June 2019	Asian Aviation Education & Training Symposium	Seoul, Republic of Korea	
03 - 04 Sept 2019	16th Asia Pacific Airline Training Symposium	Marina Bay Sands, Singapore	
08 - 11 Sept 2019	inter airport Europe 2019	Munich Trade Fair, Germany	
17 - 19 Sept 2019	AIR Convention Europe 2019	Vilnius, Lithuania	
15 - 17 Oct 2019	Global Airport and Passenger Symposium 2019	Warsaw, Poland	
13 - 14 Nov 2019	ISTAT Latin America Forum	Buenos, Argentina	

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