

INDUSTRY NEWS JANUARY 2026
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Although late, as this is the first report of 2026, I take this opportunity to say Happy New Year and hope everyone has a safe and prosperous year in whatever aspect of aviation you are involved in.

CREDITS: Company Websites unless specified otherwise.

EMIRATES: - Will introduce a daily, direct service between Dubai and Helsinki from 1 October 2026, using their new A.350's.

FAA: - **13 January 2026** – Officially notified Southern Aircraft Consultancy Inc. (SACI) that all its aircraft registration certificates are invalid because the company was in violation of U.S. citizenship requirements when it submitted the registration applications. The FAA instructed SACI to surrender all the certificates.

***** **27 January 2026** – Following the accident and subsequent grounding of all MD-11's, UPS has confirmed, at their fourth-quarter results conference that their entire fleet of MD-11's have been retired from service.

LUFTHANSA: - Is expanding its special 100th anniversary fleet with two additional aircraft receiving the commemorative livery: an Airbus A320neo and an Airbus A350-900. Also planned are three more specially painted aircraft: an Airbus A380, a Boeing 747-8, and its first Airbus A350-1000, expected to be delivered in October.

AIRBUS: - At the end of December, China Aircraft Leasing Group Holdings Limited (CALC) signed a firm order with Airbus for 30 A320neo Family aircraft to satisfy strong demand for the aircraft from its customer base.

***** AirBaltic took delivery of its newest Airbus A220-300, registered YL-BTB, at the end of December 2025, bringing its total A220 fleet to 52 aircraft.

6 January 2026 – STARLUX Airlines of Taiwan took delivery of its first of 18 A350-1000s, becoming the 11th global operator of this version. STARLUX unveiled a striking livery that integrates the airline's signature visual elements with a carbon-fibre motif and a prominent '1000' emblazoned on the fuselage. Furthermore, the airline has ordered 10 A350F freighters to develop its future cargo network.

11 January 2026 – **CREDIT:** www.thebusinessdesk.com - Airbus and Weston College Group have signed a formal lease agreement for a new Aerospace Skills Academy at Airbus' Filton site. Under the agreement, Weston College Group will transform a building on the Filton site into a new training facility dedicated to advanced manufacturing and engineering skills. It is scheduled to open in September 2026 in time for the new academic year.

28 January 2026 – Delta Air Lines has placed a firm order for 31 latest generation aircraft including 16 A330-900s and 15 A350-900s. These new aircraft will be powered by the latest generation Rolls-Royce Trent 7000 engines.

29 January 2026 – F-GSTF, one of Airbus' BelugaST aircraft, formally among the largest in the world, has been rehomed in the UK, with plans to turn it into a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) support facility at **Airbus Broughton**.

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS: - **9 January 2026** - Airbus Helicopters was informed of an event that occurred on a H160 operated in Brazil on 2 January 2026. After early indications, a precautionary measure without presuming the conclusion of the ongoing investigation, a decision was made to proactively release an Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (EASB) to require the replacement of the main rotor pitch rod ends after a certain number of flight hours. EASA has also issued an Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD).

15 January 2026 – Airbus Helicopters has been awarded a contract by the Ministry of Defence of Ghana for two H175Ms, one ACH175 and one ACH160. The H175Ms will be used as multi-mission helicopters for transport, search and rescue, emergency medical services and disaster relief. The ACH175 and ACH160 will be operated for transport.

AIRBUS MILITARY: - At the end of December, the Spanish Ministry of Defence acquired 18 Airbus C295 transport aircraft to replace the CN235 and C212 fleets. The first batch will be delivered from 2026 through 2028, with the second batch from 2030 through 2032. The Spanish Ministry of Defence also selected Airbus Defence and Space to lead the development and implementation of the Spanish new combat Integrated Training System (ITS-C). The programme is divided into two stages that will take place simultaneously. The first phase involves the delivery of 30 HÜRJET Jet Trainer's in their

initial configuration, certification in Spain and delivery throughout 2028 and 2029. The second phase will focus on the conversion work of the aircraft with national content and their subsequent delivery, scheduled for the second half of 2031 through 2035. The conversion of the first two aircraft will be carried out at the Airbus facilities in Getafe, while the other 28 aircraft will be converted at the programme's Conversion Centre to be established in Spain. Spain also placed orders for 100 Airbus helicopters through the Directorate General for Armament and Material of the Ministry of Defence. 13 H135's: 12 for the Spanish Air and Space Force and 1 for the Navy. 50 H145M's: For the Spanish Army. 6 H175M's: For the Spanish Air and Space Force, and 31 NH90's: 13 for the Army, 12 for Air and Space Force, and 6 for the Navy.

16 January 2026 – The French Armament General Directorate (DGA) has awarded a contract to Airbus Helicopters and Naval Group for the production of six VSR700 uncrewed aerial systems. The VSR700s based on the crewed Cabri G2 from Hélicoptères Guimbal, will be operated from 2028 by the French Navy.

ATR: - 29 January 2026 – ATR and Fly91, one of India's newest regional carriers, have signed an eight-year Global Maintenance Agreement (GMA), reinforcing the strong collaboration established since the airline's launch in 2024. Fly91 currently operates four ATR 72-600s, with two more arriving in early 2026.

BOEING: - 5 January 2026 – Boeing announced the continuation of its Platinum Level sponsorship with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), particularly for its annual EAA AirVenture Oshkosh fly-in convention. This renewed partnership underscores Boeing's commitment to supporting aviation enthusiasts and the next generation of aviation professionals.

7 January 2026 – Boeing and Alaska Airlines announced the carrier's largest-ever airplane order. The order includes: 105 737-10's and options for 35 more of the largest 737 MAX and 5 787's.

13 January 2026 – Boeing [NYSE: BA] and Aviation Capital Group LLC (ACG) announced the lessor has placed a new order for 50 737 MAX jets, including 25 737-8 and 25 737-10 airplanes. ACG will be positioned to offer continuous delivery positions from 2026 to 2033 to its customers.

13 January 2026 – Boeing (NYSE: BA) and Delta Air Lines announced the U.S. carrier placed its first direct order for up to 60 787 Dreamliners. Delta's purchase is for 30 787-10 jets and the opportunity for up to 30 more of the largest 787 variant.

20 January 2026 – Boeing (NYSE: BA) and Ethiopian Airlines announced Africa's largest carrier ordered nine 787-9 Dreamliner airplanes as demand for long-haul travel continues to rise. This latest 787 purchase follows its commitment for 11 737 MAX jets announced at the Dubai Airshow.

29 January 2026 – Boeing [NYSE: BA] and Air India announced the airline has ordered 30 more 737 MAX jets, expanding its Boeing order book to nearly 200 airplanes across the company's single-aisle and widebody airplane families.

BOEING MILITARY – 29 January 2026 — Boeing [NYSE: BA] will produce four additional MH-139A Grey Wolf helicopters and provide related sustainment for the U.S. Air Force.

BOMBARDIER: - 23 January 2026 – Announced that the *Global 8000*, the world's fastest civilian aircraft, has received European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) certification. This follows Transport Canada Type certification on 5 November 2025, and U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification on 19 December 2025.

29 January 2026 - US President Donald Trump has threatened to impose 50% tariffs on Canadian planes in retaliation for Canada "wrongfully, illegally, and steadfastly" refusing to certify several planes made by US firm Gulfstream. President Trump also said the US would decertify all Canadian aircraft, including planes from Bombardier, but the White House later confirmed that it was all new aircraft and not those already active within the US. Bombardier released a statement "We have taken note of the post from the President of the United States to social media and are in contact with the Canadian government." Bombardier employs more than 3,000 people in the U.S. across 9 major facilities and creates thousands of US jobs through 2,800 suppliers.

BRISTELL AIRCRAFT: - On December 17, 2025, BRM AERO completed the EASA certification process for the Bristell B23-916iS configuration, enabling customers to order the B23 with the Rotax 916iS (160 hp) turbocharged engine under EASA CS-23 approval.

DAHER: - 15 January 2026 - The TBM 980 was introduced at the Daher Aircraft Division's HQ and TBM production facility in Tarbes, France, during an event attended by customers, partners, officials, and company employees. Airworthiness certification has been issued by EASA and the US FAA, enabling Daher to begin for the TBM 980 deliveries this month.

DIAMOND AIRCRAFT: - 15 January 2026 – Auckland International Pilot Academy (AIPA) has confirmed the arrival of a Diamond DA42-VI from Australia. The aircraft, registered VH-VNX is expected to operate in New Zealand as ZK-CGX. AIPA expects the aircraft to be online by the end of January 2026.

ELIXIR AIRCRAFT: - **8 January 2026** – Elixir Aircraft secures its first firm order in the United States and will deliver 10 aircraft to Cirrus Aviation. Elixir Aircraft are converting pre-orders into firm orders after US certification. With over 200 pre-orders in the United States, the first two Elixir aircraft are on schedule to be delivered this Spring, 2026.

EMBRAER: - **27 January 2026** – Embraer and Adani Defence & Aerospace, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop an integrated regional transport aircraft ecosystem in India. The companies aim to collaborate on opportunities in aircraft manufacturing, supply chain, aftermarket services, and pilot training.

GULFSTREAM AEROSPACE CORP: - **12 January 2026** — Announced that the Gulfstream G500 and Gulfstream G600 have received certification for steep approach landing by EASA, allowing operations at even more airports worldwide.

HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED (HAL): - **28 January 2026** – At Wings India 2026, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an agreement with Russian firm United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) to pursue the licensed production of the regional commercial aircraft SJ-100, and another deal with Pawan Hans Limited for supplying 10 Dhruv NG (new generation) to the helicopter service provider. HAL displayed its Dhruv NG, H-228 Amphibian, the SJ-100 and the SJ-100 Aurus Business Jet at the event.

OTHER WINGS INDIA 2026 NEWS - Air India expanded its massive order book by adding 30 Boeing narrowbody aircraft, 20 737-8's and 10 737-10's. The airline also displayed its first 787-9 with its new cabin layout, this will start Mumbai – Frankfurt service from 1 February 2026. Air India and Airbus also revamped their existing partnership, converting 15 A321neo orders into the A321XLR variant. Meanwhile, the "Make in India" initiative received a significant boost as Sakthi Group and Omnipol signed a Memorandum of Understanding to introduce the L410 NG 19-seater aircraft to the domestic market. The two companies are currently assessing the feasibility of establishing a Final Assembly Line (FAL) in India. Heritage Aviation Pvt Ltd signed a contract for one Airbus H130 with delivery scheduled for September 2026. Russia's UAC and India's Flamingo Aerospace signed a preliminary agreement for the delivery of six IL-114-300 aircraft, which made its debut outside of Russia at the event, starting in 2028. India confirmed that they aim to increase the current number of airports, 160, to 400 by 2047. Two new pilot training facilities are to be established following the signing of two MoU's by the Odisha Government, the first with Alchemist Aviation to establish a flight school at Dandbose Airport in Mayurbhanj to train 50 pilots a year, the second with Bon V Aero to set up a UAV pilot and testing centre at Rangellinda Airstrip in Berhampur to train over 100 UAV pilots annually.

KOREAN SEROSPACE INDUSTRIES (KAI): - **20 January 2026** - South Korea stated its Defence Acquisition and Program Administration (DAPA) finally launched the \$1.29 billion Block-I airborne electronic warfare and jamming platform. KAI-Hanwha Systems submitting their concepts, based on the Bombardier Global 6500 and Gulfstream G550 aircraft, respectively. The agency plans to field the new platform by 2034.

28 January 2026 – A delegation from the Saudi Air Force visited KAI to review fighter aircraft and closer links between the countries. The visit included inspection of the KF-21 Boramae fighter. The KF-21 project completed the final development flight test on 12 January, and KAI are expecting the production aircraft to enter service with the ROKAF in the second half of 2026.

LEONARDO – **16 January 2026** – The U.K.'s Royal Navy announced that its first full-size Proteus autonomous helicopter completed its maiden flight from Predannack Airfield in Cornwall.

LOCKHEED MARTIN: - **8 January 2026** – Derco, a Lockheed Martin Company, has been awarded the C-130 Aviation Consumables Performance Based Logistics (ACPBL) contract by the Defence Logistics Agency (DLA). The contract marks a significant achievement in the company's 45-plus year legacy of supporting aerospace and defence industries through sustainment services, enabling accelerated mission readiness. This agreement also marks the first outcome-based program between DLA and Lockheed Martin under this effort.

13 January 2026 – At a recent ceremony, Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) delivered its 350th MH-60R "Romeo" helicopter to the United States Navy. The aircraft was delivered to HSM-41, the U.S. Navy's Helicopter Maritime Strike Fleet Replacement Squadron, training the U.S. Pacific Fleet's newest naval aviators and naval aircrewmen to operate the MH-60R helicopter.

21 January 2026 – The Fuerza Aérea Mexicana (FAM) announced the acquisition of their first Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) C-130J-30 Super Hercules, making Mexico the first country in Latin America to operate the C-130J. The acquisition of the C-130J was the first of two international C-130J contracts to close out in 2025, with the second new international customer yet to be disclosed.

TECNAM: - **15 January 2026** — Tecnam has announced that EAS Barcelona, a leading European Approved Training Organisation (ATO), has committed to a significant fleet expansion and modernization program valued at over €4 million. The agreement includes the acquisition of six (6)

P2006T NG, and the addition of two (2) Tecnam P-Mentor aircraft. The new aircraft will progressively enter service beginning mid-2026.

19 January 2026 — Tecnam officially announced the launch of the P2006T NG in the United States and Canada. Tecnam has defined a structured plan with FAA Certification expected in Q4 2026 and deliveries scheduled to begin in Q1 2027.

21 January 2026 – Tecnam Aircraft announced a strategic evolution of its commercial footprint in India. Effective immediately, the company will transition from a dealership network to a direct-to-factory relationship for all sales, service, and spare parts support across the region. As part of this restructuring, the formal dealership agreement with Air Taxi, and its affiliated companies Art Aviation and Amanra FZC, has concluded.

22 January 2026 — Tecnam announced that One Air Aviation, a leading European Approved Training Organisation (ATO) based in Spain, has been confirmed as the Launch Customer in Spain for the newly introduced P2008JC NG. The agreement includes the acquisition of four (4) P2008JC NG aircraft, with deliveries scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2026.

TEXTRON AVIATION: -21 December 2025 – Textron Aviation Defense LLC, a Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT) company, announced that the company has finalized its first contract to deliver the Beechcraft T-6JP Texan II to Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF), in coordination with Kanematsu Corporation. The initial contract includes two Beechcraft T-6JP Texan II aircraft and instructor pilot and aircraft maintainer training materials. Deliveries of the first two aircraft are scheduled for 2029, with additional contracts anticipated.

31 December 2026 – The Cessna Citation Ascend achieved a major milestone as the first retail customer took delivery of the midsize business jet on 30 December 2025, marking the aircraft's entry into service. The Citation Ascend received type certification from the FAA in November 2025.

7 January 2026 — Textron Aviation Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced Prent Corporation will serve as Dove 1 for the 2026 Special Olympics Airlift arrivals, marking the very first aircraft to land at St. Paul Downtown Airport Holman Field on Friday, 19 June 2026.

8 January 2026 – Following certification by the FAA in October 2025, the Cessna Citation CJ3 Gen2 has entered into service. Launch customers and longtime Citation owners Dave Mecartney and Shannon Day took delivery of their new aircraft earlier in the week.

14 January 2026 – Announced that the Cessna Citation M2 Gen2 with Garmin Autothrottles recently entered into service. This variant was certified by the FAA in October 2025.

TEXTRON BELL: - 5 January 2026 – Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, has been selected to continue in the competition for the U.S. Army's Flight School Next program, using a B.505 variant.

VERTICAL AEROSPACE: - Announced at the end of December that its third and final full-scale prototype aircraft has been completed and will begin piloted flight-testing following commissioning in January 2026. As the final prototype in Vertical's flight test programme, the new aircraft will double flight test capacity and support public demonstrations in 2026. Following initial testing in its all-electric configuration, the aircraft will be retrofitted for hybrid-electric testing during 2026. The announcement follows Vertical's recent unveiling of Valo, its next-generation certification aircraft scheduled to enter commercial service following certification in 2028. As part of its certification programme, Vertical plans to build seven Valo certification aircraft in the UK, supporting final testing with the UK CAA and EASA.

21 January 2026 - Vertical Aerospace (NYSE: EVTL) launched its U.S. tour in New York City on 23 January, bringing its new commercial electric aircraft, Valo, to the U.S. for the first time alongside plans for electric air travel routes in New York with Bristow Group (NYSE: VTOL) and Skyports Infrastructure.

WINDRACERS: - **15 January 2026** – Windracers, the British civil and defence drone manufacturer, announced that its dual-use heavy-lift drone Windracers ULTRA can now fly up to 2,000km in a single flight – the same distance as London to Marrakesh.