

## **INDUSTRY NEWS – AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2024**

**COMPILED BY RICHARD PECKHAM**

Apologies for the delay in getting this section out, a series of personal issues and computer issues meant that I have been unable to get this completed until now. I hope you all had a great Christmas, and here is plenty of industry news for all tastes to start off the New Year (2025) and hoping you all have a fantastic year of seeing new aircraft and some different types as they start to appear. You can share any industry news and anything else from your journeys watching aviation on our **e-group**, [laasclub@gaggle.email](mailto:laasclub@gaggle.email), **Facebook**, LAAS Enthusiasts Aviation Facebook Group, and the various section editors that create our **monthly magazine**, **AVIATION NEWS & REVIEW**, and direct to myself at [richmp196324@gmail.com](mailto:richmp196324@gmail.com), or through my new Facebook/Messenger account, Rich Peckham, and for those wishing to use the postal service, my current address is 17A Heol Persondy, Bettws, Bridgend CF32 8TH. Please remember that if you require a postal reply to enclose an SAE. And finally, **ANYONE WISHING TO JOIN THE CLUB**, for all the **latest information** and of course the **additional benefits of being a club member**, more details on our website under Membership, and/or wish to send photos for consideration to appear in the magazine, please contact our membership Secretary/ send your photos to Michael Tatner [laasint@btinternet.com](mailto:laasint@btinternet.com). Happy New Year and hopefully see many of you at some point during 2025. Richard.

**CREDITS:** Gov.uk, Hybrid Air Vehicles Ltd and the various individual company websites

### **CIVIL NEWS**

**AERCAP HOLDINGS** - Has signed a sale and leaseback agreement with TAAG Angola Airlines for a new Boeing 787-9, set for delivery in February 2025. This marks TAAG's first 787-9 acquisition as part of its fleet modernisation strategy.

**AIRBUS** – Hong Kong's Cathay Group has placed a firm order with Airbus for 30 A330-900 widebody aircraft. The order follows a thorough evaluation by the airline under its mid-size widebody fleet renewal programme. The newly ordered aircraft will enable Cathay to modernise its earlier generation A330-300 fleet and expand its operations on high-capacity regional routes. The aircraft will also offer flexibility to serve longer range destinations. As with all A330neo aircraft, the fleet will be powered by the latest generation Rolls-Royce Trent 7000 engines.

\*\*\*\*\* airBaltic confirms an incremental order for an additional 10 A220-300s. This new and fourth reorder will take the airline's total firm order to 90 A220 aircraft. Already operating a strong fleet of close to 50 A220-300s, airBaltic is currently the largest A220 customer in Europe and the largest A220-300 operator in the world. The Latvian flag carrier has a long-standing history operating the Airbus A220-300, having been the launch customer in 2016. Since 2020, the airline has operated an A220-exclusive fleet. With a firm order for 90 A220-300, airBaltic further reinforces its position as the largest A220 customer in Europe.

\*\*\*\*\* Dutch national carrier KLM, member of the Air France-KLM Group, has taken delivery of its first A321neo as part of their fleet modernisation with latest generation, fuel-efficient aircraft. With the aircraft KLM joins the community of successful A321neo operators. By selecting the A321neo, KLM brings on-board the latest technology to lower decibels and to reduce the noise footprint during take-off, approach and landing. Together with its advanced fuel efficiency, the A321neo will play a key role in KLM's environmental ambition.

\*\*\*\*\* Chengdu (China), 29 August 2024 – The Airbus Lifecycle Services Centre (ALSC) received its first aircraft for dismantling and recycling. The A330-200 aircraft, owned by Hengqin Winglet Aircraft Technology Company Ltd., will be disassembled through a collaboration between ALSC, Airbus China R&D and Innovation Centre (ACRI) and Hengri Corporation (HRC). Building on this cooperation, ALSC and ACRI will explore further possibilities for material recycling and reuse, and HRC as a developer and manufacturer of carbon fibre and other composite products, will recycle the carbon fibre

composites of the aircraft. Thanks to this partnership, for the first time in China, an aircraft will be dismantled and recycled in the same place.

\*\*\*\*\* Satair, an Airbus Services company and world leader in the commercial aerospace aftermarket, announced the opening of its new Logistics & Service Centre in Hamburg, Germany. Located in the Wilhelmsburg area of Hamburg, this 56,500 m<sup>2</sup> facility is the largest warehouse within Airbus Group to date, representing a significant expansion of Satair's global footprint. The centre will primarily manage Tools and large parts (Long Term Storage and Kits). This new facility is Satair's second in Hamburg, complementing the existing Service & Logistics Centre in Fuhlsbüttel managing small and medium sized parts. Together, these centres operate under an integrated warehouse solution, creating a comprehensive logistics network across both locations. Looking ahead, Satair plans to further expand the capabilities of the Wilhelmsburg facility by adding in-house carpentry for customised shipping solutions and introducing tool repair services. These enhancements will strengthen Satair's commitment to providing comprehensive, end-to-end solutions for its customers worldwide.

\*\*\*\*\* Has signed its first agreement in China for its maintenance training solution "Airbus Competence Training (ACT) for Academy" with Lightjet Aviation Service Co., Ltd (Lightjet Aviation). The maintenance training entity under Lightjet Aviation will be the solution user to provide the training for its students. ACT for Academy is a virtual 3D training device designed by Airbus for maintenance training. It is an operationally oriented, scenario-based digital tool focused on a 'learning by doing' approach. With access to the interactive virtual tools and scenarios, both instructors and trainees can benefit from an "immersive" experience in maintenance training. The cooperation between Airbus and Lightjet Aviation can complement the basic aircraft maintenance training currently available in the curricula of Lightjet Aviation's classes. It helps to prepare young aerospace students at Lightjet Aviation for career development, equipping them with more efficient training on the latest Airbus aircraft technology and maintenance procedures in a classroom environment.

\*\*\*\*\* Cebu Pacific of the Philippines has placed a firm order with Airbus for 70 A321neo, finalising an MoU announced by the airline in July. The purchase agreement was signed in Manila by Mike Szucs, CEO of Cebu Pacific and Benoît de Saint-Exupéry, EVP Sales of the Commercial Aircraft business at Airbus. Cebu Pacific operates 61 A320 Family aircraft on its extensive regional network. In addition, it flies nine A330 widebodies on high density routes in the region, as well as to destinations in the Middle East. Following the latest order, the airline's backlog with Airbus now stands at 94 A320neo Family aircraft and seven A330neo.

\*\*\*\*\* Spanish flag carrier Iberia has taken delivery of its first A321XLR, EC-OIL, becoming the launch operator of the world's newest single-aisle aircraft. The aircraft, powered by CFM LEAP-1A engines, operated on several regional flights across the airline's European network before its first transatlantic mission from Madrid to Boston in November 2024.

\*\*\*\*\* Riyadh Air, the new premium international airline based in Saudi Arabia, has placed a firm order for 60 A321neo Family aircraft. The agreement was signed at the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, marking a significant milestone for Riyadh Air. The signing ceremony was attended by His Excellency Yasir Al-Rumayyan Governor of the Public Investment Fund (PIF) and Chairman of Riyadh Air, Tony Douglas, CEO of Riyadh Air, Christian Scherer, Chief Executive Officer, Commercial Aircraft at Airbus and Benoit de Saint-Exupery, Executive Vice President Sales of the Commercial Aircraft business. Riyadh Air plans to launch its maiden flight in 2025. The future Saudia flag carrier said it hopes to fulfil its network ambitions of 100 destinations by 2030.

\*\*\*\*\* Ethiopia's national flag carrier and largest Airbus operator in Africa, Ethiopian Airlines, has taken delivery of its first of four A350-1000 from Airbus in Toulouse, France. The first of its kind to be operated by an African based operator, the A350-1000 will enable Ethiopian Airlines to enhance its premium service on key destinations including Washington D.C., London, Paris and Frankfurt. To date Ethiopian Airlines operates a fleet of 21 A350 Family aircraft. A total of 14 additional A350 aircraft are set to join the airline's fleet in the coming years, including 11 A350-900 and three additional A350-

1000. The A350-1000 will provide great operational commonality with the A350-900 fleet, ensuring seamless integration with shared pilots and mechanics simplifying training and maintenance processes. With a total capacity of 395 seats, the A350-1000 will increase Ethiopian Airlines' passenger capacity and provide enhanced passenger experience in the largest business class cabin in the airline's fleet. Ethiopian Airlines will also introduce Airbus' new HBCplus satcom connectivity solution, offering seamless, high-speed gate-to-gate connectivity.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus has signed a bundle of cooperation agreements and MoUs on aftermarket services with its partners at the Zhuhai Airshow. The cooperation covers a wide range of aftermarket services including flight training, Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) training and assessment, cabin seat solutions and material services. With over 2,200 Airbus aircraft in service in China, Airbus and its affiliates have continuously expanded local services to provide best-in-class support for operational safety and efficiency. After more than three decades in China, Airbus has provided services covering the entire aircraft lifecycle from pre-delivery technical support, in-flight operation solutions till the end-of-life recycling. The cooperation signed during the airshow includes: Flight training: Airbus and the Civil Aviation Flight University of China (CAFUC) have signed a cooperation agreement on developing the Competency Based Training and Assessment (CBTA) Air Transport Pilot integrated training programme and a Letter of Intent (LOI) on the support of subsequent programme implementation and commercial cooperation. This cooperation is in response to new flight training requirements by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). It will combine Airbus' international experience in CBTA development with CAFUC's local training experience to jointly develop the first CBTA integrated pilot training programme that meets both ICAO standards and CAAC regulations. The cooperation aims to promote CBTA in China's ab-initio flight training sector. Compared to traditional flight training methods, CBTA can further enhance the flight training efficiency and quality as it places a greater emphasis on the pilots' performances and competencies. The course development will be completed within the next two years, followed by a trial at CAFUC supervised by CAAC before a wide application. The cooperation will pave the way for the introduction of CBTA training in China and contribute to improve civil aviation safety in China. Airbus, through its subsidiary Testia, also expands its Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) training and assessment in China, both certified by the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing (BINDT) and the UK National Aerospace NDT Board. Testia is expanding its worldwide presence with the Airbus' joint venture with China Hua-Ou Training Co, Ltd. It will provide NDT competences in China, to and through the Hua-Ou's training facility, contributing to elevate the industrial standards and support the growing demand for skilled professionals in this crucial field. Testia has been performing training and assessment in this field for over 30 years, supporting industrial players in aerospace manufacturing, assembly, maintenance, repair and overhaul worldwide. With this milestone, Hua-Ou will be the first training hub for Testia in the Greater China region outside the home base in Toulouse, France. Cabin seat power supply retrofit: Airbus subsidiary Eltra signed a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) engineering service agreement with Colorful Guizhou Airlines. Eltra will provide a customized retrofit solution of cabin seat power supply for the airline's A320 fleet, including engineering design solutions, retrofit solution implementation and technical support and training. The STC retrofit solution approved by CAAC will enhance the comfort and functionality of the aircraft to better meet the market demand. Material services: Satair, an Airbus Services company, signed agreements on Integrated Material Service (IMS) solutions with HNA Aviation Technic, Xiamen Airlines and China Southern Airlines. Satair's IMS solution will not only maximise spare parts availability but also optimise stock levels, helping Chinese customers to boost cash flow and improve overall operational performance. Satair also signed a customised spare purchasing program with Juneyao Airlines, offering the customer greater predictability and a heightened service level on a comprehensive scope of part numbers and budget control. As a key stakeholder in China's aviation industry, Airbus continues to build its presence and partnerships in this important and growing aviation market to continue supporting its customers.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus UpNext, a wholly owned subsidiary of Airbus, and Toshiba Energy Systems & Solutions Corporation (Toshiba), Toshiba Group's energy arm, will cooperate and mutualise experience on

superconducting technologies for future hydrogen-powered aircraft. In the quest to decarbonise the aviation industry, hydrogen-powered aircraft are one of the promising solutions to achieve net zero emission by 2050. Superconducting technologies offer a unique advantage for these aircraft, using - 253°C liquid hydrogen as a fuel but also to efficiently cool the electric propulsion systems. Cryogenic technology could allow for a nearly unimpaired power transmission within the electric systems of the aircraft, significantly improving their energy efficiency and performance. “Partnering with Toshiba presents a unique opportunity to push beyond the limitations of today’s partial superconducting and conventional electrical motors. Through this collaboration, we aim to deliver a breakthrough technology that could unlock new design possibilities, in particular for Airbus’ future hydrogen-powered aircraft. This partnership represents a natural and essential step in advancing superconducting motor technology to meet the needs of the aerospace industry,” said Grzegorz Ombach, Airbus Senior Vice President and Head of Disruptive R&T.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus, Kansai Airports, and Kawasaki Heavy Industries (Kawasaki) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to study the feasibility of hydrogen infrastructure at three airports operated in the Kansai region - Kansai International Airport, Osaka International Airport, and Kobe Airport. With this MoU, the three parties will conduct an initial feasibility study for the introduction and operation of hydrogen aircraft as part of the “Hydrogen Hub at Airports” programme\* and strengthen collaboration to materialise the supply of hydrogen to aircraft at the three airports. The new initiative by the three parties will focus on the definition of a hydrogen infrastructure and supply roadmap at all three airports. This will be based on specific aircraft and airport characteristics. The results will be evaluated from the perspectives of technology, economics, legal compatibility and operations. The approach to the challenges identified will be clarified through potential demonstration projects to be launched and roadmap development, leading to policy recommendations.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus has inaugurated its new India and South Asia Headquarters located at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport. The state-of-art facility was inaugurated by Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Honourable Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India, in the presence of Michael Schoellhorn, CEO of Airbus Defence and Space, and Rémi Maillard, President and Managing Director of Airbus in India and South Asia. The new headquarters symbolise the ambition of Airbus in India and its commitment to developing the country’s aerospace and defence sectors. The facility will serve as the epicentre for Airbus’ operations in India, housing all three business units – Commercial Aircraft, Helicopters and Defence & Space – bringing Airbus closer to its customers in India and in the South Asia region. The headquarters will be the heart of Airbus’ industrial mission in India, which is to develop a comprehensive aerospace ecosystem across all dimensions: assembly, manufacturing, design, innovation and training. It will also serve as a pilot and maintenance training centre that will accommodate four A320neo Full Flight Simulators (FFS).

\*\*\*\*\* The Tata Group-owned Air India has officially disclosed orders it placed earlier for 10 A350 widebody and 90 single-aisle A320 Family aircraft. In addition, it has selected Airbus’ Flight Hour Services-Component (FHS-C) for its growing A350 fleet. The latest aircraft order, which is already included in Airbus’ 2024 orderbook, comes on top of the 40 A350 and 210 A320 Family aircraft ordered by Air India in 2023. Air India’s total orderbook for Airbus aircraft now stands at 344 with six A350-900s having already been delivered.

\*\*\*\*\* Emirates has taken delivery of its first A350-900 aircraft, marking an important step in Emirates’ fleet growth strategy. It marks the long-standing partnership between Emirates and Airbus which is built on innovation, efficiency and operational excellence. The A350 is set to enhance Emirates’ medium and long-haul operations beyond the airline’s existing network. Emirates has ordered a total of 65 A350-900s as part of the airline’s’ broader plans to support Dubai’s’ Economic Agenda, which aims to add 400 cities to Dubai’s foreign trade map over the next decade. The A350 will play a vital role in establishing the newly announced Dubai World Central (DWC) mega hub, further strengthening Dubai’s position as a global aviation leader.

\*\*\*\*\* Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), the parent company of Malaysia Airlines, has taken delivery of its first A330neo. The A330-900, is the first of 20 to be leased from Avolon by MAG, setting new standards for fuel efficiency and passenger experience. MAG's A330neo is configured with a premium two-class layout, featuring 297 seats, with 28 fully flat Business Class suites and an all-new Economy cabin accommodating 269 passengers. Passengers will enjoy more personal space throughout, with larger overhead storage, improved air quality and the latest in-flight entertainment and high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity. The airline will deploy the aircraft on routes across Asia and the Pacific, as well as on selected routes to the Middle East.

\*\*\*\*\* Icelandair, based in Keflavik, has taken delivery of its first Airbus aircraft. The A321LR marks the first step in the airline's fleet renewal making it the newest Airbus operator. The aircraft is the first of four to be leased from SMBC Aviation Capital Limited. The airline will also take delivery of 13 A321XLRs. Powered by Pratt & Whitney GTF engines, Icelandair's A321LR comprises 187 seats in a two-class configuration (22 Business and 165 Economy Class seats). The aircraft's Airspace cabin features XL bins, providing 60% more stowage space compared to previous generation aircraft for a more relaxed boarding experience for passengers and cabin crew alike. In addition, Icelandair passengers will benefit from advanced gate to gate connectivity, next generation inflight entertainment and the latest lighting system enhancing well-being and the overall passenger experience on board.

\*\*\*\*\* Ireland's national carrier Aer Lingus has taken delivery of its first of six A321XLR aircraft. The airline becomes the second in the world to operate the A321XLR as well as the second in the International Airlines Group (IAG). Powered by CFM LEAP-1A engines, the aircraft took off from the Airbus production site in Hamburg, Germany, on 18 December to Aer Lingus' home base at Dublin airport, Ireland. The Aer Lingus A321XLR is configured with 184 seats in a two-class layout featuring 16 full-flat Business Class and 168 Economy Class seats. It is the first aircraft in the Aer Lingus fleet to offer passengers and cabin crew the enhanced comfort of Airbus' Airspace Cabin, featuring XL overhead bins with 60% more storage space compared to previous generation aircraft. In addition, in-seat connectivity is available to all passengers while the latest lighting system enhances the overall passenger experience. The aircraft will enable Aer Lingus to operate new routes beyond the US East Coast and Canada, with destinations including Nashville and Indianapolis.

\*\*\*\*\* Air Canada, the national carrier of Canada, has signed a firm order with Airbus for five more latest generation single-aisle A220-300s on the fifth anniversary since taking delivery of its first A220 in December 2019. This follows an initial order in 2016 for 45 A220-300s and a reorder in 2022 for 15 more. Including this latest reorder, Air Canada's total firm orders for the A220-300 stands at 65 aircraft.

\*\*\*\*\* EcoPulse is a collaborative project supported by CORAC (the French Civil Aeronautics Research Council) and co-financed by the DGAC (French Civil Aviation Authority) through France Relance and NextGeneration EU. Unveiled at the 2019 Paris Air Show, EcoPulse is based on a Daher TBM aircraft platform and equipped with six ePropellers (provided by Safran) distributed along its wings. Its propulsion system integrates two energy sources: a turbogenerator (an electric generator driven by a gas turbine provided by Safran) and a high-voltage battery pack (provided by Airbus). At the heart of this architecture lies a Power Distribution and Rectification Unit (PDRU), which protects the high-voltage network and distributes available electrical power, along with high-voltage supply harnesses (both provided by Safran). The battery, designed by Airbus, is rated for 800 volts DC and can deliver up to 350 kilowatts of power. The demonstrator also benefits from the aerodynamic and acoustic integration expertise of the European aircraft manufacturer, with Airbus' development of the flight control computer enabling aircraft manoeuvres via the ePropellers, and synchrophasing to support future acoustic recommendations for aircraft. EcoPulse, the distributed hybrid-electric propulsion aircraft demonstrator developed jointly by Daher, Safran and Airbus, concluded its flight test campaign, delivering crucial insights to meet the decarbonization goals for air transport by 2050. This collaborative project, which is emblematic of the French aerospace sector, has provided unique experience in the design, certification, production, and operation of hybrid-electric aircraft. EcoPulse

performed its first hybrid-electric test flight on November 29, 2023, from Tarbes–Lourdes–Pyrénées Airport. Since its maiden flight, EcoPulse accumulated 100 flight hours and performed some 50 test flights with the distributed hybrid propulsion system, the last of which took place in July 2024. These tests enabled the demonstration of unprecedented onboard electric power levels for distributed electric propulsion, with a network voltage of approximately 800 volts DC and a power output of 350 kilowatts. The flight tests yielded significant findings, including an objective evaluation of hybridization technologies' maturity, a performance assessment when integrated into the aircraft, and an identification of operational limitations. For instance, the tests showed that the synchrophasing of the ePropellers (electric motors) can reduce interior noise. This synchrophasing is an additional benefit of the innovative flight control computer, primarily designed to manoeuvre the aircraft – substituting traditional control surfaces –by adjusting the distribution of electric power among the ePropellers. Technological challenges for the future: More broadly, EcoPulse identified key challenges in decarbonizing aviation: Electric and hybrid-electric architectures; Development of key components: batteries (performance and operational range) and high-voltage management systems (>400 V); Pilot assistance with specialized interfaces; Demonstration logic for airworthiness; Optimization of weight and noise; and Skills associated with managing complexity. The flight test campaign laid the groundwork for compliance documents to meet regulatory requirements for hybrid-electric propulsion flights, establishing the basis for certifying the safety of innovative aircraft configurations.

\*\*\*\*\* Aircalin, the international airline of the South Pacific French territory of New Caledonia, has disclosed an order with Airbus for two long-range A350-900 aircraft. This order will enable Aircalin to support fleet adaptation and the carrier's long haul network expansion. Currently the airline's widebody fleet comprises two A330neo aircraft. The airline plans to configure its A350s in a three-class premium layout offering accommodation for more than 320 passengers. This would include an enlarged business class and represent an increase in capacity of 15% compared with the A330neo.

**AIRBUS HELICOPTERS** – Airbus Helicopters has delivered the first H175 helicopter to the aviation force of the Guangzhou Public Security Bureau (GZP). The new helicopter will perform public service missions and support emergency management. The H175 will join GZP's fleet, which includes two H145 helicopters that were delivered in 2016 and 2019 respectively and have accumulated a total of 3,200 flight hours.

\*\*\*\*\* Two Airbus H175 helicopters have officially entered service with PHI Aviation in Australia, supporting their offshore energy transportation, search and rescue and medical evacuation operations. PHI, which has pioneered many firsts over its 75-year history, operates bases in Broome, Darwin and Exmouth, Australia. The new H175 helicopters will be based out of Broome, with additional H175s expected to join the fleet in the coming months.

\*\*\*\*\* Global Medical Response (GMR) has placed an order for 28 Airbus helicopters, including six H125s, five H130s, 14 H135s and three H145s, as it continues expanding its air medical fleet. Following GMR's order of five Airbus helicopters earlier in 2024, the company will operate a fleet of nearly 200 Airbus helicopters, reinforcing its position as one of the largest operators of Airbus helicopters in North America. Expanding on the 28 aircraft ordered, GMR will have options to purchase an additional 23 new Airbus helicopters over the next three years. With this order, GMR is anticipated to be among the first in North America to operate the IFR-capable H125.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus and Østnes Helicopters, the official distributor for Airbus Helicopters in the Nordic countries, announced a contract for ten Airbus H125s at this year's European Rotors. They will join a fleet of more than 150 H125s in the region, which mainly perform utility and aerial work missions. "Nordic customers require a truly versatile helicopter which can perform a wide range of missions," said Frode Østnes, CEO of Østnes Helicopters. "The H125 has proven that it has the capabilities time and again. Our customers in the region depend on these aircraft for essential missions and we are determined to ensure they benefit from short delivery times. This order ensures we have the best availability for the best helicopter."

\*\*\*\*\* Airtelis and Airbus Helicopters took the opportunity of European Rotors to announce the signature of a framework agreement for the purchase of up to five H145 helicopters, including the firm order of one. The helicopters are foreseen to be operated and used by Airtelis' subsidiary Oya Vendée Hélicoptères, which provides support for the offshore wind industry. "The H145 has proven to be the perfect helicopter for our offshore wind operations during the construction of the new Yeu Noirmoutier offshore energy platform off the coast of Nantes," said Laurent Giolitti, Executive President of Airtelis. "We look forward to expanding those operations with the H145 and to provide support to the renewable energy market."

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus Helicopters has signed a contract with His Excellency, Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior of Bahrain, for the purchase of nine H145 helicopters. These aircraft will be operated by the Police Aviation Command for law enforcement missions and emergency medical services in the kingdom.

**ATR** – Gabonese airline Afrijet, leader in Central Africa, signed a firm order for one ATR 42-600, with an option for one more, with world's number one regional aircraft manufacturer ATR. The aircraft will replace Afrijet's former generation ATR 42-500, offering advanced passenger amenities to serve the regional air travel needs of the Gabonese communities. It will join FlyGabon's fleet of two ATR 72-600. The delivery of the first aircraft is planned for 2025, and the option is to be delivered in 2026. Launched in 2024, FlyGabon's ambition is to further enhance affordable regional mobility across the country and boost the national economy, progressively benefitting from the restoration of provincial airports. The ATR 42-600 will be decisive in ensuring all Gabonese communities benefit from quick, reliable and affordable travel options.

\*\*\*\*\* Kenyan operator Renegade Air, leading turboprop lessor Abelo and world's number one regional aircraft manufacturer ATR, celebrated the introduction of the first ever ATR -500 aircraft in Kenya, during a ceremony held at Wilson airport. This milestone marks a significant advancement in the partners' capabilities to serve the growing demand for efficient and reliable air services in the region. The ATR -500, 5Y-RNF, leased from Abelo, has been converted into a cargo configuration to meet the specific needs of Renegade Air's operations.

\*\*\*\*\* Mandarin Airlines, the regional subsidiary of Taiwan's flag carrier China Airlines, and the world's number one regional aircraft manufacturer ATR, announced the signature of a firm order for one ATR 72-600, underscoring the airline's unwavering confidence in ATR as the optimal platform for the island's domestic operations. This strategic agreement comes swiftly on the heels of the order for six ATR 72-600 placed at the Paris Air Show in 2023. Delivery of the additional aircraft is scheduled for the first quarter of 2026, to meet Mandarin Airlines' peak season demand. Three of the six aircraft from the previous order have been delivered, while deliveries of the next three will take place in the third and fourth quarter of 2025.

\*\*\*\*\* ATR is proud to announce that Rise Air, a 100 per cent Indigenous-owned airline providing essential services across Saskatchewan, is upgrading its fleet with three new 68-seat ATR 72-600, becoming the Canadian launch customer for the latest generation ATR -600 series. The first aircraft is a firm order with ATR, set to be delivered by the end of 2025. The company plans to lease two others for delivery in 2026.

\*\*\*\*\* ATR announced the addition of three ATR 72-600 aircraft to the fleet of Cambodia Angkor Air (which will change its name to Air Cambodia as of 1 January 2025), the country's national carrier. These aircraft, purchased by HNCAL (HNCA Aviation Financial Leasing Co., Ltd.), a prominent Chinese lessor and subsidiary of HNCA (Henan Civil Aviation Development & Investment Group Co., Ltd), are leased to Cambodia Angkor Air, supporting the airline's strategy to bolster both domestic and regional routes in Cambodia. Deliveries are scheduled in 2025. This agreement not only strengthens Sino-Cambodian aviation ties, it also reinforces Cambodia Angkor Air's commitment to expanding its fleet and highlights the ATR 72-600's role in connecting key tourism destinations and improving transport infrastructure within Cambodia. The ATR fleet expansion aligns with the Cambodian government's plans to develop additional airports and promote regional air connectivity, particularly through high-demand routes that ensure efficient and reliable travel.

**BOEING** – US JUDGE REJECTS BOEING'S PLEA DEAL: A federal judge on 5 December 2024 rejected a deal that would have allowed Boeing to plead guilty to a felony conspiracy charge and pay a fine for misleading U.S. regulators about the 737 Max jetliner before two of the planes crashed, killing 346 people. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor in Texas creates refreshed uncertainty around the criminal prosecution of the aerospace giant in connection with the development of its bestselling airliner. Boeing and the Justice Department could try to negotiate a new plea agreement. O'Connor's decision was almost certain to please many relatives of the passengers who died in the crashes, which took place less than five months apart. The families have spent years pushing for a public trial, the prosecution of former company officials and more severe financial punishment for Boeing. The deal the judge rejected would have allowed Boeing to plead guilty to defrauding regulators who approved pilot training requirements for the 737 Max nearly a decade ago. Prosecutors did not allege Boeing's deception played a role in the crashes. The Justice Department first charged Boeing in January 2021 with defrauding Federal Aviation Administration regulators who approved pilot training requirements for the 737 Max. The department simultaneously announced it would drop the charge after three years if the company stayed out of trouble and paid a \$2.5 billion settlement — mostly money the company would have paid airline customers anyway due to the FAA grounding the 737 Max fleet for 20 months. Families of the victims were outraged. Judge O'Connor ruled last year that the Justice Department broke a victims-rights law by not telling relatives that it was negotiating with Boeing, but said he had no power to overturn the deal. The 2021 deferred-prosecution agreement was due to expire when a door plug blew off a 737 Max earlier this year during an Alaska Airlines flight over Oregon. The incident renewed concerns about manufacturing quality at Boeing and put the company under intense scrutiny. After determining that Boeing had violated terms of the 2021 settlement, the Justice Department revived its prosecution of the conspiracy charge. That led to new negotiations and the plea deal that Judge O'Connor rejected. In July, Boeing agreed to plead guilty to a single felony count of conspiracy to commit fraud for allegedly deceiving the FAA about how much training pilots would need before flying the Max. Boeing had downplayed the significance of the new flight-control system MCAS. Acting on Boeing's incomplete disclosures, the FAA approved minimal, computer-based training instead of more intensive training in flight simulators. Simulator training would have increased the cost for airlines to operate the Max and might have pushed some to buy planes from rival Airbus instead. Because of Boeing's actions, airlines and pilots didn't even know about MCAS until it was implicated in the first crash, in 2018. Despite knowing about MCAS, Ethiopian Airlines pilots were still unable to control the system and prevent another crash in 2019. Prosecutors told the judge the conspiracy charge was the toughest measures they could prove against Boeing. Crucially, the Justice Department said that if the case went to trial, it would not present any evidence that Boeing's deception caused the crashes. The plea agreement included a fine of up to \$487.2 million but would give/have given Boeing credit for \$243.6 million in penalties it paid as part of the 2021 settlement. Under the deal, Boeing, would also invest \$455 million in compliance and safety programs, and be placed on probation and overseen by an independent monitor for three years. On 11 October. Boeing lawyer Ben Hatch defended the plea deal, saying Boeing "is a pillar of the national economy and the national defence" and needed to know its punishment before agreeing to plead guilty. The lawyer's argument stunned relatives of the victims, who were in the courtroom, and Michael Stumo, whose daughter Samya died in the second crash said "Boeing is too important for the economy — they're too big to jail. That's what he's saying," "It allows them to kill people with no consequences because they're too big and because their shareholders won't like it."

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] and EL AL Israel Airlines today confirmed the Israeli flag carrier finalized an agreement for up to 31 737 MAX jets, supporting the airline's plans to renew its fleet of Next-Generation 737 airplanes. "This is a significant milestone for EL AL, which will allow us to offer our customers the most advanced service and technology experience in the industry," said Dina Ben-Tal Ganancia. CEO EL AL Israel Airlines. "The implementation of the long-term procurement plan, which began with the purchase of additional 787 Dreamliners earlier this year and culminates in the current



deal, once again demonstrates our commitment to the Israeli public and the state." EL AL's 737 MAX order follows its purchase earlier this year of three additional 787-9 airplanes with options for six more as the airline further expands its 787 Dreamliner fleet. The carrier took delivery of a new 787-9 this year and plans to receive two more new 787-9s on lease in the coming years.

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] and the Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development of Nigeria signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the West African country's aviation sector. Africa continues to be a promising market with its overall air-traffic growth forecasted well above the average global growth rate over the next 20 years. "We are delighted to enter into this important, 'working together' agreement with Boeing which will benefit Nigerian airlines and enable the development of our country's civil aviation ecosystem," said Honourable Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Festus Keyamo. "As Africa's largest economy and with the continent's largest population, Nigeria has a lot to offer in driving the growth of aviation in Africa. The support to be provided through this agreement will help our local operators grow and succeed, which is a priority of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration. We are keen to work assiduously with Boeing in the coming months and years to make this a reality." As part of a strategic relationship with the ministry and Nigerian airlines, Boeing will provide planning workshops, training, technical support and assessments to airline operators. "This agreement is an important step in establishing a sustainable civil aviation ecosystem in Nigeria as there is shared interest and value in driving innovation and progress," said Anbessie Yitbarek, Boeing vice president of Commercial Sales for Africa. "The importance of Nigeria for Boeing lies in its rich potential to foster economic growth, connect people, and shape the future of aviation in Africa and beyond."

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] and Emirates SkyCargo today announced an order for five more of the world's largest and longest-range twin-engine freighter, building on its earlier purchase of five 777 Freighters. The latest order, which was finalized in September and listed as unidentified on Boeing's Orders and Deliveries website, brings Emirates' order book to 249 Boeing widebody airplanes, including 14 777 Freighters. As the cargo division of the world's largest international airline, Emirates SkyCargo plans to operate 21 777 Freighters in the coming years – nearly doubling its current fleet of 11 freighters as the carrier continues to expand capacity.

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] and LATAM Airlines Group, the leading passenger and cargo airline group in South America, today announced the purchase of 10 787 Dreamliners with options for five more airplanes. As the region's largest 787 operator, this latest order for fuel-efficient 787-9 jets increase LATAM's investment in one of the most modern fleets in Latin America. LATAM currently operates 37 787-8s and 787-9s and, including this latest order, expects to grow the fleet to 52 Dreamliners by 2030. The 787 enables the airline to maximize capacity on popular routes and launch new routes including its nonstop flight to Sydney, Australia. "The Boeing 787 is a much more efficient aircraft, allowing us to continue growing sustainably while reducing our carbon footprint as we drive the growth of our operations. This order will enable us to receive at least two aircraft of this model each year from 2025 until the end of the decade," said Ramiro Alfonsín, Chief Financial Officer of the LATAM Airlines Group.

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] and Avia Solutions Group, the world's largest ACMI (aircraft, crew, maintenance, insurance) provider, today announced its first order with the company for 40 737-8s, with the potential to order 40 more later. Avia Solutions Group has 11 air operator certificates (AOC) including Avion Express, Smartlynx, Klasjet, Air Explore, BBN, Ascend Airways and Skytrans among others. These AOCs operate year-round in over 60 countries on behalf of various scheduled airlines and tour operators. "As the world's largest ACMI provider, carrying over 35 million passengers annually for our clients, we have committed to a strategic approach of expanding our capacity to meet our customers' seasonal needs, and our first order with Boeing is a key pillar of this," said Gediminas Ziemelis, Chairman of Avia Solutions Group. "This is a proud moment for all of us at Avia Solutions Group and is testament to the fact that Avia Solutions Group is now entering a clear phase of sustained growth. These 737 MAXs will enhance the fleets of our airlines, giving their customers both operational flexibility and greater fuel efficiency."

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing (NYSE:BA) announced it plans to expand its operations in Charleston County. The company plans to invest \$1 billion in infrastructure upgrades at its existing site and create 500 new jobs over the next five years. For more than a decade, Boeing South Carolina (BSC) has been the home of the full 787 Dreamliner production cycle and fabricates, assembles, and delivers, the 787-8, 787-9 and 787-10 to customers globally. The company established operations in South Carolina in 2009 and currently employs more than 7,800 people across its Airport and North Campuses in North Charleston, and its West Campus in Orangeburg. Boeing acquired the operations in Orangeburg, located at 174 Millennium Drive, earlier this year, though those facilities will not be affected by the expansion plans. Boeing will expand both of its North Charleston campuses, located at 5400 International Blvd. and 9775 Patriot Blvd., to support increased 787 Dreamliner production targets and potential future rate increases driven by market demand. The 787 Dreamliner program plans to increase to a rate of 10 airplanes per month by 2026. Operations are expected to be online in early 2027.

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] and Pegasus Airlines announced Türkiye's leading low-cost carrier will grow and modernize its single-aisle fleet with an order for up to 200 737 MAX airplanes. The airline's purchase includes a firm order for 100 737-10 jets – plus options for 100 more. The largest model in the 737 MAX family, the 737-10 can carry as many as 230 passengers with a range of up to 5,740 km (3,100 nautical miles), while reducing fuel use and emissions by 20% compared to the airplanes it replaces. The airplane's efficiency and flexibility will enable Pegasus Airlines to serve more passengers on more routes with the lowest cost per seat of any single-aisle airplane.

\*\*\*\*\* (Credit: Aviation24.be) Ryanair will invest \$3 billion to acquire 29 new Boeing 737 MAX aircraft in 2025, creating over 2,000 high-paying aviation jobs across Europe. These fuel-efficient planes, which reduce CO2 emissions by 16% and noise by 40%, will be deployed to low-cost airports in growth-focused countries like Sweden, Italy, Spain, and Poland—bypassing nations with high aviation taxes, such as the UK, France, and Germany. This expansion aligns with Ryanair's strategy to boost annual passenger numbers from 200 million in 2024 to 210 million in 2025. The airline continues to lead European aviation growth, benefiting regions where governments support sustainable aviation through tax cuts and reduced airport fees.

**BOMBARDIER** – Bombardier announced on 21 August 2024, that its industry-leading Global 7500 business jet continues to pile up speed records, adding to its already impressive record-setting performances by reaching more than 50 records in less than 50 weeks. Some of the most impressive new industry records (1) include essential city pairs from Miami to São Paulo, Tokyo to Los Angeles, Jeddah to London and London to Bahrain. To further accentuate the Global 7500 aircraft's incredible performance attributes, the average speed of its 10 fastest new records is clocked at more than 1,000 km/h.

\*\*\*\*\* Bombardier announced on 21 October 2024, that manufacturing of major structural components for the 1st production jet is underway across Bombardier facilities in Saint-Laurent (Québec), Red Oak (Texas) and Querétaro (Mexico). Set to enter service in the second half of 2025, the Global 8000 private jet will stand alone as the world's fastest and longest-range purpose-built business jet, innovatively crafted with the smoothest ride and the industry's healthiest cabin. The aircraft also continues to impress in flight testing, achieving positive results throughout its campaign. The aircraft will feature an industry-leading range of 8,000 nautical miles and an unequalled top speed of Mach 0.94, unlocking more city pairs than ever before including Dubai-Houston, Singapore-Los Angeles, London-Perth and many others. With four true living spaces and a separate crew rest area, the Global 8000 aircraft will be capable of flying up to 8,000 nautical miles non-stop. The discerning business jet will also feature the most generous cabin size in its class along with the industry's healthiest cabins.

\*\*\*\*\* 31 October 2024, Bombardier is proud to celebrate the delivery of the 100th Challenger 3500 aircraft, the latest addition to its industry-leading portfolio of aircraft. Since entering service in 2022, the Challenger 3500 aircraft has delivered unmatched versatility, the lowest direct operating costs in its class and rock-solid reliability, and quickly became a top choice for charter operators and

corporations around the world. With this new milestone, the Challenger 3500 aircraft sets a new standard and becomes the fastest super-midsize business jet to reach 100 deliveries in history.

\*\*\*\*\* Bombardier is proud to announce that its new brand evolution has been recognized with the internationally established “Red Dot: Best of the Best” award for Brands and Communication Design in the 2024 Red Dot Award. This sought-after recognition celebrates the exceptional design and creativity of Bombardier’s newly introduced brand evolution. Additionally, Bombardier has received a “Red Dot” prize for the excellence of its logo redesign, further highlighting the company’s commitment to design sophistication. The new brand evolution, unveiled earlier this year, pays tribute to the company’s unique approach to its customers and stakeholders, and mirrors Bombardier’s culture and talented employees. The initiative was deployed to represent Bombardier’s evolution as a company with a sole focus on designing, building and servicing the world’s best business jets, while reasserting its bold innovative spirit, entrepreneurial roots and deeply entrenched family values. At the centre of Bombardier’s new visual expression, the redesigned logo features the silhouette of an aircraft breaking the sound barrier, an ode to the company’s continued ambition and a symbol of its unwavering commitment to delivering unrivalled craftsmanship and care. The Red Dot Award is one of the most prestigious design awards worldwide and honours quality, creative achievement, and vision. Winning the “Red Dot: Best of the Best” award places Bombardier among the top inspiring brands of our time. The recognition for the logo redesign underscores the meticulous attention to detail and the strategic thinking that went into creating a visual identity that resonates with Bombardier’s diverse clientele: leaders who shape the world. This year’s Red Dot winners were celebrated during an award ceremony on November 1st in Berlin, Germany.

**CIRRUS** – Marked an incredible milestone: Revealed on 22 July 2024 the 10,000th SR Series, an SR-22T — a Limited-Edition aircraft designed to celebrate a legacy of innovation, safety and craftsmanship. This one-of-a-kind model honors the journey that Cirrus owners and the SR Series have taken together, reshaping personal aviation since the aircraft first debuted in 1999. From pioneering safety advancements to bold new design elements, the SR Series has come to symbolize excellence in single-engine aviation. The design process for the 10,000th SR Series began two years before the final reveal. For this milestone, Cirrus’ Xi Design Program Lead, Brad Kappel, and his team set out to create something more than an aircraft; they wanted to pay tribute to the SR Series legacy. The exterior features a custom matte white paint with a blue pearl effect — a finish that is new to the SR Series. Inside, the interior palette includes sleek silver hues and matte carbon fiber accents, another first, designed to add contrast and create a sense of lightness within the cabin. The matte carbon fiber elements are meticulously book-matched, ensuring a seamless and symmetrical appearance that enhances the cabin’s sophisticated design. This premium material is strategically placed throughout the interior, showcasing a combination of style and functionality. The avionics area is framed in matte carbon fiber while the waterline trim adds a polished edge to the cabin’s profile. Other carbon fiber details include the bezel around the GTC, the closeout for the armrest and the trim around the throttle. Even the cupholders and doorsill badges feature this luxurious all-new touch, tying together the interior’s modern and dynamic feel. The exterior design features a glossy “X” pattern over the matte paint, which subtly appears in certain light conditions to reveal the unique aesthetic on the tail. Though the 10,000th SR Series model is one-of-a-kind, Cirrus offers owners a similar opportunity to create their own bespoke aircraft through our Xi Design Program. With an extensive range of customization options, owners can select paint colors, leather combinations and personal touches, making each SR Series or Vision Jet truly theirs. The customization experience at Cirrus is about more than colors and finishes. Cirrus invites each owner to the Vision Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, where they collaborate with the Design team in a process that is as personal as it is creative. From a favorite supercar color matched to the aircraft’s exterior paint to custom graphics inspired by a wedding location, each design reflects the owner’s personal story. After the aircraft is built, owners return to Knoxville for a celebration that includes music and a spectacular light show unveiling their new, customized aircraft.

\*\*\*\*\* Announced on 16 December 2024 that its SR Series G7 aircraft has received both European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) type certification. This significant achievement marks a new chapter in the continued growth of the SR Series and further solidifies Cirrus' commitment to innovation, safety and performance in the personal aviation market. The SR Series G7 aircraft, which includes the SR20, SR22 and SR22T models, brings cutting-edge advancements in avionics and safety features, continuing Cirrus' legacy of delivering high-performance aircraft with industry-leading technology. Key Features of the SR Series G7 Aircraft: Perspective Touch+ Avionics: State-of-the-art avionics providing unparalleled situational awareness, intuitive control and enhanced safety features in a touchscreen display. Cirrus Safety Systems: Features like the Cirrus Airframe Parachute System (CAPS), Stick Shaker, Flap Airspeed Protection and Electronic Stability and Protection System (ESP) provide an added layer of protection for pilots. Cabin Comfort: Push Button Start, Automatic Fuel Selector, luxurious cabin interior, amenity configuration and passenger touches have been embedded throughout. The Cirrus SR Series G7 and G2+ Vision Jet also successfully achieved Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA) certification on 6 December 2024.

**COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT CORPORATION OF CHINA, LTD. (COMAC)** – Held a product conference on 12 November 2024 during the 15th China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition (Airshow China), announcing that ARJ21 aircraft got a commercial name C909, and unifying the names of its aircraft products as "COMAC + Model". At this point, the names of the three commercial aircraft products of COMAC are "COMAC C909", "COMAC C919" and "COMAC C929", respectively.

**DE HAVILLAND CANADA** – 4 October 2024 – Leaders from the European Commission, Government of Canada, EU Member States and De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (De Havilland Canada) celebrated the conclusion of contract negotiations as aircraft production for 22 new waterbomber aircraft ramps up at De Havilland Canada's facilities. De Havilland Canada presented EU Commissioner Janez Lenarčič with a rescEU branded model aircraft, as well as other model De Havilland Canada aircraft, to the assembled EU Member States representatives to mark the occasion and signify the close of the contract negotiation process. As part of the event, De Havilland Canada announced that the name of the DHC-515 Firefighter would be changing to reflect the history and overwhelming sentiment for the name "Canadair" in Europe. "When people are close to a wildfire in Europe, they ask when the Canadairs will come to help protect their community," said De Havilland Canada CEO, Brian Chafe. "Today, we are recognizing the history of service of the Canadair fleet by renaming the aircraft the 'De Havilland Canadair 515.'" "For our company, today is a big day as it marks the end of discussion and the commencement of production moving into high gear," said Chafe. "But the real work is just beginning. European countries have placed their trust in De Havilland Canada, and it is up to all of us to deliver the aircraft to them on time."

**DEUTSCHE AIRCRAFT** – And Pratt & Whitney Canada announced the conclusion of a series of five emission and contrail measurement flights on a D328 UpLift research aircraft using a fully synthetic Fischer-Tropsch fuel, preparing for the use of future sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) produced using Power-to-Liquid (PtL) technology. This significant achievement marks a new milestone in the 40 years of collaboration between the two companies and helps pave the way to ensuring that Deutsche Aircraft's next generation 40-seater D328eco, powered by Pratt & Whitney Canada PW127XT-S engines, will be ready to operate with future specifications for 100 percent SAF from the aircraft's entry into service (EIS) in 2027.

\*\*\*\*\* As Deutsche Aircraft® begins its fourth year as an OEM, we are making significant advancements in bringing the revolutionary D328eco® to market. Let's reflect on our proudest achievements of 2024. Meeting milestones - After years of dedicated research and development, we have started construction of the first D328eco test aircraft, TAC 1. Designed to connect remote communities and revolutionise regional air travel, the transition from digital renderings to our flight-ready aircraft began in June with the first meticulous fuselage cut, which will allow us to extend the aircraft to seat 40 passengers. We also announced the start of construction of our state-of-the-art Final Assembly Line, a fully digital, carbon-neutral facility at Leipzig/Halle Airport where our next-gen

aircraft will be built. This year, the C-146A Wolfhound, a modified version of the Dornier 328, surpassed an impressive 200,000 operational flying hours, highlighting the aircraft's versatility and strategic capabilities as it continues to undertake special operations missions for the US Air Force. We also showcased the multi-role versatility of the D328® in action, when special forces conducted a tactical parachute demonstration at our HQ. The future of flight - In a significant breakthrough for sustainable aviation, the D328 UpLift research aircraft made its debut at ILA Berlin and took its first flight powered entirely by 100% zero-aromatics synthetic fuel. As part of the CLIM0ART flight campaign, the aircraft completed a series of five test flights to measure emissions and contrail formations, reinforcing our commitment to environmental responsibility and technological advancement. Strategic partnerships & in-service support - In 2024, we secured over 95% of our key suppliers and have built a robust supply chain network, announcing collaborations with Akaer, Dynamic Technologies, Cyient, Satys Cabin, SASMOS HET, TRIUMPH, Senior plc, Crane Aerospace & Electronics, Jaivel, Weerts Group and Honeywell. Our Global Support Centre in Oberpfaffenhofen continues to service and maintain D328 aircraft in active operations, with the additional support of Airplane Painter, chosen as the repainting supplier for the in-service fleet. Global expansion - To expand our digital and global reach, our team attended air shows and conferences in Europe, North America and Latin America. We also launched our Mandarin website and official WeChat account to facilitate engagement with customers in the Asia-Pacific region. Our exclusive Customer Experience Centre at the Farnborough International Airshow in 2024 was a fantastic success, as it allowed visitors to get a sneak peek of the modern cabin and cockpit mock-ups of our D328eco. Stronger team - We have strengthened our global sales team with the appointment of two new Sales Directors, Reinhard Schwaiger and Carlos Castro. Their extensive experience will be crucial in expanding our market reach and increasing sales of our D328eco. Furthermore, we achieved our HR objective for 2024, expanding our team to 553 aviation specialists, which positions us well for continued growth. Transformation for success - To close out the year, we announced that Nico Neumann has been appointed as Co-CEO of Deutsche Aircraft. Nico has held various operational positions within Deutsche Aircraft and 328 Support Services over the past 18 years and will assume full CEO duties by mid-2025. Our current CEO, Dave Jackson, will remain as CEO of our parent entity, Deutsche Aircraft Group. Looking ahead to 2025, we are gearing up for the highly anticipated roll-out and first test flight of the D328eco aircraft and the completion of our Final Assembly Line. We would like to express our gratitude to our extraordinary team for being the driving force behind our mission and contributing to our growth, every single day.

**EMBRAER** – Virgin Australia has placed a firm order with Embraer for eight E190-E2 small narrowbody aircraft, as part of its fleet renewal plan. The order will see the E190-E2, the world's most fuel-efficient single-aisle aircraft with the lowest noise emissions, complement the airline's larger narrowbodies and replace its long-serving Fokker fleet. The order will be reflected in Embraer's Q3 backlog and deliveries are scheduled to begin in the second half of 2025.

\*\*\*\*\* Embraer has unveiled a new entrance gate at its main industrial complex, the Ozires Silva Unit, in São José dos Campos, as part of its 55th anniversary celebration. The company was founded in Brazil on August 19, 1969. The eight-meter-wide new entrance features a historic EMB-110 Bandeirante aircraft suspended at 10 meters high. Previously in an internal area of the company, it is now positioned for permanent display closer to the avenue that gives access to the factory and the city's airport. "The new portal represents the take-off of a dream that became a reality, thanks to the efforts of a group of visionaries who believed that it was possible for Brazil to build its own aircraft," said Luis Carlos Marinho, Executive Vice President & COO at Embraer. "The Bandeirante aircraft is a historic symbol of the company, and we are very happy to position it as a monument at the company's main entrance in order to inspire our people and the community of São José dos Campos." The architectural design enhances both safety and comfort for accessing the company while integrating with the local landscape. This allows the public to appreciate the design and strengthens the connection with the community. The first Embraer factory, which in 2021 was renamed "Ozires Silva" unit in honour of the engineer and former Air Force officer who led the group

of visionaries responsible for creating the company in 1969, was the production site for the company's historic aircraft such as the Bandeirante, Xavante, Ipanema, Xingu, Brasília, Tucano, AMX, the ERJ-145 family and executive jets. Currently, it mainly focuses on the development, manufacturing and support activities of the E-Jets E1 and E2 family of commercial jets.

\*\*\*\*\* A high-level delegation from Embraer concluded a visit to India in September as it evaluates the expansion of its supply chain into the country. Embraer foresees potential suppliers across its defence, commercial aviation and executive jets businesses for areas such as aerostructures, machining, sheet metal, composites, forgings, wire harness, and hardware and software development, recognizing that aerospace engineering capabilities are clearly present and available in the country. The visit came amidst burgeoning relations between Brazil and India. "India has a robust aviation and defence industry, and we see strong viability for manufacturers and systems developers in India to be key suppliers to Embraer," said Roberto Chaves, Executive Vice-President of Global Procurement and Supply Chain at Embraer. "We are driven by a common vision, which is to drive the aviation capabilities of Brazil and India to greater heights, and to deliver value to our customers around the world." India is a strategic market for Embraer in all its business segments. The Embraer footprint in the country surpasses 44 aircraft, including customers in Commercial Aviation, Executive Jets and Defence & Security. In particular, the Indian Government and Indian Air Force operate a fleet of 5 Embraer VIP jets and 3 EMB 145 AEW "Netra" military aircraft, respectively. One of Embraer's key future opportunities in India is the Indian Air Force MTA (Medium Transport Aircraft) program, in which Embraer is well-positioned to offer the best in class, modern C-390 Millennium transport aircraft in partnership with the very reputed Indian company Mahindra. The two companies announced their partnership back in February 2024. Embraer sees India as a key partner in the region and expects, together with Mahindra, to implement an extensive local supply chain program. This initiative may include an assembly line for the C-390 in India, when selected for this program. Tied with a local long-term support program offer, Embraer and Mahindra aim to fulfil the expectations of the "Make in India" initiative of the Indian Government.

\*\*\*\*\* Embraer announced the expansion of its maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services network to support the growing fleet of E-Jets in the United States by opening a new Embraer owned service centre at the Perot Field Alliance Airport, in Fort Worth, Texas. In partnership with the City of Fort Worth, Denton County and the State of Texas, Embraer expects to begin operations in an existing hangar, in the first quarter of 2025, while building a second hangar that should be concluded by 2027. With the new facilities, Embraer's capacity to serve the E-Jets customers is expected to have a considerable increase in the US.

\*\*\*\*\* The E-Freighter, Embraer's E190F has been fully certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Embraer's passenger-to-freighter conversion and the Cargo Loading System, developed by U.S. Cargo Systems, have received the certification by FAA in September 2024. In July, the E-Freighter was certified by the National Civil Aviation Agency of Brazil (ANAC) and EASA certification is due later this year. The aircraft was developed to fill a gap in the air cargo market and to replace older, less efficient models. The E190F program was launched in May 2022 to meet the changing demands of e-commerce and modern trade, which require fast deliveries and decentralized operations driving the demand for faster delivery of shipments to regional markets. The E-Freighter made its debut flight in April and its first public appearance during the Farnborough Airshow in July.

\*\*\*\*\* Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), Embraer and the Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos (FINEP), which promotes Brazil's economic and social development through public funding for Science, Technology and Innovation, today celebrated an agreement for R\$ 126,7 (USD\$23 million) investment in sustainable aircraft technologies research. The announcement took place during the visit of the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Luciana Santos, to Embraer's headquarters in São José dos Campos, Brazil. FINEP will use resources from non-reimbursable funding originating from the National Development, Scientific and Technological Funding (FNDCT) to support 50% of this research agreement and Embraer will support the other half of the investment. Among the priorities are the development and validation of innovative and

complex technologies, that will allow the design and production of aerodynamical and structural high-efficiency wings in composite material. Also included in the project's scope is the study of the feasibility of technologies associated with autonomous systems focusing on safety and pilot workload reduction. The technological readiness of these two research fronts allows for the potential development of lighter and more efficient aircraft with lower emissions.

\*\*\*\*\* Announced the expansion of its maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services network in a new partnership with Gama Aviation. The MRO located in Bournemouth, UK, will be part of the Embraer Authorized Service Centre network. Gama Aviation will provide line maintenance support for customers of the Phenom 100 and Phenom 300 series, as well as base maintenance for Legacy 600 and Legacy 650 aircraft located throughout Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. The British company will provide scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, as well as a wide range of services like livery design, interiors, pre-purchase inspections, modifications, and avionics upgrades.

\*\*\*\*\* The Moroccan Government has agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Embraer (NYSE: ERJ; B3: EMBR3) to launch potential joint projects in the Moroccan aerospace industry, across areas in commercial aviation, defence and urban air mobility. The MOU further acknowledges the mutual desire to strengthen and expand cooperation and investment between the Federal Republic of Brazil and the Kingdom of Morocco, around forging increased Atlantic cooperation across two role models of the Global South

\*\*\*\*\* Luxair, flag carrier of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, has signed a firm order with Embraer (NYSE: ERJ; B3: EMBR3) for two E195-E2; the most efficient aircraft in the single aisle segment. The E195-E2 small narrowbody aircraft will complement the larger narrowbody aircraft the airline has on order. In exercising the two options secured in their 2023 firm order for four E195-E2 aircraft, Luxair now has a total of six E195-E2s on order. Three purchase rights remain, with conversion rights to E190-E2 as required. Luxair's first aircraft delivery, from the 2023 order, is scheduled to fly early 2026. Luxair's new order secures additional delivery slots in 2027.

**GULFSTREAM AEROSPACE CORP.** – 15 August 2024 - Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced the all-new Gulfstream G400 successfully completed its first flight, officially launching the flight test program and further expanding Gulfstream's ultramodern, high-technology family of next-generation aircraft. The G400 defines a new standard with the highest performance and greatest comfort ever experienced in this segment. The G400 departed Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport at 9:04 a.m. and returned 2 hours, 54 minutes later, having reached a speed of Mach 0.85 and altitude of 41,000 feet/12,497 meters. The aircraft accomplished this mission using a blend of sustainable aviation fuel from Gulfstream's Savannah campus. The G400 showcases class-leading performance and efficiency with its combination of Gulfstream's aerodynamic clean-wing design, advanced Pratt & Whitney Canada PW812GA engines and next-generation avionics. The aircraft can fly 4,200 nautical miles/7,778 kilometres at Mach 0.85 and is equipped with Gulfstream's award-winning Symmetry Flight Deck and Predictive Landing Performance System to help improve flight safety and pilot situational awareness. The G400 also features the advanced high-speed Gulfstream-designed wing and winglet, introduced on the Gulfstream G500 and G600, that greatly enhance efficiency. The G400 offers customers a choice of three floorplans with seating for up to nine, 11 or 12 passengers and provides the signature Gulfstream Cabin Experience with 100% fresh, never recirculated air purified by a plasma ionization clean air system; the lowest cabin altitude in its class; and light from 10 Gulfstream Panoramic Oval Windows.

\*\*\*\*\* 12 September 2024 - Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced the first Gulfstream G400 intended for dedicated charter operations has been purchased by German-based DC Aviation Group. The sale was announced during a signing ceremony at Gulfstream's Customer Support facility in Farnborough, England.

\*\*\*\*\* 26 September 2024 - Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced more than 100 customer pilots have earned type rating for the Gulfstream G700 from the Savannah-based FlightSafety International training centre since the aircraft earned Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) type certification on March 29. In addition to the 100 customer pilots who have earned the G700 type rating, 80

Gulfstream corporate pilots and more than 20 FlightSafety International G700 instructors have earned their G700 type rating.

\*\*\*\*\* 31 October 2024 - Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced its successful completion of ground emissions testing of 100% neat sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) containing zero sulphur on the all-new Gulfstream G700. Powered by Rolls-Royce Pearl 700 engines, the G700 ground emissions test was conducted to measure multiple fuel types, including a 30/70 SAF blend and neat SAF (a non-fossil-based aviation fuel). The preliminary results of these tests will inform the industry's path in further reducing the overall climate impact of business aviation. "Gulfstream has a rich history of innovating for sustainable aviation dating back to 2004 with the first ISO certification for our Savannah facility," said Mark Burns, president, Gulfstream. "Our journey continues today as we work to enhance our understanding of fuel properties and their environmental characteristics to assess business aviation's impact on the climate, chart the path forward in decreasing that impact and lead the industry in driving its sustainable aviation goals." This ground emissions testing was conducted at Gulfstream's Savannah facility using 100% neat SAF provided by World Energy and shipped by World Fuel Services. Gaseous and particle measurements from the weeklong testing event were recorded using special instrumentation from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), NASA, Aerodyne Research and Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T). The key objective was to understand the environmental characteristics of different fuels, especially 100% neat SAF without sulphur contamination or aromatics. Through meticulous attention to fuel integrity, preliminary data indicates minimal to no sulphur contamination of the fuel and a decrease in greenhouse gas production. The test results demonstrate the potential of 100% neat SAF for improving local air quality near airports as well as the possible benefits of reducing the formation of condensation trails. "We'd like to extend a big thank you to our partners — the FAA, NASA, Aerodyne Research, Missouri S&T, Rolls-Royce, World Energy and World Fuel Services — without which none of this research could have been possible," added Burns. "These partners are key to our ongoing success and the success of the entire industry in continuing to innovate and drive positive environmental change for business aviation."

\*\*\*\*\* Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced the Gulfstream G800 dedicated to testing the cabin interior has taken its first flight. Testing for this aircraft will validate the cabin design and performance of the industry's longest-range aircraft, focusing on the complete passenger experience to ensure interior comfort and reliability. This first outfitted G800 took flight on Wednesday, Nov. 27, and flew 1 hour and 41 minutes, reaching an altitude of 46,000 feet/14,021 meters and a top speed of Mach 0.91. The aircraft joins the two other test aircraft in the mature certification program and will undergo tests including repetitive operations of all systems during many different phases of flight and a variety of missions, including overnight trips, as well as hot and cold weather scenarios and turbulence.

**HYBRID AIR VEHICLES LTD (HAV) AIRLANDER** – Air Nostrum Group has doubled its Airlander 10 aircraft order from Hybrid Air Vehicles (HAV), bringing the total number of aircraft reserved to 20. The additional aircraft will be used to underpin the Valencia-based regional airline's expansion of the Airlander network from Spain into the Mediterranean region. The first 10 aircraft services are planned within five years, with further potential route networks being presented to Transport Malta by leaders from Mel Air, part of Air Nostrum Group, and Hybrid Air Vehicles. The discussions explored the advantages of Airlander's potential land and water-based operations for routes such as Malta-Gozo, Malta-Sicily and other key links with Italy, Tunisia and Libya. "There are many factors that motivate us in flying Airlander," said Miguel Ángel Falcón, Chairman of Mel Air and Vice President of Air Nostrum, "including a very low fuel consumption, bringing great ecological and economic benefits; the high operational versatility of being able to take-off and land on land and water; the family concept offering from 10 to 50 tonnes of payload starting with 100 passengers on the Airlander 10, all in an environment of passenger comfort." Air Nostrum has joined the Airlander 50 Development Partner Programme as the first commercial airline partner on the project. The programme allows key partners and future Airlander 50 customers to influence and enhance HAV's



Airlander 50 specifications. “Our growing partnership with Air Nostrum Group continues to demonstrate leadership towards the future of flight and revolutionising how we fly,” added Tom Grundy, CEO of Hybrid Air Vehicles. “Airlander is designed to deliver a better future for commercially appealing and truly sustainable aviation services by enabling new transport services and better growth options for our customers. Airlander 10 will make this possible by 2027, and Airlander 50 will build on it.” “We’re so pleased to have doubled Air Nostrum’s reservation to 20 aircraft and to have its backing for our journey and support for our Airlander 50 development programme,” added Grundy.

\*\*\*\*\* Hybrid Air Vehicles Ltd (HAV) has begun survey and preparatory work for the Airlander 10 production site in South Yorkshire. This follows work in partnership with the City of Doncaster Council to prepare for the release of the first instalment of a £7m loan from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). Airlander 10, HAV’s first aircraft to market, will be capable of delivering 100-seat passenger mobility, or a ten-tonne payload of freight transportation, or a combination of the two. The company’s 50-hectare site at Carcroft Common, Doncaster, which was announced in partnership with City of Doncaster Council (CDC) earlier this year, is planned to house flagship facilities for Airlander 10’s production, testing and certification operations, and have the capacity to produce up to 24 aircraft per year. It is also expected to establish new supply chains within the South Yorkshire Investment Zone and open more than 1,200 new, highly skilled green jobs in the region.

\*\*\*\*\* Back at the Farnborough International Airshow in 2022 we launched the Airlander 50 Development Partner Programme. Companies such as AECOM, Blue Skies Holdings, Infinergy, and Highlands and Islands Airports Limited, signed up influence, optimise and propel forward the design specification of the Airlander 50. The end of the programme marks a valuable chapter in our journey of market exploration and future customer collaboration for Airlander 50. This programme wasn’t just a development phase; it served as a powerful market research tool that helped us understand the real needs and demands for future aircraft. Our partners’ insights have reinforced our vision for a large-scale, heavy-lift freight and logistics platform capable of handling the most demanding operations—think everything from carrying wind turbine blades to remote area supply drops. Rest assured, this is just the beginning of our dialogue with our future heavy freight and logistics customers as we move toward launching a new and exciting initiative. One of the major findings from our programme was the demand for larger aircraft, particularly in response to the rapid growth of the wind energy sector. Larger aircraft than the Airlander 10, which are designed specifically for heavy-lift freight, are ideal for industries like renewable energy, which often require the transport of oversized and heavy components such as turbine blades. The forecast demand for these components and their forecast size has both increased significantly over just the past five years, pushing us to envision an aircraft capable of meeting these logistical challenges head-on with sufficient payload and size to meet that market. The future Airlander is being designed to support these growing needs, opening new possibilities for industries that rely on moving large, complex cargo efficiently and sustainably. Our partners also underscored the importance of airfield performance, with particular interest in Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) capabilities and hovering ability. These features are important for heavy-lift logistics applications in remote or challenging environments, where traditional airfields may not be available. We’re intending to explore ways to make VTOL a core capability in future Airlander models, bringing the flexibility to operate in isolated locations with limited infrastructure. By enhancing our airfield performance, we aim to support operations in places which fixed wing heavy-lift aircraft cannot reach. Electric propulsion is an area of strong demand, with our partners expressing a clear interest in zero-emissions aircraft that support long-term decarbonisation goals. A sustainable solution for large cargo transport is increasingly attractive, as organisations seek ways to reduce their carbon footprints without compromising on efficiency. To meet this demand, we’re collaborating with the U.S. Department of Defence to scale our electric architecture to support heavy-lift and extended-range operations. We’re committed to creating a future where our aircraft not only support freight and logistics but also align with global

sustainability efforts. Range capability is another critical factor that emerged from the programme. Some partners emphasised the importance of aircraft with sufficient range to conduct point-to-point operations between continents, thus allowing disruption of existing shipping and road transport norms. We've heard and understood these requirements, and we're committed to building future Airlander models that align with these range expectations, ensuring they're up to the task for heavy-lift operations. While the Airlander 50 Development Partner Programme may be ending, our work is far from over. We're already planning the next steps with our potential customers and partners to ensure that future Airlander models are even better suited to the diverse needs of heavy-lift freight and logistics. Our commitment to creating a sustainable, capable, and efficient solution for the market remains firm, and you can expect more announcements soon.

**LEONARDO** – The Italian National Fire Corps (Vigili del Fuoco, part of the Ministry of the Interior) will introduce eight AW139 intermediate twin-engine helicopters in a special configuration dedicated to mountain operations and firefighting. These aircraft, which will add to an existing fleet of 28 AW139s, are expected to be delivered starting before the end of 2025, with handover completion before mid-2026, providing a further boost to mountain rescue operations and countering fire across the country.

\*\*\*\*\* The world's most successful super-medium category helicopter is set to further expand its presence in the world market, particularly for offshore transport supporting the energy industry. Leonardo and helicopter leasing company GDHF have signed a Framework Agreement to introduce ten more AW189s in the energy support market, with deliveries expected in the 2027-2029 period. The announcement was made during an official ceremony held at European Rotors in Amsterdam. Michael York (GDHF CEO) said "GDHF is very pleased to sign the Framework Agreement with Leonardo for ten additional factory new AW189s. GDHF has now committed to a total of 13 AW189s, and earlier this year we successfully introduced the first of these AW189s into our fleet. This large 10 x AW189 Framework Agreement will further enhance GDHF's ability to support our customers globally and provide them additional highly effective AW189 super-medium helicopters on lease. We thank Leonardo for their strong partnership as we work together to provide comprehensive multi-mission AW189 solutions for our customers."

\*\*\*\*\* Bristow Group Inc. (NYSE: VTOL), the global leader in innovative and sustainable vertical flight solutions, and Leonardo, a global leader in aerospace, defence & security, announced they have finalized a series of long-term agreements that will enhance global fleet support and training for the AW139 and AW189 helicopters, extending into the next decade. These agreements reinforce the strong relationship between the two companies and provides continued support for operations in key markets. The finalized package includes the following support highlights applicable to Bristow's global fleet: Enhanced Power-by-the-Hour (PBH) agreements for search and rescue (SAR) operations and offshore energy services (OES) helicopters, providing tailored maintenance and operational efficiency. A long-term AW189 simulator training agreement in Aberdeen, Scotland, supporting critical pilot training needs. The introduction of an AW139 full flight simulator in Aberdeen beginning in 2026, alongside the existing AW189 simulator, complementing an already robust training centre to support fleet operations in the North Sea. An enhanced global fleet support agreement, covering key performance indicators (KPIs), inventory management, training, Health and Usage Monitoring Systems (HUMS), and other Leonardo-provided services. Bristow will introduce four new AW189 helicopters into its OES business, scheduled to enter service in 2025 and 2026. The four new AW189 helicopters are part of a previously announced order earlier this year and are expected to provide added flexibility to Bristow's fleet planning as well as diversification across Bristow's fleet mix.

\*\*\*\*\* At this year's Air Medical Transport Conference (AMTC), Leonardo and Intermountain Health, Utah's largest healthcare system and a pioneer in innovative healthcare solutions, announced two significant milestones, Intermountain's lease of the first AW109 GrandNew Enhanced Training Device Virtual Extended Reality (ETD VxR) to a customer and the acquisition of an AW109 GrandNew twin-engine helicopter. The lease of the AW109 GrandNew VxR Simulator signifies a crucial step toward transforming Intermountain Health's EMS helicopter flight training and safety protocols. Also,

this milestone highlights the first VxR to be signed by a Leonardo longstanding customer. This cutting-edge synthetic training device provides dynamic, immersive training scenarios that replicating real-life emergencies, empowering EMS professionals to sharpen their skills in a safe, controlled environment. This enhancement in training will boost their readiness, response times, and safety in critical situations, instilling confidence in their quality of care. In addition to this significant training advancement, Intermountain also announced its acquisition of the AW109 GrandNew helicopter. This versatile aircraft is renowned for its performance standards and ability to meet the demands of air medical transport. The inclusion of the AW109 GrandNew into Intermountain's fleet marks a pivotal step in the continuous improvement of patient care by ensuring timely and efficient transport for critical cases across the region. Intermountain Health currently operates six (6) AW109 GrandNew and is Utah's only IFR EMS operator with low-level IFR infrastructure and proprietary heliport approach procedures.

\*\*\*\*\* At Japan Aerospace (Tokyo, 16-18 October) Toho Air Service, Co., Ltd., Mitsui Bussan Aerospace, Co., Ltd. and Leonardo signed a contract for the supply of an additional Leonardo AW139 intermediate twin engine helicopter for Tokyo-Ai land shuttle services. The aircraft is expected to be delivered in 2025. Toho Air, headquartered in Tokyo and with over 60 years of experience, operates commuter helicopter service linking together the six major Izu islands. The AW139 will deliver greater capabilities in terms of navigation, cabin space and comfort, safety standards, sustainability and maintenance approach enhancing the level of service provided to Toho Air's customers.

\*\*\*\*\* Offshore Helicopter Services UK Ltd (OHS UK – part of the Ultimate Aviation Group) is set to further strengthen its contribution to the growing demand for modern, effective rescue missions supporting the energy industry sector in the North Sea with the future introduction of two Leonardo AW139 intermediate twin helicopters. These aircraft are expected to enter operation during 2Q of 2026. The new AW139s will reinforce the 24/7 emergency responsiveness capability of the operator to save lives in the offshore sector in the extreme conditions of the North Sea promptly taking off from OHS' base in Aberdeen.

\*\*\*\*\* The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications of the Kingdom of Bahrain has recently signed a contract with Leonardo to upgrade and enhance air traffic control and radar systems at Manama Airport. The project is part of Bahrain's ongoing commitment to bolster aviation safety, airspace efficiency and regional air navigation services. The agreement, which has been announced during Bahrain International Airshow, will see Leonardo supply, deliver and install cutting-edge radar systems, including the ATCR 33S NG primary surveillance radar and SIR S/I secondary surveillance radar. These advanced technologies, along with associated equipment, will enhance Bahrain's air traffic management capabilities by delivering real-time, high-resolution surveillance across the Kingdom's airspace. The supply, which extends over three years until early 2027, also includes comprehensive in-service support, ensuring operational effectiveness and sustainability of the radar systems over the contract period. Leonardo's commitment encompasses not only on-site installation but also remote services and support, bringing the highest standards in radar technology to Bahrain's aviation infrastructure.

**NATILUS & SIEMENS** Digital Industries Software announced that Natilus, an aerospace company based in the United States, has adopted the Siemens Xcelerator portfolio of industry software. The company is focused on transforming the world's supply chain with its next-generation blended-wing-body aircraft, and through its use of Siemens software it has reduced the development time to build its first prototype aircraft by 50%. Founded in 2016 by Aleksey Matyushev and Anatoly Star, Natilus aims to commoditize the freight transport industry through innovation and advanced technology. Natilus' blended-wing body design 'Diamond' cargo bay is planned to offer 1.5 times more cargo capacity than current cargo aircraft while consuming 50% less fuel. These innovative aircraft represent a quantum leap in operational economics, increasing revenue in the hyper competitive cargo freight industry.

**PILATUS** – Pilatus has approved Jet Aviation Dubai as an Authorized PC-24 Service Centre. The company is already certified to offer maintenance services for the PC-12 single-engine turboprop –

and now its maintenance portfolio also includes the Super Versatile Jet. With the addition of the PC-24 Super Versatile Jet, Jet Aviation Dubai now performs maintenance and repair services for all Pilatus business aviation aircraft. Jet Aviation is located at Dubai International Airport, where it provides the highest standards of support to our customers.

\*\*\*\*\* The Swiss manufacturer of the popular PC-12 single-engine turboprop and PC-24 Super Versatile Jet inks deal to develop a factory-owned flagship sales, design, and service centre in Bradenton, Florida. In a ceremony at the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport (KSRQ), Pilatus executives and Airport Authority officials signed an agreement to develop 17 acres on the north side of the airport for Pilatus to construct a new state-of-the-art sales and service facility. The new Customer Centre will initially employ more than 50 people to manage aircraft sales, service, design and delivery of Pilatus aircraft in the Southeastern United States. The U.S. is Pilatus' largest market for its business aircraft, this investment is being made to ensure a world-class ownership experience for Pilatus customers.

**PIPER AIRCRAFT** - Announced the M700 FURY has received type certification from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), Brazil's Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil (ANAC), and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) of Australia, including approval for flight into known icing (FIKI) and unpaved surfaces. Customers in these regions have been eagerly awaiting these certifications to take delivery of their aircraft, with deliveries now commencing. The M700 FURY is the fastest single-engine aircraft in Piper's history, offering a maximum cruise speed of 301 knots and a range of 1,424 nautical miles. Powered by a Pratt & Whitney PT6A-52 engine, this cabin-class turboprop combines exceptional performance with advanced features including the HALO Safety System with Garmin's Emergency Autoland, and FIKI making it ideal for both private owners and operators.

**TAG AVIATION** – The Swiss executive air charter company, has announced it is to acquire a further nine aircraft to add to its global fleet. The additional aircraft to join the TAG fleet include a Dassault Falcon 6X, a Bombardier Challenger 650, and a Gulfstream G500 which will all be based in Europe, while a Bombardier Global 6000, a Gulfstream G550 and four Bombardier Global 7500 will join the organization's Asia-based fleet. The Falcon 6X and three of the Global 7500 aircraft are brand new aircraft with delivery scheduled in early 2025 and one pre-owned Global 7500 has already been delivered. The Falcon 6X and Bombardier Challenger 650 will join the organization's UK division base at Farnborough Airport (FAB) in Hampshire, England. The two aircraft will be made available for charter operations throughout Europe. Elsewhere, the Gulfstream G550 is to be based in Hong Kong and will be available for charter in the coming weeks. The addition of these latest aircraft adds flexibility to TAG's already eclectic mix of aircraft which allows for various ranges and capacities to the company's client base of high-net-worth individuals and corporate clients.

**TECNAM** – Tecnam announced that the renowned CANAVIA Spanish Aviation Academy based in the Canary Islands, will incorporate a new P2006T NG into their fleet. The school already operates three (3) multi-engine P2006T MkII's and seven (7) single-engine Tecnam P2008JC MkII's 365 days a year, providing high level training to over 140 students.

\*\*\*\*\* Tecnam and Smart Aviation announced during the MEAC Middle East Aviation Career the purchase agreement for three (3) additional Tecnam P2006T NG twin engine aircraft for its fleet expansion programme. The aircraft will be used for PPL – Private Pilot Licence – up to MCC/JOC – Multi Crew Cooperation Course/Jet Orientation Course, modules for ATPL courses. Based in Poznan, Poland, Smart Aviation ATO has been training aspiring pilots from more than 50 nationalities for over a decade, to start their careers with the world's major airlines.

\*\*\*\*\* Tecnam and Centre Air Pilot Academy announced during the EATS European Airline Training Symposium the purchase agreement for 2 additional Tecnam P2006T NG twin engine aircraft for its fleet expansion programme. The aircraft will be used for PPL – Private Pilot Licence – up to MCC/JOC – Multi Crew Cooperation Course/Jet Orientation Course, modules for ATPL courses. Today the Danish academy operates 7 Tecnam aircraft, five (5) P-Mentor and two (2) P2006T MkII.

\*\*\*\*\* Announced that 'Quality Fly', Spain's leading general aviation flight training organisation, has added four brand new Tecnam P2008JC MKII aircraft to its training fleet this year. The addition of the

new Tecnam P2008 aircraft will standardize and modernize the fleet and increase operational efficiency, providing significant benefits to ATP Integrated students.

\*\*\*\*\* Air Dream College announced, during the Portugal Air Summit, the purchase agreement for one Tecnam P2006T NG twin engine for its fleet expansion program. More aircraft have been optioned to sustain Air Dream College growth. The aircraft will be used for both PPL – Private Pilot License – up to the MCC/JOC – Multi Crew Cooperation Course/Jet Orientation Course, modules for ATPL courses. In business since 2020, today Air Dream College operates 6 Tecnam aircraft, among single and twin-engine training two hundred Pilots and one hundred and fifty Operations Officers.

\*\*\*\*\* Tecnam and Chimes Aviation Academy have announced the purchase of four P2010 TDI aircraft, powered by the Continental CD170 engine. This new acquisition will allow Chimes Aviation Academy to enhance its pilot training and provide students with a modern platform. Chimes Aviation Academy is one of the largest flying training organisations in India. With 2 airbases, 22 aircraft, full in-house maintenance, 600+ alumni, 144 cadets trained under the IndiGo Cadet Pilot Program, CAA has established itself as the premium FTO in India with over 16 years of flying excellence. With an additional 90 aircraft on order, expected to be operational by 2030, this expansion will strengthen CAA's market share and enhance its ability to meet the growing demand for qualified pilots.

\*\*\*\*\* Tecnam announced the delivery of the first P2010 TDI to the Italian Approved Training Organization Cantor Air (IT.ATO.0004) which has ordered three four-seater P2010 TDIs and two additional two-seater P2008JCs.

\*\*\*\*\* Tecnam announced a partnership with Buiqui Aerospace, one of the most prestigious flight schools in the USA, with multiple bases in the US and Puerto Rico and strategic partnerships with major airlines and aviation universities. The announcement of the partnership also coincided with the delivery of two (2) P2006T, one (1) P2010 Lycoming IO-360, one (1) P2010 TDI Gran Lusso and one (1) P-Mentor. The remaining aircraft of the 50 aircraft order will be delivered in batches within the second quarter of 2025.

\*\*\*\*\* Tecnam and Aerodynamics Academy have announced the purchase of fifteen (15) Tecnam P2008JC MkII by the flight school. Headquartered in Malaga, Spain, Aerodynamics Academy is a recognised Approved Training Organisation (ATO) and Flight Training Organisation (FTO) and is one of the fastest growing flight schools in Europe with 200 students in 2024.

**TEXTRON** – (21 August 2024) – Textron Aviation announced that the Cessna SkyCourier twin utility turboprop has been awarded type certification by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), expanding the aircraft's ability to support operational activities in remote areas of southeast Asia. The first SkyCourier in the region – A 19-seat passenger variant – is planned to be delivered in the second half of 2025 to Leading Edge Air Services Corporation (LEASCOR), a wholly owned subsidiary of ACDI Multipurpose Cooperative in the Philippines.

\*\*\*\*\* (21 October 2024) — Textron Aviation announced the future of flight and its legendary Cessna Citation lineup with the unveiling of the next generation of light jets — the Cessna Citation M2 Gen3, CJ3 Gen3 and CJ4 Gen3. In addition to the revolutionary Garmin Emergency Autoland technology to be used in all three new aircraft, the Citation CJ4 Gen3 features new, next-generation Garmin G3000 PRIME avionics for intuitive, seamless control for pilots. Currently under development, the CJ4 Gen3 is expected to enter service in 2026, with the M2 Gen3 and CJ3 Gen3 following in 2027.

\*\*\*\*\* (21 October 2024) – Textron Aviation announced that its Cessna Citation CJ4 Gen3 prototype aircraft took to the skies for the first time in early October. The announcement of this milestone flight follows the company's unveiling of three new Gen3 products to its Citation light jet family at the National Business Aviation Association - Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (NBAA-BACE) in Las Vegas. These next-generation business jets -- the Citation M2 Gen3, CJ3 Gen3 and CJ4 Gen3 -- build upon the legacy of the Citation family, which has long been recognized as the most popular line of business jets worldwide. Piloted by senior test pilot Corey Eckhart and chief test pilot Ed Wenninger, the CJ4 Gen3 prototype aircraft, powered by two Williams International FJ44-4A turbofan engines, took off from the company's west Wichita campus at Eisenhower National Airport. The team

evaluated the new avionics systems, along with the propulsion, environmental and flight control systems, during the 1 hour and 47-minute flight.

\*\*\*\*\* (21 October 2024) — Textron Aviation announced longtime Cessna Citation customer Ryan Samples as the launch customer for its new Cessna Citation CJ4 Gen3 business jet, which the company unveiled at the NBAA-BACE in Las Vegas. Samples has entered into a purchase agreement with the company to take delivery of the first CJ4 Gen3, which is expected to enter service in 2026.

\*\*\*\*\* (21 November 2024) — Textron Aviation Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT) company, announced a two-aircraft purchase agreement with AIR Marshall Islands Inc. (AMI) for its twin-engine, large-utility turboprop, the Cessna SkyCourier. The two aircraft – both passenger variants - will be used to support travel throughout the communities within the Marshall Islands. AIR Marshall Islands is a commercially operated airline owned by the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). It is based in Majuro, the capital city of the country, which is located in the South Pacific.

\*\*\*\*\* (22 October 2024) – Textron Aviation announced the Cessna Citation Ascend continues to progress through its certification program and will be equipped with the latest enhancements to the Garmin G5000 avionics suite. This flight deck will provide pilots with significant technological advances when it enters service, expected to be in 2025. The Ascend program includes two test articles – Prototype (Proto) and P1 – which have accumulated nearly 600 flight hours through more than 200 flights.

\*\*\*\*\* (17 December 2024) – Textron Aviation Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced that its twin-engine, large utility turboprop, the Cessna SkyCourier, has been awarded type certification by Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA), expanding the aircraft's ability to support operational activities in some of the most remote areas of North America. The first SkyCourier in the region – a freighter variant – is expected to be delivered this year to Air Bravo Corporation, a passenger, cargo and air ambulance flight service company based out of Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Barrie and Meaford, Ontario since 2001.

**BELL TEXTRON** – (1 August 2024) - Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced the signed purchase agreement of a Bell 505 to the City of Peoria, Arizona during APSCON 2024, marking the first helicopter to join the Peoria Police and Fire Department's newly-launched joint Aviation Unit that will support firefighting and law enforcement missions.

\*\*\*\*\* (1 August 2024) - Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced a signed purchase agreement for the sale of a Bell 505 to Spokane County Sheriff's Office during APSCON 2024, highlighting its legacy of operating an all-Bell emergency response aviation fleet.

\*\*\*\*\* (2 August 2024) - Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced at APSCON 2024 that the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department has signed a purchase agreement for a SUBARU Bell 412EPX to advance its firefighting and rescue operations.

\*\*\*\*\* (4 September 2024) – Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced the successful delivery of a customized Bell 505 to All Motors Brazil, a Brazilian luxury automotive dealership. For over 30 years, All Motors Brazil has imported luxury cars from around the world to be sold in the Brazilian market. With their recent purchase of the Bell 505, the company plans to enable rapid responses to business needs by using the aircraft for corporate transportation. Aside from its performance capabilities, All Motors Brazil's Bell 505 boasts a unique exterior design requested by the customer to match the teal blue colour of one of the dealership's most prized automobiles – a 2023 Lamborghini Aventador SVJ Roadster.

\*\*\*\*\* (18 October 2024) – At Japan Aerospace International Exhibition 2024, Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT) company, announced the sale of one Bell 505 to Heli Service Co., Ltd., an operator in Japan. This marks Heli Service's third purchase of the Bell 505 and when delivered, it will join a fleet that includes two other Bell 505s, delivered in December 2018 and September 2019, and a Bell 206. The aircraft will primarily be used for agricultural purposes.

\*\*\*\*\* (4 November 2024) - Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced the signed purchase agreement for the sale of a second Bell 505 to the Fort Worth Police Department.

\*\*\*\*\* (5 November 2024) - Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. company, announced a signed purchase agreement for the 100th Bell 505 in Europe to be delivered to private operator, Adam Fawsitt. This sale is one of four Bell 505 purchase agreements signed at European Rotors 2024, all for private operators based in the United Kingdom.

\*\*\*\*\* (5 November 2024) - Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company, announced the signed purchase agreement for the sale of fifteen Bell 407GXis outfitted with IFR configuration kits to Global Medical Response with an option to purchase nine additional aircraft, bringing its total fleet to 250 Bell helicopters.

\*\*\*\*\* (3 December 2024) – Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT) company, announced the SUBARU Bell 412EPX has received European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) certification and can begin flight operations throughout the European Union. “We’re pleased the SUBARU Bell 412EPX has received EASA certification and look forward to seeing its growing success in the European region,” said Danny Maldonado, chief commercial officer, Bell. “This is a testament to the program’s dedication to bring the most advanced Bell 412 model and its unparalleled capabilities to different markets and serve new customers and their missions.” Bell secured multiple orders for the SUBARU Bell 412EPX platform in Europe, including one aircraft to Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior. The aircraft will be used for civil protection, firefighting, medical transport and natural disaster support. On a global scale, Bell recently announced signed purchase agreements for the SUBARU Bell 412EPXs to San Diego Fire-Rescue, the Japan Coast Guard, and Japan’s Nara and Miyazaki Prefectures.

### **MILITARY NEWS**

**UK MILITARY NEWS** – The Secretary of State for Defence has made sweeping defence cuts, doing away with several warships, scores of helicopters and drones. In a surprise announcement, the UK has said it will scrap five warships, 31 helicopters and a fleet of 46 intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) drones. The move, announced in parliament by UK Secretary of State for Defence John Healey, will generate savings of £500 million (\$632 million) over the next five years, he said, and get rid of “outdated capabilities.” But it also drew immediate criticism from opposition party lawmakers. The cuts are “all backed” by service chiefs and were made in consultation with personnel involved in the UK’s strategic defence review — set to release results of equipment planning and strategic thinking in mid-2025. “Allies have been informed and we have constant dialogue with NATO,” added Healey. On the naval side, two amphibious assault ships, HMS Albion and HMS Bulwark, will be withdrawn from service at the end of the year. Healey suggested the vessels had been “effectively retired by previous ministers, but superficially kept on the books,” at a cost of £9 million a year. The Type 23 frigate HMS Northumberland will be axed because of “structural damage that makes her simply uneconomical to repair,” he noted, alongside two Wave-Class tankers, “neither of which has been to sea for years.” Elsewhere, the British Army’s Watchkeeper drone fleet will be retired, a fate that follows years of delays, cost overruns and a series of test and operational crashes. As of September 2022, the UK had spent £1.31 billion on the program, according to a lawmaker statement. Watchkeeper initially entered service in 2014, supporting Afghanistan force protection efforts, but has not been involved in military operations since. The aircraft was deployed in 2020 over the English Channel in a surveillance capacity to monitor migrant boats. A total of 14 CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopters, including “some” that have been in service for 35 years, will be retired, in parallel with 17 Puma multirole rotorcraft. The Pumas had been due to be replaced under the £1 billion New Medium Helicopter (NMH) acquisition, but that plan was thrown into disarray in August after Lockheed Martin and Airbus walked away without submitting bids, leaving Leonardo as the last competitor standing. The phasing out of the Pumas, the UK had spent £1.31 billion on the program, according to a lawmaker statement. Watchkeeper initially entered service in 2014, supporting Afghanistan force protection efforts, but has not been involved in military operations since. The aircraft was deployed in 2020 over the English Channel in a surveillance capacity to monitor migrant boats. A total of 14 CH-47 Chinook heavy lift helicopters, including “some” that have been in service for 35 years, will be retired, in parallel with 17 Puma

multirole rotorcraft. The Pumas had been due to be replaced under the £1 billion New Medium Helicopter (NMH) acquisition, but that plan was thrown into disarray in August after Lockheed Martin and Airbus walked away without submitting bids, leaving Leonardo as the last competitor standing. The phasing out of older Chinooks is a different matter because they are set to be replaced with new H-47ER (Extended Range) platforms beginning in 2027. "The UK is the only nation to be provided access to this class-leading heavy- engineering work for foreign military sales made to Canada and Germany. It will bring the number of P-8As on contract up to 207, 135 of which are for the US Navy. Australia, India, the United Kingdom, Norway, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Germany and Canada all fly the maritime surveillance aircraft, which has played an integral part in experimentation done at the behest of the AUKUS trilateral security pact.

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] has completed the first flight of the UK's E-7 Wedgetail for the Royal Air Force (RAF). A Boeing flight-test crew conducted functional checks during the first flight from Birmingham Airport, marking a significant milestone in the programme's test and evaluation phase. Currently unpainted, the aircraft is one of three 737 NG aircraft on British soil undergoing modification by a highly skilled team of over 100 people at STS Aviation Services in Birmingham. "This safe and systematic Functional Check Flight is an important step for Boeing and the RAF as part of our rigorous and extensive testing and evaluation," said Stu Voboril, Boeing vice president and E-7 program manager. "Our team is committed to ensuring the E-7 delivers the safety, quality, and capabilities we've promised to our customer as we prepare for delivery of the UK's first E-7 Wedgetail to the RAF." Group Captain Richard Osselton, RAF Programme Director for Wedgetail said, "Achieving the first flight of Wedgetail is a significant milestone, representing an outstanding effort from the RAF programme team, DE&S, Boeing and STS Aviation. We will now build on this success and look forward to continuing the Test & Evaluation phase as part of our preparations for the aircraft to enter into service." The future UK E-7 fleet will operate from RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland, where Boeing's local suppliers and contractors are nearing completion of the infrastructure facilities to support its introduction into service.

\*\*\*\*\* The British, Italian and Japanese led Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP) future fighter jet is slated to enter service in 2035 (BAE Systems). BELFAST — The national industry leads behind GCAP have reached an agreement to establish a new joint venture, set to be stood up in mid-2025, to support the "design, development and delivery" of the trilateral next generation fighter jet. The UK's BAE Systems said in a company statement that it had struck the agreement with Italy's Leonardo and Japan Aircraft Industrial Enhancement (JAIEC), which will act as the "design authority for GCAP for the life of the product." The manufacturer noted that the era of the future aircraft is "expected" to last "beyond 2070." The joint venture, which does not publicly have a formal name, will serve as the prime contractor for the program, while subcontracting out manufacturing and final assembly of the next generation plane to the British firm, Leonardo, and Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, alongside other suppliers. GCAP aims to replace UK Royal Air Force and Italian Air Force Eurofighter Typhoons, as well as Japan Air Self-Defence Force F-2 combat jets. It is slated for entry to service in 2035. All three partners will retain an equal 33.3 percent shares in the joint venture and it will be headquartered in the UK, in order to "ensure maximum alignment and collaboration with the GCAP International Government Organisation (GIGO)," which is also due to be based in the region. Joint teams from the joint venture will also work in each of the three GCAP partner nations. "The agreement builds on the strong trilateral government, defence, and industrial cooperation between the UK, Japan, and Italy on GCAP since it was established in December 2022," added BAE. Charles Woodburn, BAE Systems CEO said, "The new business will bring together the significant strengths and expertise of the companies involved to create an innovative organisation that will lead the way in developing a next generation combat air system, creating long-term, high value and skilled jobs across the partner nations for decades to come." Roberto Cingolani, Leonardo CEO, echoed such sentiment, stating, "Today, we are paving the way for the development of a new era in Aircraft Systems and Multi-domain scenarios, fostering long-term sustainable growth for the economies of the involved countries." Kimito Nakae, JAIEC President, added, "As we now embark upon the exciting



and important journey towards the success of GCAP, I acknowledge that the way might not always be simple and straightforward. However, I believe that through continuing the strong spirit of trilateral cooperation and collaboration that we have fostered up to this point, we will not only deliver the GCAP on time but also at a level that exceeds all of our expectations." This progress comes five months after the GCAP partners unveiled a new concept of the future manned fighter jet, based around a conventional delta wing shape and featuring increased wingspan compared to any previous designs. The development phase of the aircraft, which is expected to operate alongside autonomous collaborative platforms, similar to US Air Force Collaborative Combat Aircraft, is also slated to begin next year. The UK's Excalibur flight test aircraft (a modified Boeing 757) successfully completed its first phase of modification and flight testing, including integration of side and belly pods to accommodate Integrated Sensors, Non-Kinetic Effects (ISANKE) and Integrated Communications Systems (ICS) as part of Tempest — Britain's name for the new jet. Excalibur essentially will serve as a testbed for new technology that could be fitted on the future fighter.

**AMERICAN MILITARY NEWS** – Report the integration of the unmanned combat system XV-58A Valkyrie with the F-35 fighter jet. A recently conducted test has allowed the creation of an "even smarter and faster team." Developed by Kratos, the XQ-58A Valkyrie drone supports F-35 aircraft. This futuristic unmanned aerial vehicle successfully completed a test that demonstrated "seamless connectivity of the F-35 with an autonomous platform." As stated on the profile dedicated to the F-35, owned by Lockheed Martin, this integration has been "creating a team that's even smarter and faster." It is important to note that the XQ-58A has undergone various tests in the past. One of the recent ones focused on assessing how the drone manages the loss of communication and executes a mission without contact with the base. The connection with the F-35 was another test aimed at determining how the XQ-58A would perform in service. The XQ-58 Valkyrie, developed by Kratos Defence & Security Solutions, is an innovative drone designed to collaborate with fifth-generation aircraft like the F-35 and F-22 Raptor. The drone has impressive dimensions: a length of approximately 9 metres and a wingspan of nearly 7 metres, allowing it to carry about 260 kilograms of armament. With a speed reaching 1,050 km/h and a range exceeding 5,500 kilometres, the XQ-58 is capable of long-distance combat missions. The design is based on advanced artificial intelligence algorithms developed in cooperation with the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory. AI enables the drone to operate autonomously, as demonstrated during tests simulating the loss of base communication. In such conditions, the XQ-58 Valkyrie independently finds its way to the target and safely returns to its landing location. The manufacturer anticipates that the drone will function as a "loyal wingman," supporting manned fighters in air missions.

\*\*\*\*\* U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command (USASOAC) awarded Boeing [NYSE: BA] a \$115 million contract to produce two more MH-47G Block II Chinook aircraft and begin advanced procurement on future helicopters. Including the new order, the Army has contracted for a total of 46 MH-47G Block II aircraft.

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] has delivered the first MH-139A Grey Wolf production aircraft to the U.S. Air Force. This aircraft, part of a Low-Rate Initial Production order in 2023 for 13 helicopters, will be stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. "This aircraft will directly support ongoing U.S. Air Force modernization efforts," said Azeem Khan, MH-139 executive director and program manager. "Delivering this asset for the MH-139A fleet is critical to the future of national security as the Grey Wolf will play a crucial role in the U.S. nuclear triad for decades to come." In 2024, the U.S. Air Force awarded an additional seven MH-139As to Boeing. With six Research, Development, Test and Evaluation aircraft already delivered, Boeing currently has 26 aircraft on contract. With a 50% increase in speed and range and a 5,000-pound increase in max gross weight compared to its predecessor, the MH-139A can execute multiple mission sets. Combined with lower operating costs, increased reliability and improved maintainability, the aircraft provides improved capability and greater flexibility for the U.S. Air Force. The MH-139A team consists of Boeing as the prime contractor and Leonardo as an original equipment manufacturer. Leonardo produces the baseline

helicopter at its plant in northeast Philadelphia, while Boeing is responsible for military equipment procurement and installation and post-delivery support of the aircraft.

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] has been awarded a \$2.56 billion contract from the U.S. Air Force for two rapid prototype E-7A AEW&C Wedgetail aircraft. The contract includes lifecycle development, training and support for the Air Force's E-7A fleet. The combat-proven E-7A Wedgetail provides targeted tracking and battle management command-and-control capabilities to joint forces for "first to detect, first to engage" advantage. The E-7 AEW&C platform is currently in service with the Royal Australian Air Force, Republic of Korea Air Force (designated E-737 Peace Eye) and Turkish Air Force (designated E-7T Peace Eagle). Built on the Boeing 737-700 NG airframe, the E-7 AEW&C aircraft offers lower operating and sustainment costs, higher mission readiness rates and unmatched interoperability among a growing global user community. Together, the Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force and U.S. Air Force have a Wedgetail tri-lateral cooperation agreement relating to E-7 aircraft capability development, evaluation and testing, interoperability, sustainment, operations, training and safety.

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] will build 15 additional KC-46A Pegasus tankers under a Lot 11 contract award from the U.S. Air Force valued at \$2.38 billion. In all, Boeing has 168 KC-46A multi-mission aerial refuelers on contract globally, providing advanced capability advantages for the joint force and allies. "We appreciate our continued partnership with the U.S. Air Force," said Lynn Fox, vice president and KC-46 program manager. "This is another big milestone for our team, and we look forward to delivering the world's most advanced multi-mission aerial refuelers for years to come."

\*\*\*\*\* The U.S. Army ordered three additional CH-47F Block II Chinooks from Boeing [NYSE: BA]. The Lot 3 contract award, valued at \$135 million, is a part of the U.S. Army's ongoing modernization efforts. "It is critical soldiers get to their destinations and have the equipment they need to accomplish the mission," said Heather McBryan, vice president and program manager, Boeing Cargo Programs. "The CH-47F Block II's increased payload capacity and expanded range enables the U.S. Army to meet evolving heavy-lift mission requirements around the world." This contract award follows the U.S. Army's February announcement that it is moving forward with full-rate production of the CH-47F Block II program. To date, Boeing is under contract for nine of up to 465 aircraft in the Army's current fleet. The Army has also received funding from the U.S. Congress for three aircraft as part of the next production lot and awarded Boeing a contract last year for acquisition of long lead parts. Boeing delivered the first production CH-47F Block II aircraft to the Army in June followed by the second in September.

\*\*\*\*\* Bombardier Defence announced the delivery of the eighth Bombardier Global jet to the United States Air Force's (USAF) BACN program, which is part of a previously announced multi-year contract between Bombardier and the USAF. This deal represents a potential total value of close to US\$465 million. To date, Bombardier Defence has delivered seven Global aircraft to the BACN program under other agreements, with a ninth aircraft scheduled for delivery in 2025. The BACN aircraft, known as E-11A, is a specialized communications platform that enables enhanced situational awareness and interoperability. Dubbed "Wi-Fi in the sky" by the USAF, BACN-equipped Global aircraft act as high-altitude communications gateways that can be used around the world, relaying or bridging voice and tactical data between air and land forces, and surmounting obstacles such as mountains, rough terrain or distance. Due to their unmatched combination of speed, range and endurance, Bombardier Global aircraft remain the platform of choice for more than 10 different mission types across the world.

\*\*\*\*\* Bombardier Defence celebrated the delivery of the first Bombardier Global 6500 aircraft to the United States Army in support of the High Accuracy Detection and Exploitation System (HADES) program. Bolstered by the Global 6500's high-performance capabilities, the fixed-wing platform will contribute to strengthening the U.S. Army's aerial deep sensing abilities and marks a significant milestone toward the United States' goal of modernizing its aerial military intelligence.

\*\*\*\*\* The New York National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing officially marked the arrival of its new HH-60W Jolly Green II search-and-rescue fleet during a ceremony Oct. 25 at Francis S. Gabreski Air

National Guard Base. The aircraft will replace the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters formerly flown by the wing. The new high-tech helicopters are more capable than the aircraft they replace. "This is a momentous occasion which allows for us to reflect on where we are as an organization and where we are headed," said Col Shawn P. Fitzgerald, 106th Rescue Wing commander. The 106th Rescue Wing relied on the HH-60Gs when it responded to hurricanes and major storms during missions in Florida, Texas and North and South Carolina. The ceremony concluded with a HH-60W demonstration fly-by by the first crew qualified in the aircraft, LCol James Liston and Staff Sgt Joe Devito. "Although we celebrate the arrival of our brand-new helicopter, we must always remember it is the Airman that makes the system work," said Fitzgerald. The 106th Rescue Wing is a New York Air National Guard unit stationed at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, New York.

\*\*\*\*\* 22 November 2024 - Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., a business unit of General Dynamics (NYSE:GD), has been awarded a contractor logistics support services (CLS) contract from the U.S. Air Force Life Cycle Management Centre for C-20 and C-37 fleets. This contract extends over a seven-year period and provides services to the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard. The latest CLS contract is valued at \$991 million and includes a wide variety of support such as global maintenance, component overhaul, repair and modification services. Gulfstream Customer Support will perform the work at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay; and Naval Base Ventura County, California. To date, Gulfstream has delivered more than 200 special missions' aircraft to over 40 countries, including all branches of the U.S. military and key U.S. government agencies.

**AIRBUS** – Airbus Helicopters has been awarded a contract for 12 H225M multi-role helicopters by the Republic of Iraq. The contract was signed in Baghdad by the Minister of Defence of Iraq Mr Thabet al-Abbassi in the presence of the French Ambassador Patrick Durel. These helicopters will be operated by the Iraqi Army Aviation command replacing older Mi-17s for a wider range of missions: counterterrorism, special operations, tactical troop transport, attack, ground fire support, MEDEVAC and combat search and rescue. Deliveries will start in 2025. Iraq already operates a fleet of Airbus helicopters from the H125, H135 and H145 families.

\*\*\*\*\* The Indonesian Air Force has placed an order for four Airbus H145 helicopters as part of its training modernisation programme. The order was announced during the Bali International Airshow. Under the agreement between the Indonesian Air Force and PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI), Airbus will deliver the five-bladed H145s to PTDI, who will manage the reassembly and completion of the mission equipment and other customisation work at its facility in Bandung, Indonesia, for final delivery to the air force. These multi-mission helicopters will be deployed for military training and light search-and-rescue missions.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus Helicopters and its partners have conducted a full-scale demonstration of a manned-unmanned teaming (MUM-T) system developed as part of a project funded by the European Union and code-named MUSHER. The demonstration took place in France and Italy from 30 September to 9 October and involved multiple manned helicopters and unmanned systems connected to a single MUM-T network. "Operating helicopters and unmanned aerial systems in concert provide valuable additional mission capabilities such as increased situational awareness with UAS sharing video in real time for improved decision-making, all while preserving critical assets and resources," said Bruno Even, CEO of Airbus Helicopters. "The success of the MUSHER demonstration is a major step forward for our ambition at Airbus which is to field MUM-T capabilities by bringing European industrial know-how together for the benefit of military and civil customers," he added. The experiment was led by Airbus, which deployed the H130 FlightLab as a manned platform and the VSR700 unmanned aerial system (UAS) on a DGA test range. Meanwhile, Leonardo performed the demonstration with a helicopter and an optionally piloted vehicle. Thales, coordinator of the MUSHER project, provided a supervision station and a mission debriefing station. Space Applications Services oversaw the mission preparation station. Indra led simulation activities in preparation for the demonstration, while

ONERA provided studies on crew workload. The MUSHER demonstration consisted of various scenarios involving the different aircraft flying simultaneously in France and in Italy. The missions were based on concepts of operations defined by the ministries of defence of France, Italy and Spain. One scenario, for example, showcased UAS and manned helicopters for an anti-piracy mission. The UAS was initially conducting a surveillance mission. Once it spotted suspicious activity on a boat, the manned helicopter joined the scene and took full control of the UAS in preparation for an intervention. The in-flight testing aimed at demonstrating levels of interoperability (LOI) 2 to 4, from direct receipt of UAS data by the manned helicopters and the ground station, to the control and monitoring of the UAS from the helicopters. The demonstration also served to prove that manned helicopters and UAS from different companies and different countries, operating in distant areas, could be integrated within a single MUM-T system.

\*\*\*\*\* As a major milestone for India's Aerospace & Defence industry, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus inaugurated the Final Assembly Line (FAL) complex for the Airbus C295 aircraft in Vadodara, Gujarat in India. TASL and Airbus are partnering for the pioneering 'Make in India' project to deliver 56 C295 aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The state-of-the-art facility was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi and the President of the Government of Spain, Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón in the presence of N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons and Michael Schoellhorn, CEO of Airbus Defence and Space. Providing a major boost to the Government of India's 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) programme, this is the first instance of the private sector setting up an aircraft FAL in India. The inauguration comes three years after the IAF formalised the acquisition of 56 Airbus C295 aircraft to replace their legacy AVRO fleet. As per the contract, 40 units will be manufactured and assembled in partnership with TASL at this FAL, while 16 will be delivered to the IAF in 'fly-away' condition from Airbus' final assembly line in Seville, Spain. To date, a total of six aircraft have already been delivered.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus has signed two strategic contracts with the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR), an international organisation based in Bonn, Germany, which manages the A400M programme on behalf of the Launch Customer Nations Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Turkey, Belgium and Luxembourg. These new contracts are the so-called A400M Global Support Services (GSS3) and Block Upgrade 0 to enhance the aircraft's scope of capabilities. Jean-Brice Dumont, Head of Air Power at Airbus Defence and Space, said: "The A400M is a clear enabler of the sovereignty of our nations and the strategic autonomy of Europe. Global deployments like the Kabul airlift mission or the more recent Pacific Skies exercise highlight the need for interoperability and commonality among our customer nations. This new framework agreement is the answer to that increasing requirement. With 130 A400M in operation and more than 200,000 flight hours achieved by the fleet, the new agreement allows our customers to benefit from significant savings while keeping the same highest standard of services and performance." Joachim Sucker, OCCAR-EA Director, added: "To enable sustained operation of a high-end military system like the A400M, a robust support environment is paramount. The GSS3 contract signed by OCCAR with Airbus illustrates A400M user nations' ambition to sustainably operate the A400M in the most demanding environments, benefiting from the range, the payload and the versatility of the A400M to fulfil an incredibly large scope of missions." The agreement between Airbus and OCCAR includes a second contract, the so-called Block Upgrade 0. It represents the first upgrade of the A400M's operational capabilities beyond the scope of the original launch contract. Block Upgrade 0 not only improves key elements of the A400M systems, such as flight management systems, it will ensure the A400M fleet is fully compliant with the latest NATO requirements. Tactical Information enhancement, Satellite based Landing System or Narrow Band SATCOM and Wi-Fi will be among the new enhanced capabilities. This Block Upgrade 0 contract is an end-to-end contract covering the development, certification, embodiment and in-service support of these enhancements. The initial phase has already started and will be completed by end 2026, while the next phases, including notably the fleet's embodiment and in-service training, will continue until the end of the decade. Having reached and demonstrated maturity in combat and humanitarian operations for more than 10 years, these

enhancements on the A400M fleet will expand its capabilities in tactical and strategic operations, further increasing its performance and reducing the crew workload.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus Helicopters has signed a landmark contract with SkyAlyne, a joint venture between Canadian defence leaders CAE and KF Aerospace, to provide the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) with 19 Airbus H135 helicopters to train the next generation of RCAF Pilots. The contract is part of Canada's Future Aircrew Training (FAcT) Program and marks the first time that Airbus helicopters will fly as part of the Canadian Armed Forces. The twin-engine helicopters will be completed and delivered from Airbus Helicopters' industrial facility located in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada. They will be customised with several Canadian developed Supplemental Type Certificates, including modifications to the avionics suite and communications systems, as well as custom development in the cockpit. Deliveries are expected to begin in the first half of 2026. The agreement consists of H135 aircraft acquisition and a support and services package, support for the development of a Ground-Based Training Solution, and advanced engineering support for the release to service. With more than 400,000 flight hours in a dedicated military training role, the H135 is utilised for basic ab-initio, advanced IFR and tactical training, with operators including several of Canada's close military allies such as Australia and the UK. A full spectrum training aircraft, the H135 facilitates the development of core skills while providing twin-engines and advanced avionics, allowing easy and safe pilot transition to more complex helicopters in the RCAF's fleet. It joins other Airbus aircraft currently operating for Canadian defence, such as the Airbus 310 (CC150 Polaris), the Airbus A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (CC330 Husky), and the Airbus C295 (CC295 Kingfisher).

\*\*\*\*\* The Dutch Ministry of Defence has awarded a contract to Airbus Helicopters for 12 H225Ms. The contract also includes an initial batch of support and services. The agreement was signed by Vice-Admiral Jan Willem Hartman, Head of the Netherlands Command Materiel and IT (COMMIT) agency, and Bruno Even, CEO of Airbus Helicopters during the Euronaval trade show in Paris. "We are very proud to see the Royal Netherlands Air Force and COMMIT renewing their trust in Airbus Helicopters. The H225M was selected by the Netherlands in June 2023 after a call for tender and an exhaustive evaluation, after which the Airbus helicopter was considered the best option for the very demanding special forces operations," said Bruno Even, Airbus Helicopters CEO. "The proven H225M is unmatched in terms of performance, versatility and range. It can carry extensive mission equipment that can be tailored to each customer's needs and will be serving its customer's requirements for the decades to come," he added. The RNLAf currently operates Cougars from the H215M family. The H225Ms will be operated by the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf) 300 Special Operations Squadron. Airbus Helicopters and the RNLAf will work closely together on the development of the H225M adapted to the requirements of the users, enhancing capabilities and efficiency for special operations missions' success, through tactical communication and a unique design of interaction of the aircraft and its systems.

\*\*\*\*\* Less than a year after the contract was signed, Airbus Helicopters has delivered the first of up to 82 H145Ms ordered by Germany at its Donauwörth site. The Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) have named their new H145Ms "Leichter Kampfhubschrauber" (light combat helicopter), or LKH for short. The helicopter's missions include training, reconnaissance, special forces operations and light attack. "We remain a reliable partner of the German Bundeswehr. Delivering the first H145M LKH in less than a year after the contract signature demonstrates our commitment. The H145M LKH will be a true multi-mission asset for the German Armed Forces, supporting their crucial missions," said Stefan Thomé, Managing Director of Airbus Helicopters in Germany. This first helicopter is dedicated to training operations and will be used at the German Army's Bückeburg base. The first delivery of an H145M LKH in the light attack role to the German customer is scheduled for 2025, as contracted. The training of the Bundeswehr's pilots started already in August this year. In December 2023, the Bundeswehr and Airbus Helicopters signed a contract for the purchase of up to 82 multi-role H145M helicopters (62 firm orders plus 20 options), the largest order ever placed for the H145M and consequently the largest for the HForce weapon management system. The contract also includes

seven years of support and services, ensuring optimal entry into service and support. The German Army will receive 57 helicopters, while the Luftwaffe's special forces will receive five.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus Defence and Space has delivered the first Airbus A400M for the Republic of Kazakhstan to become the cornerstone of the country's tactical and strategic airlift operations. The first of two Airbus A400Ms ordered by Kazakhstan was handed over to the customer at a ceremony in Almaty, south Kazakhstan, after a ferry flight from Airbus' A400M Final Assembly Line in Seville, southern Spain, a few days earlier. "Proven for over a decade in military and humanitarian operations worldwide, the A400M is a game changer for the Kazakh Air Defence Forces, delivering unrivalled tactical and strategic capabilities in a single platform," said Jean-Brice Dumont, Head of Air Power at Airbus Defence and Space. "A second A400M, currently in production, will further strengthen these capabilities on its delivery in 2026." With the delivery of this aircraft, production number MSN139, Airbus will also provide a full range of maintenance and training support.

\*\*\*\*\* Airbus Helicopters has delivered the first NH90 of the second batch of 23 helicopters to the Directorate General of Armament and Material (DGAM) at its facility in Albacete, Spain. This is the first NH90 in the Standard 3 configuration for the Spanish Air and Space Force. This second batch, which includes 23 NH90 helicopters, foresees the delivery of a total of 16 Standard 3 helicopters, ten of which will equip the Spanish Army Air Mobile Forces (FAMET), while six will go to the Air and Space Force. The Spanish Navy will receive seven navalised helicopters. Deliveries will be staggered from December 2024 to 2028. The first NH90 for the Spanish Navy in tactical transport version (MSPT) is in the process of finalising its Type Certificate from the Spanish Airworthiness Authority and is already in Albacete awaiting its final delivery to the DGAM in the coming weeks. The Spanish Navy personnel, belonging to the 14th Squadron, have already started their training at the Albacete plant to begin operations with their first NH90. The new NH90 for the Spanish Air Force, offers more advanced communications with enhanced encryption capabilities, greater operational safety features and several system optimisations. For its part, the MSPT will significantly increase the Spanish Navy's strategic projection capabilities thanks to new onboard equipment such as a reinforced landing gear, a maximum take-off weight of up to 11 tonnes, and the automatic folding of the main rotor blades and rear fuselage.

\*\*\*\*\* (Credit: The Irish Times) The Government has signed a deal worth almost €100 million for the purchase of four new military helicopters. The new Airbus H145m aircraft will replace and expand the Irish Air Corps' small fleet of light utility helicopters. The services' two existing EC135 helicopters are approaching the end of their service life and are due to be scrapped in 2027. The Irish Air Corps will take delivery of the new aircraft from Airbus sometime early in 2027 in a deal worth €91.7 million plus VAT. The primary role of the four new helicopters will be training new pilots before they move on to larger aircraft or flying helicopters for the Garda Air Support Unit. However, the H145s will also be capable of "intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and light combat capabilities", the Department of Defence said. They will be capable of supporting Army, naval and Air Corps operations and will be particularly useful for transporting and inserting personnel from the Army Ranger Wing, the Defence Forces elite special forces unit. They will also come fitted with advanced surveillance technology, including electro-optical and thermal-imagery features not available on the existing helicopters. The Airbus deal is part of a planned expansion of Air Corps capabilities as laid out in a report from the Commission on the Defence Forces. Eventually, the organisation will also be renamed the Air Force. The Government has already announced plans for the purchase of a new Air Corps-operated government jet, with twice the range of the existing ageing model, and a long-range, military-transport aircraft capable of evacuating Irish citizens from trouble spots. There are also plans for the acquisition of larger helicopters, known as super medium helicopters, to replace the Air Corps fleet of six AgustaWestland AW139 aircraft. A major challenge for the Defence Forces will be finding enough pilots and technicians to fly and service its new aircraft. Like the rest of the military, the Air Corps' abilities to carry out missions has been significantly hampered by an exodus of trained personnel to the private sector in recent years.

**BAE SYSTEMS** – BAE Systems will invest £220 million to upgrade its facilities in Rochester, Kent. The site, which is home to the Company’s UK-based Electronic Systems business, will undergo significant renovation to create a new state-of-the-art factory of more than 32,000 square-metres. BAE Systems’ 1,600 strong workforce in Rochester specialises in advanced aerospace technologies such as head-up displays, helmet-mounted displays, flight control computers and active control sticks for civil and military aircraft worldwide. The site is also part of the Electronic Systems global support service centre, providing repairs to commercial airliners every day of the year. The new facility will combine manufacturing, engineering and office space – providing a refreshed, modern and flexible working environment. The investment also includes improvements to utilities, car parking and office refurbishments across the site. The Company expects the increased capacity provided by a more efficient and sustainable facility will enable it to create 300 jobs over the next five years. The Rochester community has been home to the development and manufacture of aviation technology for more than 100 years. Work is already underway to prepare the site for the major redevelopment which is due to start in 2025.

\*\*\*\*\* BAE Systems will deliver and integrate next-generation active control sidesticks on JetZero’s new blended-wing body aircraft, which is set to accelerate the path to a sustainable future in aviation. Active control sidesticks give immediate and intuitive feedback directly into the pilot’s hands, which enables them to safely make use of the aircraft’s full flight envelope. Another significant benefit of this technology is the ability to link the controls electronically from pilot to pilot across the cockpit. This link enables both pilots to feel the forces and see the movement generated by the other. Active control sticks also require less complexity, weight, and volume than mechanically linked control sticks. “This order is another significant step for BAE Systems in the aviation market and furthers the company’s pursuit of a greener tomorrow,” said Adam Taylor, business development & capability director at BAE Systems. “As the aerospace industry works diligently to lower emissions, we are proud to be part of JetZero’s project to help further the industry’s sustainability vision.” Finalising supplier contracts for the flight control systems is a significant milestone on our journey from design, to test, to demonstration,” said Dan da Silva, chief operating officer for JetZero. “It’s just the latest example of the steady progress JetZero is making toward building this airplane. BAE’s reputation for excellence is well deserved, and we’re so pleased to see their shared enthusiasm and belief in the blended wing airplane we’re building at JetZero.”

\*\*\*\*\* A British-led team of engineers has taken a leap forward in the race to harness the stratosphere for earth observation and communications, completing a new series of test flights of BAE Systems’ High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS), PHASA-35®, in quick succession. During the first flight at Spaceport America® in New Mexico, US, in recent weeks, the solar powered aircraft flew for 24 hours climbing to more than 66,000 feet and cruising in the stratosphere, before successfully landing in a serviceable condition, meaning it was ready to fly again just two days later. This is a major milestone in the development of PHASA-35, named after its 35-metre wingspan, demonstrating its ability to be launched, flown, landed, potentially reconfigured and then relaunched again so quickly. Designed by BAE Systems’ subsidiary Prismatic Ltd to operate above the weather and conventional air traffic, PHASA-35, has the potential to provide a persistent and stable platform for uses including ultra-long endurance intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The latest trials also saw the aircraft carry an active intelligence, surveillance & reconnaissance sensor, known as a software defined radio, developed by BAE Systems’ Digital Intelligence business. This weighed more than twice as much as the previous payload it had flown to the stratosphere with. At Prismatic’s site in Alton, Hampshire, UK the PHASA-35 team has now built the next iteration of PHASA-35. The new model has more than twice the onboard solar power generation and storage capacity than the current version. These modifications are expected to allow it to demonstrate stratospheric missions of increasing duration and complexity from next year onwards. Prismatic sits within FalconWorks®, the advanced research and development arm of BAE Systems’ Air Sector. The PHASA-35 team will now use data from these most recent trials to further improve and mature this novel technology.

**BAYKAR MAKINA** – Has purchased Piaggio Aerospace – **See under Piaggio below.**

**BOEING** – The Government of Poland has signed a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) for 96 Boeing [NYSE: BA] AH-64E Apache combat helicopters, as part of the Polish KRUK Attack Helicopter program. “We are honoured the Government of Poland has placed their confidence in us,” said Vince Logsdon, vice president, International Business Development for Boeing Defence, Space & Security. “The AH-64E Apache helicopters will strengthen Poland’s operational capability and interoperability with the U.S., NATO and allied nations. We look forward to delivering this unmatched capability.” The LOA comes a week after the Polish Ministry of National Defence announced an offset agreement with Boeing. The agreement includes maintenance and support of the Polish Armed Forces fleet of Apache helicopters by Polish defence industry along with the establishment of training programs and supporting the development of a composite laboratory. The offset projects aim to enhance the sustainment capabilities of the Polish defence industry, support creation of highly skilled jobs within this field, and facilitate technological advancements, leading to significant economic benefits. “Poland’s commitment to procure 96 aircraft represents the largest FMS order in the history of Boeing’s Vertical Lift division and will not only make Poland our 19th global Apache customer but the largest operator outside of the United States,” said Kathleen Jolivette, vice president and general manager, Vertical Lift.

\*\*\*\*\* Boeing [NYSE: BA] is offering the CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopter to Poland. The announcement was made at the annual MSPO International Defence Industry Exhibition where Boeing is highlighting advanced defence systems, capabilities and services. “The Chinook has been a key part of the European defence and humanitarian relief missions for more than five decades and would enhance Poland’s cooperation with allied forces, and support the country’s defence needs,” said Tim Flood, senior director, International Business Development for Europe and Americas. “In addition, the Chinook would deliver additional benefits to Poland through job creation, economic growth and greater autonomy for the Polish defence industry.”

\*\*\*\*\* The first of eight Boeing [NYSE: BA] AH-6 Little Bird light attack helicopters for the Royal Thai Army completed a successful first flight on 22 August 2024 at the company’s Mesa, Ariz. site. “With its superior performance and flexible, easily configurable mission equipment, the Little Bird packs enormous versatility into a small, combat-proven package to get the job done,” said Christina Upah, vice president of Attack Helicopter Programs and senior Boeing Mesa site executive. “We are proud to partner with the U.S. Army to provide Thailand with these critical defence capabilities, and we look forward to supporting training for the first Thai Little Bird pilots in the near future.” After completing Thailand’s fleet, Boeing will train the Royal Thai Army pilots at its Mesa site and at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, where they will learn to operate the Little Bird and leverage its versatile mission capabilities. The Royal Thai Army has procured the AH-6 as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance aviation readiness and modernize national defence capabilities. Featuring a purpose-built military fuselage, integrated cockpit, and the latest fully integrated weapons, the AH-6 was designed for a wide range of missions and operating environments to meet customers’ needs around the world. Boeing was awarded a contract by the U.S. Department of Defence as part of a Foreign Military Sales order for eight Little Birds in February 2022, which includes spares, training devices, support equipment, and technical publications for the Thailand customer.

\*\*\*\*\* Japan grounded its fleet of V-22 Osprey aircraft again after an incident on 27 October 2024 where one of the hybrid helicopter-aircraft tilted unexpectedly and hit the ground while trying to take off. During take-off it “became unstable as it swayed from side to side, and the left wing, the lower part of the aircraft came into contact with the ground and part of the aircraft was damaged, so the flight was aborted,” Japan’s Ground Self Defence Forces said in a statement. It was the first major incident for Japan’s V-22 fleet since an Osprey crash last November killed eight Air Force Special Operations Command service members and led to a month’s long grounding of the entire fleet in both Japan and the U.S. The aircraft resumed flight operations earlier this year, but the Osprey’s use remains controversial particularly in Okinawa, where residents have questioned its safety record. The Osprey in this latest incident was able to land and no one was injured, however Japan will keep its



fleet of more than a dozen V-22s grounded while it investigates the incident, Defence Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters.

**BOMBARDIER** - HENSOLDT, Lufthansa Technik Defence and Bombardier Defence announced on 23 October 2024, that the PEGASUS aircraft has completed its first flight out of Bombardier's facility in Wichita, Kansas. Led by HENSOLDT, PEGASUS is an airborne missionized platform that will integrate the Kalætron Integral SIGINT system to perform highly critical signal surveillance missions for the German armed forces. As the aircraft officially enters its next phase and is moving one step closer to the Lufthansa Technik Defence-led systems integration and certification, a celebration was held to mark the PEGASUS aircraft's first flight. Representatives from HENSOLDT, Lufthansa Technik and Bombardier Defence as well as representatives from the German Armed Forces travelled from Germany, Canada, and across the United States to gather in Wichita and celebrate this pivotal program milestone. This stage of aircraft testing is conducted by the Bombardier Flight Test Centre (BFTC) team, located in Wichita, where Bombardier's highly skilled pilots validate key aspects of the program. These successful tests demonstrate the high capability of the Bombardier Global aircraft to complete the German Air Force's critical missions. This represents a significant milestone for the first of three modified Global 6000 aircraft destined to be delivered to the German Bundeswehr. Upon completion of initial testing, each aircraft will be transferred to Lufthansa Technik Defence's facilities in Hamburg for further integration work. The company is moreover responsible for the regulatory certification of PEGASUS on the overall aircraft level. So far, Lufthansa Technik has completed its design activities for the integration of the mission system, the additional civil and military avionics systems as well as the aircraft cabin. The production process of interior parts has also already started, to ensure the components' readiness for immediate installation when the aircraft arrives in Hamburg. In the meantime, HENSOLDT has adapted the systems architecture to the operational needs of the German Bundeswehr. The corresponding hardware and software developments are currently in progress, various demonstrations have shown the immense potential and capabilities of the upcoming solution. HENSOLDT is acting as general contractor and bears overall responsibility for the realization of the project. Lufthansa Technik Defence will act as a subcontractor, procuring the modified aircraft from Bombardier and fitting and integrating the reconnaissance system developed by HENSOLDT into the platform. Many small and medium sized enterprises from all over Germany, Canada and the U.S. are involved in the project as part of the supply chain for all companies bringing PEGASUS to the finish line.

**CHINA MILITARY NEWS** – Please note that as China does not officially release details of their military designs, the following information is based on recent photographs that have been reported on social media outlets and the credited media. Some information therefore may be speculation or presumed.

\*\*\*\*\* Credit: The Aviationist – On 26 December 2024, footage and images of what could be China's very first sixth-generation aircraft started circulating online. The day is a special date for China, as 26 December is the birthday of Mao Zedong, the founder of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The aircraft was accompanied by a twin-seater J-20S, still in its factory primer, acting as a safety chase for the flight. The exact identity of this aircraft is still unknown, as observers are now divided between the sixth-generation J-XX fighter and the fifth-generation JH-XX regional bomber. The latter was reported to be in development together with the H-20 stealth heavy bomber. The flight took place at Chengdu Aircraft Corporation's (CAC) headquarters in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China. CAC is part of the AVIC (Aviation Industry Corporation of China) network and produces frontline fighters like the J-10 and J-20 for the PLAAF (People's Liberation Army Air Force).

\*\*\*\*\* Credit: The Aviationist – Second New Chinese Stealth Jet Emerges in the Same Day. A few hours after the first images of China's new supposed regional stealth bomber surfaced online, a video showing a second design has now appeared. While the first flew from Chengdu Aircraft Corporation's (CAC) headquarters in Chengdu, the second flew from Shenyang Aircraft Corporation's (SAC) facilities. While photos and videos of this aircraft only emerged on 26 December 2024, according to some reports it flew for the first time last week. Compared to the first design, this one appears to be

smaller, but it is similarly an apparently tailless aircraft. The jet was escorted by a Chinese Flanker derivative acting as chase.

\*\*\*\*\* Credit: The Aviationist – XAC (Xi'an Aircraft Corporation) has not fallen behind CAC and SAC exposing new aircraft this year (2024) and has now flown its Y-20B-based KJ-3000 Airborne Early Warning aircraft. Right on the heels of two new stealth fighters debuting and the launch of the Type 076 amphibious assault ship, XAC (Xi'an Aircraft Corporation) has now unveiled the KJ-3000. The KJ-3000 AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning & Control) aircraft is based on the Y-20B, the latest evolution of the Y-20 series of cargo aircraft. The 'KJ' stands for 空警 or Kōngjǐng, which literally means 'Air Police'. Although the photos only started circulating on 26 December 2024, it is reported that it conducted its maiden flight back on 29 November 2024. Rumours about the development of this aircraft have been online for some years, although its existence was never confirmed. The Y-20B is an upgraded variant of XAC's Y-20 and is differentiated from the previous variants by incorporating four Shenyang WS-20 high bypass turbofan engines, instead of the Russian D-30KP-2. There are also rumours that the Y-20B is an MRTT, Multirole Tanker Transport, as standard configuration, although this is not confirmed and only some Y-20Bs are seen equipped with wing air refuelling pods. Recent satellite imagery shows that the Y-20B has already entered service with the PLAAF (People's Liberation Army Air Force), with at least five units seen at Kaifeng Air Base in Henan province. The Y-20A series also has an already active, dedicated Air-to-Air Refuelling variant already called the YY-20A.

**DASSAULT AVIATION** – 29 August 2024 – In the presence of the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, and the President of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, the Chairman and CEO of Dassault Aviation, Éric Trappier, today signed in Belgrade with the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, Bratislav Gašić, a contract for the purchase of 12 Rafale to equip the Air Force and Air Defence of the Serbian Armed Forces.

\*\*\*\*\* Dassault Aviation has decided to create a company dedicated exclusively to maintenance, repair and overall (MRO) of its military activities. This company, Dassault Aviation MRO India (DAMROI), incorporated in India and based in Noida (Uttar Pradesh), is a subsidiary of Dassault Aviation. It is committed to meeting the needs of the Indian Air Force by offering tailor-made products and services to support its Mirage 2000 fleet and, more broadly, the fighter aircraft supplied by Dassault Aviation in India, in order to guarantee the best possible responsiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its requirements.

\*\*\*\*\* 8 October 2024 – Sébastien Lecornu, French Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs, announced the development launch of the unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) that will complement the future Rafale F5 standard after 2030. The announcement was made at a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the French Strategic Air Forces (FAS) at the Saint-Dizier air base, in the presence of General Jérôme Bellanger, Chief of Staff of the French Air and Space Force (AAE), and Éric Trappier, Chairman and CEO of Dassault Aviation. "This stealth combat drone will contribute to the technological and operational superiority of the French Air Force by 2033. It is significant that it is being initiated today, as we mark the 60th anniversary of the Strategic Air Forces and the 90th anniversary of the Air and Space Force: in aeronautics — a highly complex field — the future has deep roots, and innovation is built on experience. Dassault Aviation and its partners are proud to serve the French Armed Forces and the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA). Their renewed confidence honours and obliges us," declared Éric Trappier. This UAV will be complementary to the Rafale and suited to collaborative combat. It will incorporate stealth technologies, autonomous control (with man-in-the-loop), internal payload capacity, and more. It will be highly versatile and designed to evolve in line with future threats. It will benefit from the achievements of the nEUROn\* program, Europe's first stealth UCAV demonstrator. The Rafale F5 combined with the UCAV and their evolutions, like the Mirage IV in its times, will ensure France's independence and capability superiority in the coming decades.

**EMBRAER** (NYSE: ERJ; B3: EMB3) – Embraer announced the sale of up to six A-29 Super Tucano aircraft to the Uruguayan Air Force (FAU). The contract, which is part of a fleet renew program to

expand FAU's operational capacity, provides for the acquisition of one aircraft plus the commitment to acquire five additional units, with deliveries scheduled from 2025, including mission equipment, integrated logistics services and a flight simulator.

\*\*\*\*\* Embraer delivered the first C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft to the Hungarian Air Force. The aircraft will be the first in the world equipped with a roll-on/roll-off Intensive Care Unit, being even better equipped to perform humanitarian missions and Medical Evacuation Missions. The Hungarian C-390 is fully compatible with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) requirements, not only in terms of its hardware but also in its avionics and communications configuration. The aircraft fully meets the requirements of the Hungarian Defence Forces, being able to perform different types of military and civilian missions, including Medical Evacuation, Humanitarian Support, Search and Rescue, Cargo and Troops Transport, Precision Cargo Airdrop, Paratroopers Operations, and Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR).

\*\*\*\*\* Embraer has delivered the seventh C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft to the First Squadron of the First Group (1<sup>o</sup>/1<sup>o</sup> GT) at Galeão Air Force Base in Rio de Janeiro. This milestone comes as the Brazilian Air Force celebrates five years of service for the C-390, performing a wide spectrum of military and humanitarian missions across the globe.

\*\*\*\*\* Embraer (NYSE: ERJ; B3: EMB3), Took a major step forward by signing an Industrial Cooperation Agreement (ICA) with the Czech Ministry of Defence (MOD). This strategic agreement reflects Embraer's deep commitment to strengthening its long-term partnership with the Czech Republic, aiming to enhance local industrial and technological capabilities while fostering innovation, creating highly qualified jobs, and contributing to the growth of the countries' aerospace and defence sector. Separate agreements also signed during the ceremony will increase Aero Vodochody's workshare on the C-390 Millennium program and knowledge exchange, transfer of know-how and expertise to LOM Praha.

\*\*\*\*\* The Czech Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract for the acquisition of two Embraer C-390 Millennium multi-mission transport aircraft. These two NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) standard aircraft will modernize and enhance the operational capabilities of the Czech Air Force. They will be able to perform a wide range of missions, such as tactical transport of troops, vehicles, and equipment, medical evacuation, firefighting, disaster management, humanitarian support, and air-to-air refuelling. In addition to the aircraft, Embraer will provide a comprehensive training and support package for the Czech Air Force to ensure the smooth integration of the aircraft into their fleet.

\*\*\*\*\* The Swedish Ministry of Defence announced the selection of the Embraer (NYSE: ERJ/B3: EMBR3) C-390 Millennium as Sweden's new tactical transport aircraft. This strategic decision from another North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member country marks the first acquisition of the C-390 in Northern Europe, underscoring Sweden's commitment to enhancing its defence capabilities with state-of-the-art aircraft.

\*\*\*\*\* Embraer (NYSE: ERJ/B3: EMBR3) and the Brazilian Air Force (FAB) signed an agreement today at Mostra BID, the National Defence and Security Fair in Brasilia, to deepen collaborative studies aimed at expanding the capabilities of the C-390 Millennium platform for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions, with a focus on Maritime Patrol. Thanks to its versatility, ruggedness, state-of-the-art communication, and self-protection systems, the aircraft has a great potential to meet and even exceed the operational requirements not only the Brazilian Air Force, but also customers worldwide.

\*\*\*\*\* Embraer has signed a contract with the Brazilian Air Force (FAB) to provide a new Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS II) unit. This will be FAB's second device, which can be quickly installed on any KC-390 multi-mission aircraft in FAB's fleet. With MAFFS II, the KC-390 offers a deployment capacity of approximately 12,000 litres of water in 7 seconds, per flight.

\*\*\*\*\* The Slovak Ministry of Defence today signed a Letter of Intent with the Brazilian Ministry of Defence, paving the way for a deeper industrial cooperation between the two countries. During this visit to Brazil, the Slovak Minister of Defence acknowledged that the Embraer C-390 is the option

that better fits Slovakia's future military transport requirements. It has also been mentioned the importance of the neighbouring countries that have already acquired the C-390, enabling synergies in terms of training, logistics and cooperation in the future capabilities and growth of their fleets. The Slovak Ministry of Defence will start formal steps toward the purchase of three C-390s in January 2025.

\*\*\*\*\* the Portuguese Ministry of National Defence signed a contract with Embraer (NYSE: ERJ/B3: EMBR3) to acquire 12 A-29N Super Tucanos that will equip the Portuguese Air Force, making Portugal the launch customer of the new variant of this advanced trainer and light attack aircraft. This acquisition reflects Portugal's commitment to modernizing its Air Force with a versatile and proven aircraft, ideally suited for Advanced Pilot Training, Light Attack, Close Air Support (CAS) and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions. The A-29N Super Tucano variant incorporates advanced avionics, NATO-specific communications systems and other non-disclosed new capabilities tailored to meet Portugal's operational requirements. With this purchase, Portugal becomes the first nation to operate the A-29N, leading the way in adopting a very capable platform designed to support a wide range of modern defence missions.

\*\*\*\*\* 27 December 2024 – Embraer (NYSE: ERJ; B3: EMBR3) signed a contract with an undisclosed customer for the sale of two C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft. The contract also includes a comprehensive training and support package as well as the supply of spare parts. The aircraft will be specially configured to meet customers' requirements, which include tactical transport of troops and vehicles, humanitarian aid, disaster management and medical evacuation. "We are honoured by the choice of this new customer for the C-390 Millennium. This aircraft is redefining the concepts of military transport aviation with an unbeatable combination of state-of-the-art technology, reliability, and low operational costs, with exceptional performance," said Bosco da Costa Jr, President and CEO, Embraer Defence & Security. The new customer is the tenth nation to select the C-390 after Brazil, Portugal, Hungary, South Korea, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic, Sweden and Slovakia.

**EUROFIGHTER** – Due credit to a press release on 20 December 2024 - The leaders of Eurofighter and NETMA (the NATO Eurofighter and Tornado Management Agency) have signed a contract for 25 additional Eurofighter jets for the Spanish Air Force. Known as Halcon II, the new Spanish order is the latest contract signing as the Eurofighter programme gears-up for more in the coming months. The Spanish announcement, alongside forthcoming Italian and German orders, as well as the anticipated export opportunities, mean Eurofighter's additional order book is set to grow to between 100 – 200 aircraft in the next decade. The Halcon II order continues the modernisation of the Spanish Air Force's Eurofighter fleet and follows the first Halcon order (for 20 fighters), made at ILA in Berlin in June 2022. Giancarlo Mezzanatto, Chief Executive of Eurofighter, said: "The Spanish order for 25 additional Eurofighter jets is another proud chapter in the programme's 'renaissance' period, which is set to continue into the mid 2030's. "The order shows the depth of commitment by Spain, one of the four core Eurofighter Nations, to our programme. We are very proud that Eurofighter continues to be Europe's biggest defence programme and one of the continent's most successful defence collaborations. "In addition to the operational security benefits of the Eurofighter, the new Spanish order will also bring significant economic benefits to our core nations and the economies of Europe, and, with a service life extending beyond 2060, Eurofighter's advanced capabilities will ensure seamless integration into Europe's future air combat systems." The Halcon II agreement will see 25 new Eurofighter jets (21 single-seat and four twin-seat) delivered to the Spanish Air Force between 2030 and 2035, securing industrial activity until at least 2035. The Spanish Eurofighter Typhoon jets will replace part of the legacy F-18 fleet, based in Torrejon and Zaragoza, and bring the total number of Typhoon aircraft in the Spanish Air Force to 115. AVM Simon Ellard (ret.), General Manager, NETMA said: "Halcon II is a significant achievement which underscores Spain's strong commitment to the Eurofighter Programme. "The additional 25 aircraft will not only enhance Spain's defence capabilities but also drive significant economic and industrial benefits for Spain, the Core Nations and the rest of Europe. "Eurofighter is the backbone of European air defence. Halcon II, alongside upcoming orders from Germany and Italy, demonstrates the positive future of the Programme and

ensures its long-term success for decades to come.” The new Spanish Eurofighters will be equipped with advanced avionics, electronically scanning radar (E-Scan), enhanced weapon systems capable of operating Brimstone III and Meteor, new sensors and improved connectivity. The Eurofighter programme supports over 100,000 jobs across 400 companies in Europe. As Europe’s largest defence programme, Eurofighter continues to demonstrate its critical role in maintaining European security and sustaining the continent’s defence industrial base. A report by PwC, from earlier this year, reviewed the entire spectrum of development, production, and support activities – encompassing the four Eurofighter Core Nations. The “growth scenario” in that report – which factors in domestic and export opportunities – showed the impressive breadth of the benefits to Europe’s economies. According to the PwC report, the Eurofighter programme will deliver to Europe in the next decade: €90 billion contribution to GDP; tax revenues of €22 billion; and over 98,000 jobs created each year. \*\*\*\*\* The leaders of Eurofighter and NETMA (the NATO Eurofighter and Tornado Management Agency) today (23 December 2024) signed the contract for up to 24 Italian Air Force Eurofighters in Rome. The announcement comes at a strategically important time for the Eurofighter programme and follows the contract signing last Friday (20 December) for 25 Eurofighters for the Spanish Air Force. The new Italian Eurofighter Typhoon jets will replace Italian Tranche 1 versions that are currently in service. As with the new Halcon II Spanish order from last week, the new Italian Eurofighters will be equipped with advanced avionics, enhanced weapon systems capable of operating Brimstone III and Meteor, new sensors and improved connectivity. With a service life well beyond 2060, its technical capabilities will allow full integration into the Europe's future air combat environment.

**THE FRENCH** – Have announced that Ukrainian pilots and mechanics have been trained to operate Mirage 2000-5F fighters. Consequently, the aircraft will soon join the Ukrainian Air Force, enhancing its defensive capabilities. The French Mirage 2000-5F fighters will soon bolster the Ukrainian air force, providing significant support in defence against Russia. The French Army command announced that the six-month training of Ukrainian pilots and mechanics had been completed, allowing for delivering these advanced multirole aircraft. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot confirmed that the Mirage 2000-5F will appear over Ukraine within a few weeks. This fulfils the promise made by French President Emmanuel Macron to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in June 2024. The delivery of six fighters is expected to be completed by mid-2025.

**GENERAL ATOMICS AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS INC (GA-ASI)** – The Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with the US Department of State to procure 31 General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc (GA-ASI) MQ-9B high-altitude long-endurance (HALE) remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPASs) for the Indian Armed Forces. The MoD announced the contract on 15 October on X (formerly Twitter). The MoD has previously said that the contract will include acquisition of 15 SeaGuardians for the Indian Navy and 16 SkyGuardians – eight each for the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. A separate contract has also been signed with GA-ASI to provide logistics and maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services to the Indian Armed Forces for these 31 MQ-9Bs, the MoD added. India's state-owned DD News reported that the procurement contract is worth INR320 billion (USD3.8 billion). The MQ-9Bs are expected to be deployed at INS Rajali naval air station in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, INS Sardar Patel Forward Operating Base of the Indian Navy in Porbandar in the western state of Gujarat, and Sarsawa Air Force Station and Gorakhpur Air Force Station in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

**LEONARDO** – Leonardo has signed a contract with the General Command of the Port Authorities - Coast Guard for the supply of an ATR42-600 Maritime Patrol (MP) aircraft. The acquisition forms part of the General Command’s plan for renewal of its fleet of aircraft, which already includes three MPs based on the ATR 42-400 and the ATR 42-500. The ATR 42 MP, developed and produced on the basis of the ATR 42-600 turboprop regional aircraft platform, is an aircraft perfectly expressing Leonardo's capabilities in terms of both platform and systems. The aircraft is equipped with multi-domain sensors and state-of-the-art research and communication systems and is capable of transmitting and receiving information in real time, thereby optimising operations along the entire chain of command.

The ATR42 MP will be integrated into the Corps' aeronautical fleet to fulfil the multiple roles assigned to the Coast Guard, including maritime patrolling all along Italy's coastline and in international waters, carried out with the aid of the advanced technological equipment integrated into its fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

\*\*\*\*\* One of the Italian Army's new AW249 exploration and escort helicopters participated for the first time in an operational exercise, Stella Alpina 2024, held on 18 September at Lake Fedaiia (Trento, Italy). The rotorcraft is a pre-production model currently involved in AW249 programme development activities. Features of digitalization, connectivity, integration of information from multiple sensors, information gathering and management superiority, and interoperability to be a force multiplier in multi-domain operations. The AW249, called FENICE, is based on these elements, the result of a close synergy between the Italian Ministry of Defence and Leonardo. The new helicopter was integrated into the "Stella Alpina 2024" operation's assets within the tactical bubble, demonstrating its mission capabilities in multi-domain contexts that require, among other things, high interoperability and connectivity, including with remotely piloted systems, and cyber and electromagnetic protection.

\*\*\*\*\* Leonardo's platform protection system has been chosen to protect an Airbus A330 designated for VIP transport by a government customer. The system will be installed by Jet Aviation during VIP completion of the aircraft at its MRO and completion facility. The combination of Miysis DIRCM and MAIR enables the detection, tracking and defeat of multiple incoming missile threats simultaneously. This provides an aircraft with a greater freedom of operation and, with Miysis DIRCM seeing a 100% success rate against all targets in live trials, the peace of mind that it can defend against both modern and legacy infrared missiles. Unlike other air protection systems, Miysis DIRCM has no maintenance requirement once installed, and so benefits from minimal through-life costs. There are also no ITAR restrictions on the protection system, providing customers with a greater level of control in how they wish to use their system. Infrared missiles such as Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) pose a significant threat to aviation, particularly when flying in or around zones of conflict. Miysis DIRCM is trusted to protect a wide range of its customers' most valuable assets, including those operated by the Royal Air Force as well as other NATO and Middle Eastern nations. Compatible on all types of aircraft, Leonardo's platform protection system can be equipped to helicopters, wide-body aircraft, and everything in between. It is compact, lightweight, and its discrete installation does not affect aircraft performance or existing systems. Operating a common platform protection system also brings the benefits of common training for operators and technicians, and increased access to spares.

\*\*\*\*\* Leonardo announces the successful completion of a landmark demonstration with its Falco Xplorer uncrewed aerial system, which took off from Trapani Birgi (Italy) airport to validate the European Detect and Avoid (DAA) technological demonstrator, part of the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) funded EUDAAS project. The event, attended by high military and industry representatives from the five contributing member states (Sweden, Italy, Germany, France and Spain), marks a pivotal milestone for integrating large uncrewed aircraft into the European airspace alongside crewed aircraft, meeting critical needs in both civil and military sectors. The in-flight demonstration concluded a technological development cycle that began four years ago in Europe under Saab's coordination, with the involvement of aeronautical excellences supported by a highly qualified European ecosystem of 10 partners from the member states.

\*\*\*\*\* As I close this section, news from Reuters on 28 December 2024, announced that Austria plans to buy 12 Italian-made M-346 FA fighter jets to replace Saab 105 planes which it decommissioned at the end of 2020, the government said. Citing military sources, newspaper Krone said a letter of intent was due to be signed on Saturday with the Italian Defence Ministry for the planes made by Italy's Leonardo. The contract is currently being negotiated with the Italian government, the Austrian Defence Ministry said, confirming the planned purchase of the aircraft. Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said the deal showed the strength of cooperation between Italy and Austria. "My special thanks go to (Italian) Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who made a significant contribution to the

conclusion of this agreement," Nehammer said in a statement. The total cost of the purchase has yet to be determined, but about 1 billion euros (\$1.04 billion) has been budgeted for it, the newspaper said. The jets will be used for pilot training, support for ground forces and air defence, the government said. (This planned purchase does not officially show on the Leonardo website as of 28 December 2024.)

**LOCKHEED MARTIN** – A new era of tactical airlift capability for New Zealand has officially begun with Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) delivering the first of five C-130J Super Hercules tactical airlifters to the New Zealand Ministry of Defence and New Zealand Defence Force during a ceremony at the Lockheed Martin's facility in Marietta, Georgia, on 8 August 2024. For almost six decades, the Royal New Zealand Air Force's (RNZAF) C-130Hs have served as essential first-response resources for New Zealand and the entire Indo-Pacific region. Crews from 40 Squadron located at RNZAF Base Auckland, Whenuapai, will operate the new C-130Js, representing one of the most advanced configurations of the Super Hercules ever produced.

\*\*\*\*\* 8 August 2024 -- Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) presented Poland's first F-35A Lightning II to the Polish government during a rollout ceremony at Lockheed Martin's F-35 production facility. This event marks a significant milestone in the Polish Air Force's history and strengthens the alliance between the United States and Poland, a key NATO ally. Poland is one of several NATO nations to invest in the allied deterrence of the F-35. With its unmatched interoperability, Poland's F-35s, named "Husarz" to pay homage to a calvary unit from the country's military past, will connect assets across domains to increase situational awareness for Poland and its key European partners. Senior government and military leaders from Poland and the United States attended the ceremony to celebrate Poland's first of 32 F-35As per its program of record. The first aircraft, designated AZ-01, will be delivered to the Polish Air Force in December and will be based at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Arkansas, where Poland will be the first international customer to conduct F-35 pilot training.

\*\*\*\*\* 5 September 2024 -- The Egyptian Armed Forces announced at the Egypt International Air Show that Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) will deliver two C-130J-30 Super Hercules tactical airlifters to the Egyptian Air Force (EAF) through a Foreign Military Sale (FMS) with the U.S. Air Force. Egypt is the 23rd nation to join the worldwide Super Hercules operating community.

\*\*\*\*\* 10 September 2024 -- Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) and Tata Advanced Systems Limited have entered into a teaming agreement to expand upon the companies' business relationship through the C-130J Super Hercules tactical airlifter. This announcement marks a significant step in enhancing India's defence and aerospace capabilities while also deepening India-U.S. strategic ties. This agreement provides a framework for collaboration on future potential business opportunities to include: Establishing a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India to support the Indian Air Force's (IAF) existing fleet of 12 C-130Js as well as other global Super Hercules fleets; Expanding C-130J manufacturing and assembly in India to produce aircraft for the IAF's Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) program, subject to U.S. and Indian government approvals. Lockheed Martin will continue to build C-130Js for the U.S. government and other global operators at the existing Super Hercules production facility in Marietta, Georgia, USA. Lockheed Martin will establish additional production and assembly capacity in India if awarded the MTA contract. The IAF is actively seeking to acquire up to 80 medium transport aircraft and issued a request for information (RFI) last year. Lockheed Martin responded to the RFI as the C-130J-30 Super Hercules is ideally suited to meet the requirements. Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Limited have a long-standing partnership through the Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Ltd., (TLMAL) joint venture. Established in 2010, TLMAL exemplifies the government of India's "Make in India" objectives and has the distinction of being the single global source of C-130J empennage assemblies included on all new Super Hercules aircraft produced in the United States. To date, TLMAL has manufactured more than 220 C-130J empennages.

\*\*\*\*\* 24 October 2024 – Lockheed Martin [NYSE: LMT] announced the successful flight of the first Bulgarian F-16 Block 70. The flight occurred Oct. 22 at 9:30 a.m. EDT at Lockheed Martin's production facility in Greenville, South Carolina, with test pilot Charles "Seeker" Hoag successfully conducting

multiple system tests to validate performance and supersonic capabilities during the flight. Bulgaria will be the second European country to receive the F-16 Block 70. This F-16 Block 70 jet will be the first of 16 to be delivered to Bulgaria. Bulgaria signed its first Letter of Acceptance (LOA) for eight F-16s in 2019 and signed a second LOA for an additional eight jets in 2022.

\*\*\*\*\* 29 October 2024 – The U.S. Government has awarded Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company, a Foreign Military Sale contract to provide 35 UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to Greece. The deal includes 35 aircraft for the Hellenic Army as well as personnel training, training equipment and an initial provisioning package, which will significantly improve self-defence and bolster interoperability within the nation and with NATO allies.

\*\*\*\*\* 4 November 2024 — Marshall (Cambridge UK) has been recognized by Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) as the world's first authorized Centre of Excellence for centre wing box replacements on the C-130 Hercules tactical airlifter. Leaders from Marshall and Lockheed Martin recently gathered to mark the achievement during the annual Hercules Orion Conference (HOC) in Atlanta, located near the C-130 production line in Marietta, Georgia. Marshall has completed nearly 80 centre wing box replacements since 2004 and remains the only organization to have performed these highly complex procedures on both legacy C-130 platforms and the current production model C-130J Super Hercules. Furthermore, no other organisations have successfully completed a C-130J centre wing box replacement outside the United States.

\*\*\*\*\* 21 November 2024 -- The Government of Romania confirmed its intent to procure 32 Lockheed Martin 5th Generation F-35 Lightning II aircraft by signing a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) through a U.S. government Foreign Military Sale. This decision marks a significant milestone in Romania's defence strategy and its commitment to maintaining a robust and advanced military force.

\*\*\*\*\* 4 December 2024 Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) Skunk Works and the United Kingdom Royal Air Force (RAF) Rapid Capabilities Office (RCO) completed the first-ever live F-35 classified data-share with a non-U.S. Command and Control (C2) system. In this real-time live fly demonstration, an F-35 flying from Lockheed Martin's facility in Fort Worth, Texas, shared classified data via a Skunk Works' Open Systems Gateway (OSG) through commercial satellite communications and into an RAF RCO lab in Farnborough, UK, where it was ingested into the Nexus C2 system. This achievement marks a significant step forward in multi-domain integration, enabling F-35 interoperability in real-time with a non-U.S. C2 system. "Project DEIMOS was a hugely successful U.K. / U.S. trial which clearly demonstrated the ability to take data from a live F-35 and pass this to the RAF's NEXUS platform for exploitation. This represents a key step forward towards both a future integrated battlespace and Air Command and Control environment," said Air Commodore Chris Melville, head of rapid capabilities office, Royal Air Force. "This exercise marks a breakthrough in multi-domain operations, demonstrating the F-35's ability to share classified data via an open systems gateway with our international partners. We collaborated closely with the U.K. Ministry of Defence and industry to achieve this feat, highlighting the power of partnership in driving innovation," said John Clark, vice president and general manager, Lockheed Martin Skunk Works. "Collaborations like this allow us to deliver advanced capabilities quickly to meet urgent needs in an increasingly complicated global threat environment."

\*\*\*\*\* The U.S. Department of Defence on 29 December 2024 announced that Lockheed Martin Corp., Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co., Fort Worth, Texas, is awarded a not-to-exceed \$11,762,911,991 undefinitized, fixed-price incentive (firm-target), firm-fixed-price modification (P00011) to a previously awarded contract (N0001923C0003). This modification adds scope for the production and delivery of 145 F-35 full rate production (FRP) Lot 18 aircraft (48 F-35A aircraft for the Air Force; 16 F-35B aircraft and five F-35C aircraft for the Marine Corps; 14 F-35C aircraft for the Navy; 15 F-35A aircraft and one F-35B aircraft for F-35 non-U.S. Department of Defence (DOD) program partners; and 39 F-35A aircraft and seven F-35B aircraft for Foreign Military Sales (FMS) customers). Additionally, this modification provides tooling support for the governments of Italy and Japan's final assembly and check out facilities. Work will be performed in Fort Worth, Texas (57%); El Segundo, California (14%); Warton, United Kingdom (9%); Cameri, Italy (4%); Orlando, Florida (4%);



Nashua, New Hampshire (3%); Baltimore, Maryland (3%); San Diego, California (2%); Nagoya, Japan (2%); and various locations outside the continental U.S. (2%), and is expected to be completed in June 2027. Fiscal 2024 aircraft procurement (Air Force) funds in the amount of \$2,513,023,832; fiscal 2024 aircraft procurement (Navy) funds in the amount of \$2,042,260,961; F-35 non-U.S. DOD program partner funds in the amount of \$816,352,999; and FMS customer funds in the amount of \$2,013,017,680 will be obligated at the time of award, none of which will expire at the end of the current fiscal year. The contract that is being modified was not competed. Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Maryland, is the contracting activity.

**NASA** – NASA’s X-59 (N859NA) quiet supersonic research aircraft sat in its run stall at Lockheed Martin’s Skunk Works facility in Palmdale, California, firing up its engine for the first time. These engine-run tests start at low power and allow the X-59 team to verify the aircraft’s systems are working together while powered by its own engine. The X-59 is the centrepiece of NASA’s Quesst mission, which seeks to solve one of the major barriers to supersonic flight over land by making sonic booms quieter. The engine-run tests set the stage for the next phase of the experimental aircraft’s progress toward flight. The X-59 team is conducting the engine-run tests in phases. In this first phase, the engine rotated at a relatively low speed without ignition to check for leaks and ensure all systems are communicating properly. The team then fuelled the aircraft and began testing the engine at low power, with the goal of verifying that it and other aircraft systems operate without anomalies or leaks while on engine power. “The first phase of the engine tests was really a warmup to make sure that everything looked good prior to running the engine,” said Jay Brandon, NASA’s X-59 chief engineer. “Then we moved to the actual first engine start. That took the engine out of the preservation mode that it had been in since installation on the aircraft. It was the first check to see that it was operating properly and that all the systems it impacted – hydraulics, electrical system, environmental control systems, etc. – seemed to be working.” The X-59 will generate a quieter thump rather than a loud boom while flying faster than the speed of sound. The aircraft will gather data on how people perceive these thumps, providing regulators with information that could help lift current bans on commercial supersonic flight over land. The engine, a modified F414-GE-100, packs 22,000 pounds of thrust, which will enable the X-59 to achieve the desired cruising speed of Mach 1.4 (925 miles per hour) at an altitude of approximately 55,000 feet. It sits in a nontraditional spot – atop the aircraft – to aid in making the X-59 quieter. Engine runs are part of a series of integrated ground tests needed to ensure safe flight and successful achievement of mission goals. Because of the challenges involved with reaching this critical phase of testing, the X-59’s first flight is now expected in early 2025. The team will continue progressing through critical ground tests and address any technical issues discovered with this one-of-a-kind, experimental aircraft. The X-59 team will have a more specific first flight date as the tests are successfully completed. During later phases, the team will test the aircraft at high power with rapid throttle changes, followed by simulating the conditions of an actual flight. After the engine runs, the X-59 team will move to aluminium bird testing, where data will be fed to the aircraft under both normal and failure conditions. The team will then proceed with a series of taxi tests, where the aircraft will be put in motion on the ground. These tests will be followed by final preparations for first flight.

\*\*\*\*\* On a changing planet, where phenomena like severe hurricanes, landslides, and wildfires are becoming more severe, scientists need data to assess and model disaster impacts and to potentially make predictions about hazards. NASA’s C-20A aircraft is a significant asset that can carry key instruments for understanding the science behind these phenomena. Based at NASA’s Armstrong Flight Research Centre in Edwards, California, the C-20A, serial 30502, is a military version of the Gulfstream III business jet and operates as an airborne science aircraft for a variety of Earth science research missions. In October, the plane was deployed to fly over areas affected by Hurricane Milton. With winds of up to 120 miles per hour, the hurricane hit the Florida coast as a category 3 storm, and produced lightning, heavy rainfall, and a series of tornadoes. In the aftermath of the storm, the C-20A was outfitted with the Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSAR) instrument to collect detailed data about the affected flood areas.

**PIAGGIO AEROSPACE** – After completing the test flights, Piaggio Aerospace delivered to the Italian Air Force, three P.180 Avanti EVO+, the iconic 9-seater aircraft designed and assembled by Piaggio Aerospace in its facilities located in Villanova d’Albenga and Genoa. The three aircraft, which will be assigned to the Air Transport Training School (S.A.T.A.) of the Italian Air Force in Pratica di Mare (Rome), are the first of the 15 brand-new P.180 Avanti EVO+ presently ordered and contractualized by the Italian Armed Forces as part of a modernization programme of the whole fleet, which also includes the retrofit of some additional aircraft currently in service. Piaggio Aerospace expects to deliver one more new aircraft and a retrofitted one by February 2025.

\*\*\*\*\* 27 December 2024 (Credit: Reuters) - Turkish drone maker Baykar has bought Italian aircraft producer Piaggio Aerospace, Italy's industry ministry said on Friday, without disclosing financial details. Piaggio Aerospace - unconnected to Vespa scooters maker Piaggio - had been under government-controlled special administration since filing for protection from creditors in 2018. In a statement, the ministry said Baykar's offer for the company had been preferred over two other final and binding bids from international players. It was deemed the "most suited to guarantee the interests of workers and creditors (of Piaggio Aerospace) and relaunch the group's industrial prospects", the ministry said. Baykar pledged to maintain and expand the production of aircraft and related technical support, training and logistics activities, as well as engine maintenance and engine component manufacturing, the statement added.

**PILATUS** – Is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of a major contract with KF Aerospace as part of its collaboration with SkyAlyne for the Royal Canadian Air Force’s (RCAF) “Future Aircrew Training” (FAcT) program. The contract involves the delivery of nineteen state-of-the-art PC-21 training aircraft. The nineteen PC-21s will be stationed at the air force base in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, from 2026. They will primarily be used to provide advanced training for aspiring military pilots. The 25-year FAcT program is designed to fundamentally modernize and expand the RCAF training capabilities.

**TEXTRON** - (19 November 2024) — Textron Aviation announced it delivered the first of two multi-mission Beechcraft King Air 360CHW aircraft to the Peruvian Air Force. The King Air 360CHW is cargo door equipped and fitted for heavy weight operation. “The King Air 360CHW delivered to the Peruvian Air Force for aeromedical evacuation (MEDEVAC) can also execute troop and cargo transport, command and control and many other missions,” said Bob Gibbs, vice president, Special Mission Sales. “From the coast and the highlands to the Amazon rainforest of Peru, the versatile King Air is well suited to operate in diverse, austere and remote locations.” Delivery of a second aeromedical evacuation-equipped King Air 360CHW is expected in 2025.

\*\*\*\*\* (25 November 2024) – Textron Aviation Defence announced the arrival of five Beechcraft T-6C Texan II Integrated Training System (ITS) aircraft in support of the Vietnam Air Defence Air Force (ADAF) pilot training program at Phan Thiet Airbase. The historic delivery of the first of 12 T-6C Texan II ITS aircraft highlights the on-time fulfilment of the inaugural Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program established between the U.S. Air Force (USAF) and the ADAF. Contracted in August 2022, the full fleet of 12 T-6C aircraft is anticipated to be delivered by mid-2025.

**BELL TEXTRON** - (5 August 2024) – Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT) company, announced the United States Army has approved the Milestone B decision for the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA), marking the beginning of the weapon system’s Program of Record (PoR). "This achievement marks a historic moment for both the U.S. Army and Bell," said Ryan Ehinger, Bell’s Senior Vice President and Program Director, FLRAA program. “Now that the program has Milestone B approval, the course is set for delivering transformational capability to the warfighter. The FLRAA team remains laser-focused on working in tandem with the U.S. Army to execute the next phase of Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD).” The Milestone B decision is a part of the Major Capability Acquisition process and comes after years of the Bell team working alongside the U.S. Army and Bell’s FLRAA teammates to decompose requirements, reduce risk and inform the weapon system acquisition. This includes the execution of the Preliminary Design Review (PDR) ensuring integration and effectiveness of the aircraft’s design including weapon system design,

sustainment and system integrations that are integral to the U.S. Army's special mission requirements.

\*\*\*\*\* (17 December 2024) – Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT) company, announced a facility site selection today to support production of the U.S. Army's Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA). The new 447,000 sq. ft. factory, located in the Denton County region of Fort Worth, Texas, will be dedicated to FLRAA component manufacturing. Bell plans to begin facility modification and equipment installation and achieve facility readiness for Low-Rate Initial Production (LRIP) by 2028. "Bell is committed to establishing future manufacturing locations to deliver the first fielded aircraft by the early 2030s and do our part to revolutionize U.S. Army aviation," said Lisa Atherton, President and CEO, Bell. "This facility also represents a strong economic partnership with the State of Texas, the City of Fort Worth, Northwest ISD, and Denton County. Their support has made it possible for Bell to significantly expand our footprint in North Texas and provide revolutionary capability to our nation's warfighters."

### **EVTOL NEWS**

**ARCHER AVIATION** – Archer's electric aircraft, Midnight, is designed to offer passengers a safe, sustainable and low-noise alternative to ground transportation. An announcement on 3 September stated that it has completed 402 test flights so far this year, surpassing the 400-test flight goal it set for 2024 approximately four months ahead of schedule. The 400 plus flights were conducted over the last eight months as the company ramps flight test operations in advance of for-credit flight testing with the FAA. Each flight produces critical data that Archer's teams use to evaluate and refine aircraft loads, vibrations, performance and handling qualities. Most recently, the Archer flight test team has focused on five key testing areas: (1) Transition Flights: Continuing to conduct longer-distance and higher-speed transition flights to gather data, extend endurance and ensure maximum safety. (2) High-Rate Operations: Increasing per-day flights to simulate the high cadence of Archer's anticipated commercial operations and test Midnight's durability. (3) Advancing Landing Profiles: Completing a series of hover landings in various wind conditions with different rates of descent and flare heights to expand Midnight's wind envelope and further optimize its landing profile. (4) Enhancing Acoustic Measurement: Conducting a series of hover operations with various microphone arrays to collect supplemental data for the FAA and to further evaluate and tune Midnight's noise signature. (5) Optimizing Control Laws: Regressing through the envelope with a series of optimizations made to the control laws which will extend Midnight's endurance. This announcement follows Archer's planned network in Los Angeles and its recently announced developments with Southwest Airlines and United Airlines. It also follows major milestones, such as certification to begin operating as a commercial airline and the recent delivery of Archer's first aircraft to the United States Air Force.

\*\*\*\*\* Archer Aviation Inc. (NYSE: ACHR) and Soracle Corporation (Soracle), a joint venture newly established by Japan Airlines and Sumitomo Corporation, signed agreements focused on bringing advanced air mobility (AAM) services to Japan. Soracle plans to launch its AAM operation in Japan using Archer's Midnight aircraft, with the goal of offering electric air taxi flights in cities where existing ground transportation is constrained by traffic or geographic barriers. To do so, Soracle has obtained the right to place aircraft orders of up to 100 Midnight aircraft, totalling approximately \$500M, which would include pre-delivery payments based on certain milestones in advance of aircraft delivery. Soracle will develop a variety of flight routes in attractive areas for residents as well as domestic and international visitors. Route locations could include places like Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Hokkaido, Setouchi and Okinawa with the aim of establishing a transportation network that creates new value through mobility in the sky. Archer and Soracle will work closely with the Japanese Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) to obtain the necessary permissions and certifications. Archer and JCAB have already begun discussions and Archer intend to work to certify our aircraft in Japan. To memorialize this joint agreement, Soracle and Archer held a signing ceremony in Tokyo on 26 September 2024.

\*\*\*\*\* Announced Dr. Talib Alhinai as its UAE Lead. Dr. Alhinai, who currently serves on the Board of Directors for the GCAA, the UAE's aviation regulator, will be responsible for spearheading the planned launch of Archer's electric air taxis in the region. Alhinai will be critical in helping to guide the consortium led by ADIO that Archer announced as part of its Q3 '24 results. Through this consortium, Archer has already made significant progress in establishing the regulatory pathway, infrastructure and flight operations plans necessary to enable market entry as early as late next year.

**BETA TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** – An electric aerospace company based in Vermont, has raised \$318 million in Series C equity capital. QIA led the raise and several of BETA's largest investors, including Fidelity Management & Research Company and TPG Rise Climate increased their ownership in BETA. Longtime customer United Therapeutics has also joined this round as an investor. The financing round was priced at an increased valuation relative to prior equity capital raises and was meaningfully oversubscribed. To date, BETA has raised more than \$1 billion in equity capital. Over the past eight years, BETA has developed sustainable products that lower the cost of transporting goods and people safely and reliably. This new funding will support the continued production, certification, and commercialization of those solutions, which include BETA's all-electric fixed-wing and eVTOL aircraft ALIA, advanced high performance electric propulsion systems, as well as its multimodal charging systems and growing infrastructure network.

\*\*\*\*\* Helicopter air ambulance operator Metro Aviation has agreed to acquire up to 20 BETA Technologies Alia eVTOL aircraft for use as air ambulances. Metro vice president and co-owner Todd Stanberry told Vertical that the company anticipates taking initial delivery in 2027 with entry into service in 2028.

\*\*\*\*\* BETA completed its 200,000-square-foot production facility last year at the Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport. BETA said that plant can produce up to 300 aircraft annually. BETA is pursuing certification of the CX300 first, with the A250 to follow as part of a risk mitigation strategy. BETA currently holds aircraft commitments from Metro, Air New Zealand, Blade Urban Air Mobility, Bristow, Helijet, aircraft lessor LCI, United Therapeutics, UPS Flight Forward, and the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. Customers plan to use the aircraft for missions including cargo, logistics, air ambulance, defence, and passenger transport. BETA also is developing a network of charging stations nationwide with the assistance of various government programs, including a \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and a new \$2.6 million award from the state of Michigan.

**EVE AIR MOBILITY** (NYSE: EVEX; EVEXW) – Announced at the MRO Europe in Barcelona the launch of its fully integrated aftermarket services portfolio for efficient and safe Urban Air Mobility (UAM) operations. Eve TechCare is a pioneer all-in-one suite of solutions designed to streamline electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft (eVTOL) operations by providing the industry's most comprehensive services, expert customer support, and cutting-edge operational solutions. "At Eve, our focus goes beyond developing and producing an eVTOL; we take a holistic approach to the market by creating a suite of solutions to address the necessary aspects that will turn urban air mobility into a reality. With Eve TechCare, we will ensure the best operational aircraft availability for our customers while optimizing operational costs," said Johann Bordais, CEO of Eve. "Our goal is to offer our customers everything they need from the moment they receive their aircraft onward."

\*\*\*\*\* Eve Air Mobility (Eve) and Embraer-CAE Training Services (ECTS), a joint venture between Embraer and CAE Inc. (CAE), announced that ECTS has been selected as the training provider for Eve's electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft pilots, maintenance technicians, and ground handling personnel. The services will be part of the recently announced Eve TechCare, the company's all-in-one service portfolio for eVTOLs.

\*\*\*\*\* Eve Air Mobility, a global electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft manufacturer and services provider, has announced a \$50 million loan from Citibank N.A. (Citibank). The funding, which will strengthen Eve's balance sheet, will support the company's aircraft research and development program. With this additional loan, Eve's 2Q24 pro-forma liquidity increases to ~\$480 million, when combined with recently announced \$95.6 million in equity financing from a diverse

group of global industrial companies and financial investors in July 2024. Eve also recently announced a new \$88 million credit line agreement with Brazil's National Development Bank (BNDES) to fund the development of the company's aircraft production facility in Taubaté, in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. With the AAM industry's largest pre-order book with letters of intent for 2,900 aircraft, a diverse group of suppliers and program development partners and the backing of Embraer, the world's third largest aircraft manufacturer, Eve continues to demonstrate attractive opportunities for both strategic and financial investors.

\*\*\*\*\* Eve Air Mobility ("Eve") (NYSE: EVEX; EVEXW) has signed a letter of intent with Helicopters Inc., a leading vertical lift and helicopter operator in the United States, for up to 50 electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The order for aircraft, service support and Vector, Eve's urban air traffic management (ATM) software, was announced during the Revolution. Aero Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) conference where Eve was participating in the event discussing how to support and scale the future of air mobility.

**JOBY** – Toyota Motor Corporation (Toyota; NYSE: TM) and Joby Aviation, Inc. (Joby; NYSE:JOBY), a company developing electric air taxis for commercial passenger service, announced the completion of Joby's first international exhibition flight which took place at Toyota's Higashi-Fuji Technical Centre in Shizuoka, Japan. The flight, completed within sight of Mount Fuji, marked an opportunity to demonstrate the low acoustic footprint of Joby's emissions-free aircraft and celebrate nearly seven years of collaboration between the two companies, during which time Toyota has supported Joby by providing insights from its extensive automotive manufacturing and technology expertise. Toyota engineers now work side-by-side with the Joby team in California and, in 2023, the two companies signed a long-term agreement for Toyota to supply key powertrain and actuation components to produce Joby's aircraft. This news came weeks after Toyota committed to invest an additional \$500 million in Joby, to support the certification and commercial production of the Company's electric air taxi. The additional funds will bring Toyota Motor Corporation's total investment in Joby to \$894 million and include plans to establish a manufacturing alliance to support the first phase of commercialization. The investment will be made in two equal tranches and is subject to standard regulatory approvals and certain other conditions, finalization of collaborative and commercial agreements and, with respect to the second tranche, the finalization of terms related to a strategic alliance focused on commercial manufacturing and certain other conditions.

**LILIUM** N.V. (NASDAQ: LILM) – A leading electric aircraft manufacturer and pioneer in Regional Air Mobility (RAM), has completed the first power-on milestone of its revolutionary all-electric Lilium Jet. The successful test procedure on the first in-production Lilium Jet, MSN 1, represents a significant achievement on the path to first flight and certification, confirming that the aircraft is built in accordance with Lilium's platform design and all conventional flight systems are functioning correctly. At power-on, the low-voltage electrical systems managing the aircraft's avionics – including cockpit display, flight controls, communication, navigation and surveillance systems, with the respective wiring and power distribution units – were switched on and tested aboard a Lilium Jet for the first time. The milestone thus corresponds to the customary power-on acceptance test procedure used in conventional commercial aircraft manufacturing. In the weeks ahead, following installation of the aircraft's batteries and propulsion units, Lilium's production teams will power-up and test the aircraft's high-voltage systems that provide the thrust for cruise flight, vertical take-off and landing. MSN 1 is due to become Lilium's lab test aircraft, or "iron-bird". It will be a fully functional aircraft and key asset for the certification program, being used to prove safety of flight and compliance with airworthiness requirements. The second Lilium Jet, MSN 2, also currently in final assembly, is the first aircraft that Lilium intends to fly with a pilot on board. Lilium intends to fly a total of six test aircraft up to type-certification and entry into service, targeted for 2026.

\*\*\*\*\* With eVTOLs on the cusp of taking off commercially in the coming years, GE Aerospace is partnering with Lilium, a leading electric aircraft manufacturer and pioneer in Regional Air Mobility (RAM), to build a solid safety foundation for this exciting new mode of travel. The two companies are bringing together their respective flight data and analytics platforms to build scalable flight data

management solutions that inform the right safety standards and guidelines for eVTOL operators. GE's Event Measurement System platform will be a critical digital component of Lilium's unique and comprehensive aftermarket offering "POWER-ON" that provides safe, efficient, and customer-centric solutions for operators of the Lilium Jet. All Lilium customers will have access to a range of digital services to support their daily operations with critical insights and actionable data. eVTOLs are flying today at dedicated demonstration and testing sites around the world in the US, Europe, and Asia, and first customer deliveries of the Lilium Jet are expected in 2026. The market is forecasted to grow to as much as \$1 trillion by the year 2040, according to JP Morgan.

\*\*\*\*\* Lilium N.V. (Nasdaq: LILM), Announced that it has appointed KPMG to conduct an open, transparent and fair M&A process. This followed the Local Court of Weilheim's approval of the insolvency filing of Lilium's German subsidiaries and the court's granting of Lilium's application for self-administration. Preliminary insolvency proceedings under self-administration are court-ordered restructuring proceedings aimed at preserving the business. The management remains in charge and leads the business through the proceedings, supported by restructuring experts. The court has appointed to the German subsidiaries' Boards of Management with immediate effect two restructuring-experienced lawyers, Prof. Dr. Gerrit Hölzle and Dr. Thorsten Bieg as Chief Insolvency Officers (CIOs). The court has also appointed attorney Mr. Ivo-Meinert Willrodt, Managing Partner at PLUTA Rechtsanwalts GmbH, as the provisional custodian. The first two Lilium Jets are currently on the final assembly line, with the first aircraft having recently completed the initial low-voltage power-on milestone and due to advance shortly into the ground testing phase. The fuselage and wings of the third aircraft are currently in assembly at aerostructures suppliers Aciturri and Aernnova. At the end of October, Lilium engineers moved a fully assembled, conforming Lilium Jet airframe into the static test rig for structural testing, in a significant advance for the program. The structural strength test is an essential part of the testing plan for first manned flight and type certification. The business' current order pipeline consists of firm orders, reservations, options, and memoranda of understanding for more than 780 Lilium Jets to operators in the U.S., South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Lilium has been notified by NASDAQ that trading of the company's shares and warrants will be suspended at the opening of business on November 6. Following trading suspension, the Company's ordinary shares may commence trading over the counter, which are likely to result in significantly lower trading volumes and could further depress the share price. Lilium N.V.'s Board of Directors authorized Lilium's listed entity, the Netherlands-registered public limited liability company (naamloze vennootschap) to file for insolvency on 4 November 2024.

**MANTA AIRCRAFT** – and Shenyang Aviation Industries Group are establishing a partnership to continue the path to develop the Manta ANN hybrid electric HeV/STOL for regional air mobility. The hybrid propulsion system, coupled with four optimized ducted fans for hovering and four for cruising, offers the longest range in the eVTOL segment, with high cruising speed. The program follows Manta Aircraft's program to develop a scalable technology for a multi-functional long-range HeV/STOL platform, from which several models can be derived, for public utility and service missions, as well as for fully autonomous high-performance operations. The partnership between Manta Aircraft and Shenyang Aviation Industries Group to develop the ANN Plus aircraft will lead to common research and development activity, production technology for two full-scale prototypes, certification with the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and industrialization. It will cover the Chinese and South Asian markets not only for the marketing activity but also for maintenance, repair and overhaul services. The partners are supported by Baoding Kaiborui Technologies Co Ltd. This new industrial partnership was presented on October 26, 2024, at a rollout ceremony in Shenyang, which was jointly hosted by the Shenyang Aviation Industry Group and Baoding Kaiborui Technology Co. Ltd.

**PLANA CO., LTD.** - A hybrid-based advanced air mobility (AAM) aircraft developer, announced on Oct. 21 it has signed an MOU with M.I. Air, a U.S.-based company specializing in the training of pilots for small or commercial aircraft, and a letter of intent (LOI) to purchase simulators and aircraft for the education of AAM-specific pilots. PLANA plans to supply M.I. Air with fully integrated flight

simulators by 2026, and M.I. Air plans to prioritize the introduction of PLANA's seven aircraft by 2030 and operate a professional pilot training course specialized in AAM. PLANA has signed approximately US\$700 million in aircraft purchases from Japan, South Korea and the United States from 2022, but this MOU and LOI are even more meaningful in that they have decided on a partner to develop a pilot training protocol that can be a driving force for actual type certification and commercialization. M.I. Air is an FAA-approved flight school operating both Part 141 and Part 61 courses, offering certifications such as private and commercial pilot licenses, instrument flight rules (IFR) education, etc. It is also authorized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to accept international students. Located in Chino, California, M.I. Air has been recognized as an outstanding flight school by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) from 2020 to 2024.

#### **OTHER NEWS**

**UK GOVERNMENT** – The New Air Passenger Duty (APD) rules announced in the UK will mean higher prices for both commercial flyers and private jet passengers. The new APD rules were announced on October 30, 2024, by the British Chancellor Rachel Reeves as part of the Labour government's 2024 Budget. New APD rules for passengers departing the UK onboard commercial airlines will only take effect from 26 April 2026, as the previous Conservative government had already set prices for April 2025 to March 2026.

**ROLLS-ROYCE** - Our current trading is in line with our expectations and the Full Year 2024 guidance provided on 1 August 2024 of underlying operating profit between £2.1bn and £2.3bn and free cash flow between £2.1bn and £2.2bn remains unchanged. We continue to strengthen our balance sheet. This has been recognised by the ratings agencies, all of which now hold us at an investment grade rating, and all with a positive outlook. In Civil Aerospace, demand remains strong across business aviation and widebody. Large engine flying hours grew by 18% year-on-year to 102% of 2019 levels for the 10 months to 31 October 2024. Our expectations for the full year 2024 of large engine flying hours at 100-110% of 2019 levels, 500-550 OE deliveries and 1,300-1,400 shop visits remain unchanged. Recent engine orders include 60 Trent 7000 engines by Cathay Pacific and an order for Trent 1000 engines by EL AL Airlines. We continue to target FAA certification of the improved HPT blade for the Trent 1000 TEN in the coming months, which will more than double the time on wing of the engine. In addition to our £1 billion time on wing investment programme we are continuing to invest to increase our MRO capacity for major shop visits by 2030 to support future aftermarket growth. In October, the Pearl 10X successfully completed its flying test bed campaign, an important milestone in the Falcon 10X flight test programme ahead of its entry into service in 2027. In Defence, demand remains strong with significant progress across key platforms. In August, the next phase of testing began on the F130 engine in Indianapolis, another step towards delivering the United States Air Force B-52J Stratofortress. In August, the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) programme for the U.S. Army entered the Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) phase of the acquisition process, the final phase before production commences. Work has also commenced for prime contractor SNC on the Survivable Airborne Operations Centre (SAOC) programme. The aerospace industry supply chain remains challenged. However, we continue to work with focus and intensity across our supply chain to support growing OE and aftermarket volumes. We have concentrated our efforts on 15 suppliers, where our interventions have driven performance improvements.

\*\*\*\*\* held a successful F130 engine Critical Design Review (CDR), clearing the way for final development, test, and production efforts to proceed and taking another step towards delivering the upgraded B-52J to the United States Air Force. This milestone is the culmination of over two years of detailed design work and close collaboration between teams at Rolls-Royce, the Air Force and Boeing. The engine testing program is on track to begin altitude testing in February 2025 at the U.S. Air Force Arnold Engineering Development Complex in Tullahoma, Tennessee. Rolls-Royce also recently completed the first phases of F130 sea-level tests in its Indianapolis facilities and wrapped up Rapid Twin Pod Tests at NASA Stennis Space Centre this summer. Sea-level testing gathered critical

performance data by running the initial software release for the engine in Test Cell 114. The test cell was recently revamped as part of a \$1 billion investment in modernizing Rolls-Royce's Indianapolis facilities to deliver innovation and advanced manufacturing for the Air Force and other customers with American labor. The F130 engines will be manufactured, assembled and tested in Indianapolis, Rolls-Royce's largest production facility in the U.S. Testing at NASA Stennis marked the first time F130 engines were tested in the dual-pod engine configuration of the B-52 aircraft. Rapid Twin Pod Tests played a key role in validating Rolls-Royce's analytical predictions, further de-risking the integration of the F130 engine onto the B-52J and meeting test goals.

**BRITISH AIRWAYS** – On 5 November 2024, British Airways marked the 25th anniversary since it first commenced operations from London-City Airport (LCY). The airline, which currently has a fleet of 20 Embraer ERJ-190s based at the airport, operates all services from the facility through its regional subsidiary BA Cityflyer.

**BBGA** – Fourteen UK airfields now trail blazing electric aviation: The British Business General Aviation Association (BBGA) is pleased to champion innovation stemming from general aviation. Did you know? we now have 14 airfields around the UK with resident electric-powered aircraft. Fairoaks Airport in Chobham, Surrey, has just become the latest to receive a Pipistrel Velis Electro, the only electric aircraft to date certificated for passenger flight by the UK Civil Aviation Authority. The leased aircraft has joined Synergy Flight Training from UK Distributor NEBOair. It is operating in collaboration with sustainability solutions pioneer 4AIR, a Flexjet sister company and BBGA member. Synergy Flight Training and 4AIR are partnering to bring a new era of decarbonised flying, enabling future pilots to be trained on fully electric aircraft in the South of England, mirroring operations at SaxonAir Aviation Training at Norwich Airport. Fairoaks and Norwich Airports join Duxford Airport, home of the British clean-tech innovator Faradair; Great Oakley Airfield; Humberside Airport, home of Eastern Airways; Old Buckenham Airfield, Popham Aerodrome, RAF Cranwell, Redhill Aerodrome, Rochester Airport, Sibson Aerodrome, Shipmeadow and Wickenby Aerodrome, in having resident Pipistrel Velis Electro aircraft, with charging supported by NEBOair. An additional 36 airfields taking charging infrastructure. Supporting the all-important infrastructure needed for the first all-electric aircraft, London-based Aerovolt, specialists in smart charging for electric aircraft, have deployed, or are in the throes of deploying, charging points at 36 UK airfields and airports. Lydd, Shoreham, Henstridge, Dunkeswell, Sandown, Bournemouth and Snowdonia Aerospace Centre will be joined by Goodwood, Thruxton and Blackbushe Airports in the next few months. Others committing to installations include Balado, Deanland Airfield; Derby; Isle of Man Ronaldsway; Kittyhawk; Lee-on-Solent; North Moor; Shobdon; Tatenhill and Teesside Airports.

**AIR CANADA** – 14 August 2024 - Air Canada today announced it is further boosting its schedule serving Canada's capital region with non-stop, international flights from Ottawa to London Heathrow. Flights will be operated four-times weekly with Air Canada's Dreamliner fleet offering a choice of three cabins beginning March 31, 2025. Seats are available for purchase now at [aircanada.com](https://aircanada.com), via the Air Canada app, travel agents and Air Canada's contact centres. "We are looking forward to the future delivery of Air Canada's new Airbus A321XLR fleet. The economics, optimum cabin size and range of the XLR which is expected to begin arriving in late 2025, will enable us to consider operating this important international route with greater frequencies and potentially with year-round service," concluded Mr. Galardo.

\*\*\*\*\* The next evolution of Air Canada's digital experience launched on December 3 with the expansion of the airline's Digital Identification program as a boarding option for almost all of its domestic flights at Vancouver International Airport (YVR). Following a successful pilot project on select flights, Air Canada and YVR are the first in Canada to invest in the technology and equipment to modernize the Canadian airport travel experience by offering travellers the convenience and security of digital recognition at the gate to confirm their identities. Digital identification is also available for customers to enter Air Canada's Maple Leaf Lounges in Toronto (YYZ), Calgary and San Francisco, as well as the Air Canada Café in Toronto. Additional airport boarding gates and touchpoints are planned to come on-line in future.



**BALMAN PROJECT BY HEMERIA** – On the night of October 30 to 31, 2024, the BalMan manoeuvring balloon, a high-altitude aerostat developed by Hemeria under the direction of the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES), successfully completed its maiden flight test. Conducted from the Guiana Space Centre (CSG), the test validated the balloon's stratospheric envelope reliability and flight safety systems. The BalMan project is supported by the French Directorate General of Armaments (DGA) and CNES, with additional funding from Hemeria. A second flight, scheduled for 2025, will focus on testing the balloon's manoeuvrability and payload capacity, reaching up to 50 kilograms (110 pounds). These trials will pave the way for BalMan's operational deployment.

**PLAY AIRLINES** – Is excited to announce the expansion of its PLAY Connect platform with the addition of easyJet, made possible through Dohop's alternative interlining technology. The new partnership with easyJet, Dohop's first airline partner, reflects PLAY's ongoing commitment to broadening travel options for its customers by providing seamless access to a wider range of destinations across Europe and beyond. With easyJet joining the platform, PLAY Connect now offers travellers more than 350 unique city pairs. By adding these journeys to its own alternative interline platform, PLAY Airlines is making it easier than ever for customers to book connected flights. Alternative interlining is a transformative approach in today's airline industry, enabling carriers like PLAY to offer more flexible and diverse travel options without the need for traditional interline agreements. By leveraging Dohop's technology, PLAY Connect can provide customers with a broader array of destinations and a more streamlined booking experience, enhancing customer satisfaction and meeting the growing demand for unique travel itineraries. The addition of easyJet to PLAY Connect marks a significant step towards PLAY Airlines' ambition to create a gateway for both Icelandic and international customers. PLAY Connect can now offer an even wider selection of global origins and destinations, extending far beyond its own network.

**PEGASUS AIRLINES** – Continues to introduce innovations to enhance its guests' travel experiences with the launch of this ground-breaking new multilingual project. From October, flights to Spanish, Arabic, and Russian-speaking countries feature AI-generated announcements in the respective local language, following the English version. This feature was initially introduced on the inaugural Seville route on 24 September. During the flight, guests were greeted in Spanish before being provided with information about the route. The Pegasus Innovation Lab, which was established last year in Silicon Valley to spearhead new technologies and innovations in the aviation sector, developed this project, which harnesses AI for voice cloning and multi-language announcement systems. The system clones the voices of male and female Pegasus captains to create dynamic multilingual announcements tailored to each flight. The announcements share details such as flight information, weather, destination, the captain's name, and flight duration, all updated via AI before take-off. With this project, Pegasus offers its guests a personalised and innovative flight experience by addressing them in their native languages.

**SKYRYSE** – Announced receipt of a Special Airworthiness Certificate for its first Skyryse One aircraft on 4 October 2024. Skyryse has been developing and flight testing its SkyOS system in pre-production aircraft since 2016. This certificate, issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), unlocks the next step of work with the FAA to obtain approval and certification of the Skyryse One aircraft.

"Today's milestone represents another important step in our mission of making flight simpler and safer for everyone," said Mark Groden, CEO of Skyryse.

\*\*\*\*\* The creator of SkyOS, the universal operating system for flight, announced that reservations for the Skyryse One First Edition have officially sold out in just six months. As the world's first production helicopter to feature a single control stick and two touch screens, Skyryse One represents a landmark advancement in pilot control and safety. Early adopters secured their reservations for the First Edition at an exclusive introductory price of \$1,800,000, excluding any additional customization options, underscoring the enthusiasm for this groundbreaking aircraft. Skyryse continues to accept reservations at \$2,500 for the base version of the Skyryse One aircraft, with final pricing to be based on customization and delivery preferences. Interested customers are encouraged to act quickly as Skyryse will honour current pricing based upon delivery year and placement on the reservation list.

“We are thrilled to see such remarkable interest in the Skyrise One First Edition,” said Jerry Meyer, chief marketing officer at Skyrise. “Our goal is to open up access to aviation by making it safer and simpler to pilot any aircraft. The market response that we’ve received for Skyrise One demonstrates the demand for this technology and we will continue to keep the reservation program open for those who want to join the Skyrise family.”

**ITP AERO** – Announced that they and Air Nostrum Engineering & Maintenance (ANEM) have signed a contract for the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) of General Electric CT7-9C3 engines, which power the CN235 aircraft fleet operated by SASEMAR (Sea Rescue Service). This contract, with an initial duration of three years, aligns with ITP Aero's strategic focus on expanding its presence in the MRO market and enhancing its aftermarket capabilities for key engine platforms currently in operation. The maintenance work will be performed at ITP Aero's facility in Albacete (Spain). “We are delighted to continue our partnership with Air Nostrum, as part of GE Aerospace's in-service engine community for CT7 engines” says Alan Jones, Executive Director of MRO.

**VERTICAL AVIATION INTERNATIONAL** – (Formerly Helicopter Association International) As part of its rebranding effort, Vertical Aviation International (VAI) is revamping several communication products to reflect the industry's growth and evolution. [www.Verticalavi.org](http://www.Verticalavi.org) (formerly rotor.org), the VAI Daily e-newsletter (formerly ROTOR Daily), and POWER UP (formerly ROTOR) magazine have made their debut over the last several weeks. These changes reflect the organization's new identity, introduced during HAI Heli-Expo 2024 in Anaheim. The VAI board of directors chose to rebrand the association, formerly Helicopter Association International, to unite the rapidly expanding vertical aviation industry under one banner, amplifying the industry's voice to advocate effectively with policymakers while harnessing the sector's unique abilities to strengthen communities. “We used a deliberate, focused approach to create a brand that represents, advocates for, and promotes all vertical flight aircraft,” said James Viola, president and CEO of VAI. “The launch of our new website, magazine, and newsletter is the result of years of research, discussion, and collaboration among our board of directors, VAI staff, and a consulting firm, all working together to bring our new brand to life.” Among other updates, the new website includes a Resource Hub, located on the main menu, designed to make it easy to find products, articles, and resources on the site. New website sections include a Regulatory Action Centre, which has resources for both members and non-members, and an expanded career development page to guide those considering careers in vertical flight. A page devoted to VAI member benefits provides a comprehensive review of all the programs and discounts available to the association's membership. In addition to broadening VAI's focus on diverse aircraft, the rebranding project aligns with VAI's five strategic initiatives, established by the Board of Directors several years ago.