INDUSTRY NEWS MARCH/APRIL AND MAY 2026
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Apologies for the delay with this edition, unfortunately my mother passed when originally preparing the March edition, so catching up here. You can share any aviation industry news and new designs in progress direct to myself at industrynews@laasdata.com, or by post to me at, **28 FOXFIELDS, BRACKLA, BRIDGEND CF31 2JL UK**. Please remember that if you require a postal reply, to enclose an SAE. **We have no objection to the use of the details below, but if any person/organisation wishes to use any content, please credit LAASI Aviation Ltd. Thank you.**

SUPERMARINE SEAPLANE: - The UK registered charity, Registered Charity No. 1190836, has a very interesting project in progress by **building the only flying replica in the world of the Supermarine S.5 seaplane**, made famous with its winning of the 1927 Schneider Trophy. **It is estimated that the project will require around Half a million UK pounds to reach its completion**. The project is also being assisted by the LAA. If anyone or any corporation would like to sponsor and/or donate financially or by offering volunteering skills and time towards the completion of this project, please visit their website at: **https://supermarineseaplane.co.uk/** , email them at info@supermarineseaplane.co.uk, or give them a call on +44 (0) 7585 663670 for more details.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN – **5 March 2025** – General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) president and CEO, James Viola, issued the following statement regarding the passing of **Russell W. "Russ" Meyer Jr**., (19 July 1932 – 4 March 2026), three-time GAMA chairman and chairman emeritus of the Cessna Aircraft Company: "Russ Meyer was a true champion of the general aviation industry. As an integral member of GAMA's board of directors and three-time chairman, his leadership and vision for the industry helped pave the way for the success and advancements that we see today – from the revitalization of general aviation to the focus on improving safety, advancing technology, strengthening the workforce and serving our communities. His dedication to the general aviation industry was remarkable and undeniable. On behalf of the entire GAMA staff and our membership, I extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to Russ's wife Helen, their family and friends, and the entire team at Textron Aviation. Russ leaves behind an incredible legacy that will continue to shape the future of general aviation. GAMA is grateful for Russ's inspirational industry leadership and his incredible contributions to the general aviation community."
SPIRIT AIRLINES: - **2 May 2026** - Spirit Aviation Holdings, Inc., parent company of Spirit Airlines, LLC, regretfully announced that the Company had started an orderly winddown of operations, effective immediately. All Spirit flights were cancelled, and Spirit Guests told not go to the airport.

CREDITS: Company Websites unless specified otherwise.

LUFTHANSA GROUP: - **11 May 2026** - Has ordered ten **Airbus A350-900s and ten Boeing 787-9s** long-haul aircraft at a list price of $7.7 billion. Delivery of the new aircraft is expected between 2032 and 2034. The decision regarding which airline and which hub the ordered aircraft will be deployed at will be made later.
***** **12 May 2026** - Lufthansa AG will exercise its option to acquire a majority stake in ITA Airways in June of this year. This will increase its stake from 41 to 90 percent. The acquisition of the additional 49 percent stake will take place at a previously agreed purchase price of 325 million euros. The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals, primarily from the European Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice and is expected to close in the first quarter of 2027. Following this, ITA Airways will be fully integrated into the Lufthansa Group, both organizationally and financially.

AIRBUS: - **2 March 2026** – Air Astana Group, has signed a firm order for 25 Airbus A320neo Family aircraft, the largest ever direct order by the group and includes five A320neo and 20 A321neo aircraft. Air Astana Group will deploy the new aircraft with both Air Astana and its low-cost subsidiary FlyArystan as part of the overall fleet expansion and renewal.
***** **16 March 2026** – Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc. ("Atlas"), a global leader in airfreight logistics based in the United States in New York, has placed a landmark firm order for 20 Airbus A350F freighters. The order is the largest, to date, placed for the latest generation fuel efficient A350F.
***** **18 March 2026** – AerCap Holdings N.V. ("AerCap") has signed a firm order with Airbus for 23 A320neo and 77 A321neo aircraft.
***** **23 April 2026 -** Airbus has completed the manufacturing and assembly of the first main deck cargo door for the A350F freighter at its facility in Illescas, Spain. The component has been delivered

to the Final Assembly Line (FAL) in Toulouse, where it will be integrated into the fuselage of the first test aircraft. Airbus is manufacturing two A350F aircraft for flight testing from 2026 to 2027.
***** **24 April 2026** – The first of 30 Airbus A321XLRs for Canada's flag carrier Air Canada, has been delivered. The delivery makes Air Canada the first operator of the A321XLR in Canada.
***** **6 May 2026** – AirAsia has placed an order for 150 latest generation A220-300 aircraft. The purchase agreement is the largest single firm order placed for the A220 and makes AirAsia a new customer for the type and launch customer for the aircraft's new cabin configuration of 160 seats.
***** **11 May 2026** – **SATAIR**, an Airbus company, announced the successful completion of its acquisition of **Unical Aviation Inc**. ("Unical") and its subsidiary **ecube**. The acquired companies will continue trading with their existing company names, and no job losses are anticipated.
***** **25 May 2026** – Saudia, has taken delivery of its first A321XLR, marking a significant milestone as the first airline in the Middle East and Africa to operate Airbus' newest extra-long-range single-aisle aircraft. The aircraft, with CFM International LEAP-1A engines, is the first of 15 A321XLRs on order.
***** **26 May 2026** – Air China Cargo Co., Ltd. has signed a purchase agreement with Airbus for four additional A350F freighters, taking its total order for the type to 10 aircraft.
***** **27 May 2026** – Hong Kong's Cathay Group has placed a firm order with Airbus for two additional Airbus A350F's. This will bring the airline's total order to eight of the new-generation cargo aircraft.
AIRBUS CORPORATE: - **4 May 2026** – Deliveries of Airbus' newest member of its corporate jet, the ACJ TwoTwenty, have begun in the Asia-Pacific region. The first aircraft of this type to be delivered, is the first 'turnkey' ACJ TwoTwenty contract, whereby the interior outfitting was undertaken prior to delivery by a partner and under ACJ's cabin project management. Comlux finalised the aircraft. Once it is in full service, the aircraft will be managed and maintained by Jet Aviation. This is fourth ACJ TwoTwenty to enter service worldwide. The next two customers, aircraft 5 and 6, are to be based in Asia: one is planned for delivery next year, and another the year after.
AIRBUS HELICOPTERS: - **4 March 2026 -** Airbus Helicopters, through its subsidiary Survey Copter, has been selected by the European Defence Agency (EDA) for the Multi Mission Unmanned Aircraft System (M2UAS) project. This strategic contract is part of a series of projects over 48 months. It involves the study and development of a hybrid uncrewed aircraft capable of performing various operational missions depending on its configuration and payloads.
***** **10 March 2026** - Airbus Helicopters and Garuda Technologies Inc. (Garuda) signed a contract for the delivery of up to 18 Flexrotor Uncrewed Aerial Systems. Garuda will offer Flexrotor services to its customers through both dry and wet lease options for a broad spectrum of civil and parapublic missions including infrastructure (roads, railways, and oil and gas pipelines, power lines) inspection, law enforcement, search, wildfire monitoring and disaster relief.
***** **11 March 2026** – Air Transport Europe (ATE), a HEMS operator in Slovakia, and Airbus Helicopters announced a contract for the purchase of one Airbus H135 and one Airbus H140 helicopter.
***** **11 March 2026** – German HEMS operator DRF Luftrettung and Airbus Helicopters announced a new order for four H145 helicopters.
***** **11 March 2026** – Both ÖAMTC Flugrettung and ADAC Luftrettung announced the signatures of a strategic long-term framework contract with Airbus Helicopters for Airbus H135, H140 and H145 helicopters. This framework contract solidifies the initial agreement announced at last year's Verticon, where ÖAMTC Flugrettung was presented as a launch customers and development partners of the new H140 helicopter.
***** **12 March 2026** – Japan's National Police Agency (NPA) has placed a follow-on order for three H135 helicopters as part of its ongoing fleet modernisation programme. These aircraft will be deployed to the Hokkaido, Shimane, and Miyagi Prefectural Police departments.
***** **7 April 2026** – The Vietnam Helicopter Corporation (VNH)'s subsidiaries, Southern Vietnam Helicopter Company and Northern Vietnam Helicopter Company, placed an order for three Airbus H225 helicopters, for the continued expansion of its offshore operations, and its fleet renewal process.
***** **20 April 2026** – The NATO agency in charge of the NH90 programme, NAHEMA, signed a contract with **NHIndustries** to launch the NH90 Block 2 architecture study. The Block 2 upgrade will include key structural improvements to the aircraft such as modular avionics, greater configuration commonality, improved maintenance and performance, as well as new capabilities in the fields of collaborative combat, connectivity and crewed-uncrewed teaming.
***** **27 May 2026** – The Czech Ministry of Interior and Airbus Helicopters have signed a contract for 11 five-bladed H145 helicopters, as part of the modernisation of the Czech Republic's public safety infrastructure, the new helicopters will be operated by the Czech Police Aviation Service.
AIRBUS MILITARY: - **13 March 2026** – Airbus is working at full throttle to offer the German Air Force an operational Uncrewed Collaborative Combat Aircraft (UCCA) system by 2029. In Manching, near

Munich, the company is currently preparing the first two Valkyries it acquired from its US partner Kratos Defence & Security Solutions, Inc. for their maiden flight with a sovereign European mission system. They are scheduled to fly later this year.
***** **30 March 2026** – The Airbus 'Bird of Prey' interceptor drone successfully completed its first demonstration flight at a military training area in northern Germany. In a realistic mission scenario, it autonomously searched, detected and classified a medium-sized one-way attack (kamikaze) drone. After successful identification, the Bird of Prey interceptor engaged the target with a Mark I air-to-air missile developed by defence tech start-up partner Frankenburg Technologies.
***** **22 May 2026** – The Royal Thai Air Force has acquired two Airbus C295 in tactical transport configuration, which will enhance Thailand's defence capabilities. The two C295s will be operated by the 46th Wing Division of the Royal Thai Air Force from the Phitsanulok air base. The aircraft will be assembled at the Airbus Defence and Space facilities in Seville, Spain, with the first delivery scheduled in the first half of 2029.
***** **27 May 2026 –** The Royal Thai Navy has acquired two Airbus C295 in an enhanced transport configuration that will enable surveillance and Search and Rescue missions, on top of the logistic operations for Thailand, which will be operated from the U-Tapao air base in Sattahip. The aircraft will be assembled at the Airbus Defence and Space facilities in Seville, Spain, with the first delivery scheduled by the end of 2028.
AMENTUM SERVICES INC: - **CREDIT: US DoW** – Has been awarded a contract for T-6 sustainment and contractor logistics support. This contract provides for 15 T-6A aircraft sustainment contract including Supply Support, Field Service Representative, Labor and Engineering Task Assignments for a 90-day transition period and one base year. Work will be performed at Balad Air Base, Iraq, and is expected to be completed by 30 June 2028. This contract involves Foreign Military Sales to Iraq.
ATR: - **16 March 2026** – Announced that Singapore-based lessor Avation has exercised purchase rights for five ATR 72-600 aircraft under its long-term agreement. Deliveries are scheduled for 2028/2029.
***** **19 March 2026** – Mandarin Airlines reached an important milestone in its partnership with ATR by completing the ferry flight of its ATR 72-600 using a blend of 30% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) on the first leg of the journey between Toulouse and Taipei.
***** **31 March 2026** – Leading turboprop lessor Abelo has confirmed three additional ATR 72-600 options from the agreement signed at the Dubai Air Show 2023. Deliveries are scheduled for 2027.
***** **3 April 2026** – Announced that SUM Air, Korea's newest regional airline, has placed an order for four brand-new ATR 72-600 aircraft, along with four additional purchase rights, with deliveries scheduled from 2028.
***** **24 April 2026 –** ATR and Air Nostrum Engineering & Maintenance Operations, the maintenance arm of the Spanish regional airline Air Nostrum and Mel Air, have renewed their Global Maintenance Agreement for a further five years.
***** **20 May 2026** – The world's first ATR 72-600 featuring the ATR HighLine "All-Business Class" configuration touched down in Kuala Lumpur, on delivery to Berjaya Air.
AURA AERO – **19 March 2026** - Has reached a decisive milestone with the granting of the building permit for AURA Factory at Toulouse-Francazal Airport.
***** **22 April 2026** – At Aero 2026 AURA AERO exhibited their INTEGRAL R & INTEGRAL S, and for the very first time, the brand-new interior design of ERA, a new hybrid electric aircraft.
***** **23 April 2026** - At AERO 2026, AURA AERO announced the signing of the first firm order for its INTEGRAL S from OK AVIATION in the Czech Republic.
BOEING: - **20 April 2026** - Boeing and Ethiopian Airlines announced the converting of options for six 787 Dreamliner jets from its 2023 landmark order.
***** **28 April 2026** - Boeing and Copa Airlines announced the Panamanian operator has ordered 40 737 MAX airplanes. Under the agreement, Copa Airlines also has options to acquire up to 20 more.
***** **29 April 2026** - Boeing and Kazakhstan's' SCAT Airlines announced the carrier will expand its fleet and boost capacity with the 737 MAX. The airline's previously unidentified order for five more 737-9 jets will support operational efficiency and expand longer-range single-aisle service, including more routes to Europe. SCAT also converted five 737-8 jets from a previous order to the larger 737-9.
***** **30 April 2026** - Boeing and Biman Bangladesh Airlines announced the national carrier has placed its largest-ever order, selecting Eight 787-10s, Two 787-9s, and Four 737-MAX 8s.
***** **3 May 2026** - Boeing and EgyptAir announced the Egyptian national airline took delivery of its first of 18 737 MAX-8's to be leased from SMBC Aviation Capital.
BOEING MILITARY – **15 April 2026** - The U.S. Army awarded Boeing a contract for six CH-47F Block II Chinook helicopters which increases the number of CH-47F Block II under contract to 24.

***** **27 April 2026** - Boeing [NYSE: BA] and the U.S. Navy have successfully completed the first test flight of an operational MQ-25A Stingray. During the two-hour flight, the unmanned aircraft successfully demonstrated its ability to autonomously taxi, take off, fly, land and respond to commands from the Unmanned Carrier Aviation Mission Control System MD-5 Ground Station.
***** **26 May 2026** - Engineers at the Boeing Oklahoma City site recently completed the preliminary design review (PDR) for integrating up to six Load Adaptable Modular (LAM) pylon onto the B-1. This design has the potential to integrate advanced munitions like hypersonic missiles and future standoff weapons.
***** **27 May 2026** - Boeing has delivered the first of its six contracted KC-46 tankers to the Israeli Air Force.

BOMBARDIER: - **9 March 2026** – Made an announcement to highlight the National Research Council of Canada's defence initiatives, including the purchase of a Global 6500, complementing the Government of Canada's order of 6 Global 6500 aircraft announced in December 2025.
***** **26 March 2026** - Celebrated the delivery of the first Global 8000 aircraft to fleet launch customer NetJets. NetJets plans to build a 24-strong fleet of Global 8000 aircraft and will be working with Bombardier to upgrade its entire in-service Global 7500 fleet to Global 8000 jets.
***** **15 April 2026** - Celebrated fleet operator Vista, on taking possession of its first Global 8000 aircraft at the company's London Biggin Hill Service Centre. This introduction marks the beginning of upgrades to Vista's current Global 7500 aircraft, with two per month planned until the full fleet of 18 are operational as Global 8000 jets by year end.
***** **26 May 2026** - Bombardier Defence announced that it will provide three Global 6500 aircraft to fly maritime surveillance missions. Metrea - the originator and leading provider of effects-as-a-service to national security partners - will operate the aircraft for the Australian Border Force.
***** **27 May 2026** - Bombardier Statement on Government of Canada Intention Regarding New Airborne Early Warning & Control Fleet: Bombardier applauds the federal government's decision to invest in Canadian industry by favouring a made-in-Canada solution based on the Bombardier Global 6500 aircraft. We also would like to congratulate our long-standing partner Saab on being selected as the preferred supplier for Canada's Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) fleet with its GlobalEye solution. The intention to bring GlobalEye modification and integration work to Canada, to be carried out by skilled Canadian aerospace workers, is a perfect example of a robust and comprehensive Defence Industrial Strategy at work, focused on building in Canada. For years, Bombardier has proudly delivered our Global aircraft to Saab to be transformed into the GlobalEye. This Canadian announcement creates the potential for a wider collaboration: Bombardier is entering into discussions with Saab to lead the modification program and lead Canada's industrial role in potential exports of this solution—all to maximize Canada's long-term benefits from this strategic purchase.

DAHER: - **30 March 2026** – Announced the delivery of a new TBM 980 to Ian Blair Fries, M.D., the sixth consecutive TBM acquired by this long-time owner over more than two decades.
***** **22 April 2026** – Announced at AERO 2026, the delivery of the 1,300th TBM family, a TBM 980, delivered to a US-based customer. The TBM 980 made its debut at this major European event.

DE HAVILLAND CANADA: - **10 March 2026** — Provided an update on the DHC-515 currently in production. DHC is producing 22 aircraft for European customers, including Croatia, Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, and France and recently signed contracts with the Canadian provinces of Manitoba, Ontario, and Alberta. Production is progressing on the first DHC-515 aircraft, with structures being assembled in our Canadian manufacturing facilities. The cockpit and the hull have been recently joined in our Calgary aerostructure assembly line to form the forward fuselage. We also recently completed the assembly of the first DHC-515 wing box, an impressive 28.6-meter-long structure.
***** **11 March 2026 -** Announced that Flytec, a regional airline based in Argentina, has taken delivery of a DHC refurbished Dash 8-400 aircraft. The aircraft will support mining operations in Argentina.
***** **11 March 2026** - Announced that an undisclosed Asia-Pacific carrier has signed a Purchase Agreement for three refurbished Dash 8-400 aircraft, with deliveries scheduled in 2027 and 2028.
***** **12 March 2026** - Announced that it has signed a Purchase Agreement with Asman Airlines for the delivery of a refurbished Dash 8-400 aircraft. This will be the fourth addition to Asman Airlines.
***** **20 March 2026** - Celebrated a defining moment in its aviation history with the delivery of its 999th and 1000th DHC-6 Twin Otter to SATENA, Colombia's state-owned regional airline.
***** **25 March 2026** - Announced that the Supplemental Type Certificate for its CL-415 Avionics Upgrade was officially approved by Transport Canada.
***** **15 May 2026** - Celebrated the official groundbreaking of **De Havilland Field**, a transformative aerospace hub in the heart of Wheatland County, Alberta. De Havilland Field will serve as the

company's home and create a purpose-built, state-of-the-art campus designed to support aircraft parts manufacturing, distribution and support for our customers and their fleets.
DIAMOND AIRCRAFT: - 15 April 2026 - Announced the delivery of the first two DA40 NG aircraft to Peregrine Howard Aviation during the Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo in Lakeland, Florida.
***** **28 April 2026** – Announced the successful delivery of a DA62 MPP (JDF T-12) to the Jamaica Defence Force, enhancing the nation's aerial surveillance and security capabilities.
***** **23-26 April 2026** – During the AERO 2026 event, Diamond Aircraft's UK distributor Gemstone Aviation signed a contract for a new DA42-VI aircraft for the UK. The event also marked further growth of Diamond Aircraft's Authorized Training Centre (DATC) program, with the addition of AEROTOURS (Germany) and Euro Flight Training (United Kingdom).
ELIXIR AIRCRAFT: - 10 April 2026 - After several months of operating its first two Elixir, Omni Aviation Training Centre is strengthening its choice and taking delivery of two additional aircraft, owned by ALD Lux. The Portuguese school, which had expressed its intention to acquire up to seven Elixir, is thus continuing the renewal of its fleet.
***** **22 April 2026 -** Elixir Aircraft unveiled the Elixir+ at the opening of AERO 2026. The Elixir+ marks a new milestone in the development of the 4th generation aircraft, dual-certified by EASA and FAA.
***** **22 April 2026 -** Greek flight school Global Aviation is one of the first customers for the Elixir+, with an order for five aircraft. As it approaches its 30th anniversary, the school continues to pursue the strategy to modernize its fleet and infrastructure. These Elixir aircraft will be deployed for VFR training operations at Ikaros Airport, north of Athens.
***** **23 April 2026 -** Elixir Aircraft announced the launch of its first three deliveries to the US market. Aircraft will be received by Cirrus Aviation, a Florida-based flight school, Elixir Aircraft's first US customer and have ordered 10 aircraft. Sierra Charlie Aviation based in Scottsdale Arizona will also receive their first Elixir as part of a pre-order for 100 aircraft. These first three US based Elixir will then be displayed at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh this July.
EMBRAER: **- 9 March 2026** – The first Embraer E-Freighter successfully entered service in Europe with launch customer Bridges Air Cargo. Its first commercial flight was from Cologne to Larnaca.
***** **23 March 2026** – Finnair have signed an agreement for up to 46 E195-E2 aircraft, comprising 18 firm orders, 16 options, and 12 purchase rights.
***** **30 April 2026** – Announced that the Praetor 600E has earned triple certification from Brazil's Civil Aviation Authority, the FAA, and EASA. The certification follows the unveiling of the new aircraft, along with the Praetor 500E, in February 2026. The Praetor 500E is expected to receive triple certification by year end. New order deliveries for both aircraft are planned to begin in 2029.
***** **4 May 2026** – Tawazun Council for Defence Enablement, the national entity for enabling and regulating the UAE's defence and security industrial ecosystem, has awarded a contract to Embraer for the procurement of 10 firm C-390 Millenium orders and 10 options to strengthen the country's operational airlift capabilities in collaboration with an Emirati defence company.
***** **8 May 2026** – Embraer reached revenues of US$1.4 billion in the first quarter of 2026, the highest level the company has ever achieved in a first quarter. The result represents a 31% year-over-year increase.
***** **22 May 2026 -** Embraer has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hellenic Aerospace Industry, to strengthen their strategic cooperation in aerospace and defence. The agreement is designed to equip the Hellenic Air Force with the operational and support autonomy needed to manage its future C-390 aircraft fleet while advancing the capabilities of the domestic industry.
GUIMBAL FRANCE – **11 March 2026 -** Successfully delivered the first **Guimbal Cabri G2** to **DSA a.s.**, a Czech aviation company operating helicopter emergency medical services, air transport services, and its own flight training school, which is using this step to modernize the fleet of its helicopter flight school. The Cabri G2, registration **OK-PID**, will be managed under the Continuing Airworthiness Management Organization.
***** **19 March 2026** – At VERTICON 2026, Hélicoptères Guimbal officially unveiled its new multi-purpose helicopter, the **Guimbal Cabri G5 (GrandCabri G5)**, a **five-seat helicopter** designed for a pilot and up to four passengers. This model represents a significant step forward for the company and its ambition to enter the light turbine helicopter segment. Airbus Helicopters simultaneously announced a minority investment in Guimbal. The development of the Cabri G5 is already at an advanced stage—technical specifications have been finalized, and production of the first prototypes has begun. Entry into service is expected before the end of this decade.
***** **20 March 2026 -** Centaurium Aviation based in Switzerland, took delivery of 2 brand new Cabri G2, freshly rolling out from the factory.
HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED (HAL): - 10 April 2026 - The upgraded HAL Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum was unveiled by Dr. D K Sunil, CMD, HAL, following extensive modernisation

that features immersive installations and advanced aviation exhibits. The museum reopened to the public on April 13. The outdoor aircraft park has displays of iconic platforms, including the HF-24 Marut, Ajeet, Lakshya Pilotless Target Aircraft, LCA Tejas, MiG 21, Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter and more. The museum is located on Old Airport Road, Marathahalli, Bengaluru, and is open from 09:00 – 16:30 every day.

***** **10 April 2026** - Handed over four ALH Mk III Maritime Role helicopters to the Indian Coast Guard, meeting the delivery timescale. These deliveries are part of the nine ALH MKIII (MR) contract signed in March 2024. HAL has delivered 16 ALH MKIII (MR) to the Indian Coast Guard till 2022 and an additional order for six more helicopters was signed in March 2026.

***** **13 April 2026** - Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production), Ministry of Defence inaugurated Prachand Light Combat Helicopter structure assembly line and an Automated Storage & Retrieval System at HAL's New Helicopter Factory in Tumakuru, Karnataka. The New Helicopter Facility is a state-of-the-art greenfield facility established to produce Light Utility Helicopter and Prachand LCH and will support future programmes such as Indian Multi Role Helicopter, and Deck-based Multi Role Helicopter.

ISRAEL AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES (IAI): **6 May 2026** - A global leader in aircraft passenger-to-freighter (P2F) conversions, announced that it reached a milestone in expanding its passenger-to-freighter conversion capabilities for the Airbus A330-300 program. With the aircraft now off jacks, the program has completed its primary structural work and made significant progress toward conversion completion and certification. The program is now entering the ground and flight test phase, with the first flight of the converted aircraft scheduled to take place in the upcoming weeks and certification expected by the end of the year.

KOREAN SEROSPACE INDUSTRIES (KAI): - **8 April 2026** - The KF-21 'Boramae,' the long-awaited cornerstone of South Korea's aerospace industry, has officially entered its mass production phase. The 'KF-21 Unit No.1 was Rolled-out at a Ceremony at KAI's HQ in Sacheon. This comes 10 years after the project's inception in 2015. With this roll-out, South Korea solidifies its position as the 8th country in the world to independently develop and mass-produce an advanced supersonic fighter jet. It will be delivered to the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) in late 2026 following rigorous ground and flight testing.

LEONARDO: - **14 May 2026** - The Peruvian Air Force has placed an order for an additional C-27J Spartan, as part of its air mobility enhancement programme aimed at addressing the country's complex geography, challenging terrain and the need to reach remote areas. The contract brings the total number of C-27Js acquired by Peru to five, with delivery to FAP's Grupo 8 expected in 2027.

***** **26 May 2026** - ITPS Canada has signed a contract for six M-346 T Block 20 lead-in jet trainers with options for an additional six aircraft. The new trainers are expected to enter service at the company's International Tactical Training Centre base in North Bay (Ontario) starting in 2029.

***** **29 May 2026** – The Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs has placed an order for two C-27J Spartan's. Delivery of the first of these two aircraft is expected in 2029.

LOCKHEED MARTIN: - **6 March 2026** - Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company is preparing to build the first production batch of S-92A+ helicopters, the latest variant of its flagship commercial heavy-lifter. The A+ will be manufactured and assembled in Stratford and Owego, New York, for a new head-of-state transport customer, and potential orders from Head of State and offshore-energy customers.

***** **23 April 2026** - Lockheed Martin welcomed the Government of Peru's announcement to purchase 12 new F-16 Block 70 aircraft to modernize the nation's fighter fleet and enhance its national defence.

***** **27 April 2026** – The USMC awarded a contract to Sikorsky, for the "Medium Aerial Resupply Vehicle – Expeditionary Logistics", Increment 2 program. The offering selected for award is the R66 TURBINETRUCK, an autonomous cargo helicopter commercially developed by Sikorsky and Robinson Unmanned that combines Sikorsky's proven MATRIX™ autonomy system with the rugged R66 airframe. The R66 TURBINETRUCK is enabled by the MATRIX system and will leverage similar features as Sikorsky's new fully autonomous S-70UAS™ U-Hawk™ helicopter.

***** **29 April 2026** – Lockheed Martin will provide training devices and services for the E-130J Phoenix II as part of Northrop Grumman's industry team supporting the U.S. Navy's "Take Charge And Move Out" mission.

***** **27 May 2026** - Heli-One, a global leader in helicopter Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul ('MRO'), has opened the first S-92® helicopter Customer Support Centre in Brazil to provide scheduled and unscheduled maintenance on any S-92 aircraft in the region. Authorized by Sikorsky, the support centre is a foundational pillar for a comprehensive S-92 Centre of Excellence, which will offer a broad range of sustainment services for the platform, including parts provisioning and an overhaul and repair capability.

PILATUS: - **4 March 2026** - The first of five brand-new PC-12 PROs, c/n 3010, was delivered to the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (RFDS) Central Operations. The RFDS is a highly valued customer for over 30 years, so it seems fitting that the world's first PC-12 PRO in aeromedical configuration should go to our longest-standing aeromedical partner.
***** **10 March 2026** - Life Flight Network has signed a ten-year agreement and placed a firm order for twelve turnkey medevac-configured PC-12 PROs, with additional options secured for future fleet expansion. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in 2027, marking a significant long-term investment in advanced air medical capabilities. Life Flight Network is the launch customer in the United States for the PC-12 PRO with an aeromedical interior. The aircraft will be delivered by Pilatus Aircraft USA Ltd at its Broomfield-based operation and will be outfitted for Intensive Care Unit level care and transport.
***** **30 March 2026** - The Indonesian Ministry of Defence has selected the PC-24 to support the Indonesian Air Force transport pilot training, air transport and liaison missions. A contract for twelve PC-24s has been signed with PT E-System Solutions Indonesia, the authorized defence contractor by the MoD. The contract includes an option for additional aircraft, ground support equipment, tools, spare parts, training, and technical support from Pilatus headquarters in Stans, Switzerland. At the same time, a Letter of Intent was signed for the supply of 24 PC-21 trainers with similar support.
***** **1 April 2026** - Pilatus acquired German Air Alliance GmbH. The entire workforce of around 120 employees will be retained under the acquisition. René Petersen, the current Managing Director, will remain with the company as CEO. He and his team will lead further operations under the new ownership structure. Unicair GmbH, the Air Alliance Group's subsidiary, which provides global ambulance flights, is not part of the acquisition and will remain an independent company.
***** **17 April 2026** - Pilatus marked the official start of construction on a new state-of-the-art facility at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport in Broomfield, Colorado. The new building will house a premium customer delivery centre, where customers from all over the country can configure and personalize their PC-12 or PC-24. Additionally, Pilatus will significantly expand its existing engineering as well as passenger seat processing capabilities for the growing fleet.
PIPER AIRCRAFT: - **14 April 2026** - Piper Aircraft announced that the new advanced 7-Blade MT-Propeller received EASA Supplemental Type Certificate approval for the M700 FURY with FAA certification expected soon. The 7-Blade MT-Propeller provides M700 FURY operators with notable performance improvements, decreased take-off distance, higher climb rate, and a quieter cabin.
***** **17 April 2026** – Piper Aircraft, Inc. announced that Blitz Aviation has joined the Piper Flight School Alliance as its newest member. Based in Ogden, Utah, Blitz Aviation has placed an initial order for three Pilot 100i aircraft, with plans to expand its fleet in the coming years. Delivery of the first three aircraft is expected in late 2026.
ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY (RHC): - **10 March 2026** – Has advanced its R88 development program, integrating a new group of strategic suppliers, during VERTICON 2026, to further enhance the aircraft's mission readiness. Building upon the foundational partnerships established last year with Garmin and Safran Helicopter Engines, these new collaborators will introduce state-of-the-art health monitoring and datalink systems in addition to equipment designed specifically to reduce downtime.
***** **11 March 2026** - Will implement Crewchief Systems next-generation digital aircraft management capabilities across the future R66 NxG and R88 helicopters, along with all legacy R22's, R44's and aircraft sent in under the new RHC trade in program. Adding the Crewchief platform to future and legacy Robinson helicopters offers owners and operators a secure, cloud-based digital infrastructure with lifetime visibility into each aircraft's operational and maintenance history. The initiative replaces fragmented, paper-based logbooks and disconnected systems with a secure, structured digital environment that delivers real-time operational and maintenance intelligence.
SAAB: - **25 March 2026** - Saab, Embraer and the Brazilian Air Force (FAB) officially presented the first supersonic fighter aircraft produced in Brazil during a ceremony held at Embraer's industrial complex in Gavião Peixoto, São Paulo State. The roll-out of the first Gripen E fighter produced in Brazil marks a significant achievement and places the country among a select group of nations capable of producing advanced fighter aircraft. Another 14 aircraft under the current contract with the Brazilian Air Force will follow this same production model. Before final delivery to the customer, the aircraft will undergo functional testing and production flight tests. The fighter will then join the First Defense Group (1st GDA) at the Anápolis Air Force Base.
***** **30 April 2026** - Hungarian Defence Forces celebrated the delivery of the first two of four new Gripen C fighters, to be operated by the 101st Aviation Wing, based at Kecskemét Air Base, Hungary.
***** **19 May 2026** - Saab and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. successfully completed the first flight of the world's first unmanned Airborne Early Warning solution. This achievement was made possible by integrating Saab's LoyalEye radar sensor with GA-ASI's unmanned MQ-9B aircraft.

TECNAM: - **4 March 2026** - Tecnam announced the delivery of a new P2006T NG (Multi-Engine Trainer configuration, EC-ORF) to CANAVIA Aviation Training, based in the Canary Islands, Spain.
***** **10 March 2026** - Tecnam announced the delivery of the first US-based P2012 Traveller equipped with Continental engines to a private owner. The P2012 Traveller will be the primary logistical and transport link for Spanish Cay, a private island destination in the Bahamas.
***** **17 March 2026** - Tecnam announced that One Air Aviation, a leading European pilot school based at Málaga in Spain, has selected a new Tecnam P2006T NG. This follows recently being confirmed as the Launch Customer for the new P2008JC NG with an order of four aircraft.
***** **19 March 2026** – Tecnam announced that Virginia-based Star Flight Training has expanded its fleet with four IFR-equipped Tecnam P-Mentor aircraft.
***** **26 March 2026** – Tecnam announced a fleet expansion for the Colombian company, AVIATEK Group, acquiring two new Tecnam P2006T NG Special Mission Platform. The first aircraft is for the launch of its Polish sister organization, EKOLOT.
***** **9 April 2026** – Tecnam and Spanish aviation group World Aviation S.L. announced a landmark partnership to supply the Portuguese Air Force with a modern fleet of flight training aircraft. Awarded by the Ministry of National Defence, World Aviation will deliver seven new Tecnam P-Mentor aircraft, with synthetic training systems and dedicated flight instructor training.
***** **9 March 2026** - Tecnam announced that the renowned Chilean aviation group, DAP, has expanded its fleet with the addition of a brand-new Tecnam P2012 Traveller. the aircraft will be based in Punta Arenas.
***** **15 April 2026** - Tecnam announced that scenic flight operator Glenorchy Air will be the launch customer for the Tecnam P2012 Traveller in New Zealand, following the certification of the P2012 by the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand in March.
***** **22 April 2026** – Building on the global triumph of the P2012 series, Tecnam proudly pulled back the curtain on the highly anticipated P2012 VIP at AERO. Tecnam also announced the official launch of the **P2010 MkIII** upgrade.
***** **22 April 2026** – At AERO, Tecnam announced a major fleet expansion agreement with UK-based ACS Aviation, the Scottish flight training academy. ACS Aviation has signed for a 10-aircraft plan over the next four years. The initial phase includes four confirmed orders for the P-Mentor. The agreement also secures options for six additional aircraft. This investment will see ACS Aviation's fleet grow to 23 aircraft by 2027.
***** **22 April 2026** – At AERO, Smart Aviation based at Poznan, Poland, officially sign a contract to expand its training fleet with an order for 10 new P2008JC NG aircraft.
***** **23 April 2026** – At AERO, Tecnam celebrated a double milestone for the company and its in-house training division. The EASA Type Certificate for the new P2008JC NG was officially handed over. Following the EASA presentation, Paolo Pascale Langer, CEO of Tecnam, officially handed over the very first aircraft to his daughter, Carolina, Accountable Manager of the Tecnam Flight Academy.
***** **23 April 2026** – At AERO, Tecnam and German operator AirTaxi Express AG announced a fleet expansion. To support the growing demand, AirTaxi Express has selected the twin-engine Tecnam P2006T NG for its commercial Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations across Europe.
***** **24 April 2026** – At AERO, Tecnam announced that Denmark's leading flight school, Centre Air Pilot Academy, has signed an agreement to acquire ten P-Mentor aircraft and one P2006T NG.
***** **24 April 2026** – At AERO, Tecnam celebrated another major milestone as it officially handed over the third P2010 TDI to the Finnish Aviation Academy. This delivery marks the continued progress of a landmark ten-aircraft fleet modernization contract awarded in 2025. FINAA is owned by the Finnish government and headquartered in Pori.
***** **24 April 2026** – At AERO, Tecnam announced Greybird Aviation Group officially signed a major fleet expansion agreement. To support its rapidly growing operations across Europe, has ordered thirteen new aircraft, (ten P-Mentor's and three 2006T NG aircraft). Greybird Aviation Group has bases in Denmark, Sweden, and Spain.
***** **24 April 2026** – At AERO, Tecnam announced a new partnership with A-VIATOR, a Belgian flight school, to support its expansion, A-VIATOR has officially committed to standardizing its fleet with Tecnam, marked by an order for a new P2008JC NG.
***** **28 April 2026** – Following the highly successful AERO, Tecnam announced a new partnership with Spain's pilot training provider, European Flyers. During a signing ceremony at the show. European Flyers, with bases in Cuatro Vientos (Madrid), Mutxamel (Alicante), Casarrubios (Toledo) and Seville, finalized the agreement to acquire a fleet of twelve Tecnam P2010 TDI aircraft.
***** **8 May 2026** - Tecnam announced that GM Aviation, the official and exclusive Tecnam dealer for Germany and Austria, has officially confirmed orders for two new aircraft: a P2010 Gran Lusso

TDI and a P2008JC NG. GM Aviation will utilize both aircraft as dedicated demonstrators for potential customers across Germany and Austria.
***** **11 May 2026** - Tecnam and St Barth Executive announced the expansion of scheduled operations in the Caribbean, which started on 30 April, with the introduction of the Tecnam P2012 STOL aircraft on the high-demand route between Sint Maarten (SXM) and St Barthélemy (SBH).
***** **12 May 2026** - Tecnam announced that the new Flight Academy of South Texas (FAST) has officially taken delivery of its first Tecnam P-Mentor aircraft and plans are firmly in place to acquire five additional P-Mentor aircraft.
***** **20 May 2026** - Announced a historic milestone for Australian aviation, as Queensland-based Horizon Airways introduced the country's first Tecnam P2012 STOL aircraft to its fleet. Operating since 1994, Horizon Airways has been a lifeline for communities across Central, Western, and Northern Queensland, including Mabuiag, Darnley, and Murray Islands, which are home to some of Australia's shortest commercial airstrips. This purpose-built aircraft will revolutionize regional air travel in the Torres Strait and Cape communities, replacing an aging fleet of 1970s-era aircraft.
***** **20 May 2026** - Announced that the Belgian ultralight flight school U.E.S., operating as "FLY4FUN" at Avernas-le-Bauduin (EBAV), has confirmed the order of a new Tecnam P92 MkII, with its scheduled delivery in spring 2027.
***** **21 May 2026** - Announced during the Stratus Aero Summit '26, Tecnam announced that Valor Flight Academy, a newly established, premium flight training organization in Southeast Michigan, has officially launched operations at Willow Run Airport (KYIP) with the introduction of its first Tecnam P2008 MkII aircraft. Through a strategic leaseback partnership via Vector Flight Leasing, the academy is looking to acquire two further aircraft, bringing their initial Tecnam fleet to three.
TEXTRON AVIATION: - **7 April 2026** - Announced a new In-Flight Operable Door option for the passenger variant of its Cessna SkyCourier, expanding the aircraft's Special Mission versatility for military, humanitarian and commercial operations. The functionality is expected to be available as a Special Mission factory-installed option in 2028.
***** **7 April 2026** - Announced Belgium has selected the Cessna SkyCourier as its newest special mission aircraft, with an order for five multirole aircraft to support the nation's Special Operations Forces. The selection launches the SkyCourier into the global defence market for the first time. Deliveries to the prime contractor Sabena Engineering are expected throughout 2027, followed by in-country military modifications prior to delivery to the Belgian Special Operations Forces.
***** **7 April 2026** - The Peruvian Army has signed an agreement to purchase a cargo door equipped Beechcraft King 360C aircraft, to deliver critical services for communities across the country. The aircraft is expected to enter service in 2028.
***** **8 April 2026** - Indonesian operator PT Semuwa Aviasi Mandiri, the company member of PT Yasa Artha Trimanunggal (Yasa - SAM Air), has placed an order for a Cessna Caravan.
***** **10 April 2026** - Announced a suite of new enhancements for its Cessna piston lineup, including the Cessna Skyhawk, Cessna Skylane, Cessna Turbo Skylane and Cessna Turbo Stationair HD. The updates feature the Garmin G1000 NXi System Release 7 avionics upgrade and the Lycoming dual electronic ignition system. Aircraft equipped with these enhancements are expected to enter service late 2026 through early 2027.
***** **21 April 2026** - Announced at AERO it has entered into a purchase agreement with LUMINAIR, a private jet operator in Europe, to operate nine Cessna Citation Latitude business jets. Deliveries are expected to begin this year.
***** **21 April 2026** - Honeywell Aerospace Technologies plans to expand the F124-GA-200 aircraft engine manufacturing in Arizona to support the Beechcraft M-346N as the U.S. Navy's new jet trainer.
***** **23 April 2026** - Textron Aviation entered into an agreement with SD Aviation for two Cessna Citation M2 Gen3 business jets and a Cessna Citation CJ3 Gen2 business jet with options for three additional light jets. Deliveries are expected to begin in 2027.
***** **23 April 2026** - Announced that Turkish Airlines Flight Academy has signed a purchase agreement for 10 Cessna Skyhawk aircraft, expanding its training fleet to support growing airline pilot demand across Europe. Deliveries of the new aircraft are expected to begin this year.
***** **5 May 2026** - Textron Aviation Inc. achieved a major milestone as the first three Cessna Citation Ascend business jets were delivered to fleet launch customer NetJets.
***** **12 May 2026** - Announced the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has ordered three Cessna Caravan aircraft to support its sterile insect release program protecting citrus crops along the Rio Grande River in southern Texas.
***** **15 May 2026** - The Cessna SkyCourier reached a new milestone with the recent delivery of the first aircraft into the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). The 19-passenger variant delivered to AIR

Marshall Islands Inc. is equipped with the optional passenger-to-freighter conversion kit. An additional SkyCourier is expected to be delivered this year.
***** **18 May 2026** - The iconic Beechcraft King Air 360 is making its entry into Mongolia with charter operator Hunnu Air placing the first order for the turboprop aircraft in the country. With delivery expected at the end of 2027.
***** **27 May 2026** - Textron Aviation Inc. announced it has entered into a multi-aircraft fleet purchase agreement with Platoon Aviation that positions the Hamburg-based charter operator to become the largest Cessna Citation Longitude fleet owner in Europe. Deliveries of the Citation Longitude aircraft are expected to begin in 2027.
***** **29 May 2026** – Textron Aviation announced the completed expansion of its flight test hangar on the company's East Wichita Campus. The 57,000-square-foot expansion adds six new hangar bays on the north side of the facility, significantly increasing capacity for flight test operations as activity continues to accelerate for the twin-engine, large utility SkyCourier. The expanded footprint will also support ongoing flight test and entry-into-service work for the Beechcraft Denali.
TEXTRON BELL: - 9 March 2026 - Bell Textron Inc. successfully held the Critical Design Review (CDR) for the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency's SPeed and Runway INdependent Technologies (SPRINT) program. This milestone allows Bell to begin building the next-generation aircraft demonstrator, recently designated as the X-76.
***** **10 March 2026** - Bell Textron Inc. announced during VAI Verticon conference that the Texas Department of Public Safety has signed a purchase agreement for a Bell 407GXi.
***** **11 March 2026** - Bell Textron Inc. announced during VAI Verticon the purchase order for two Bell 505s by California's Pasadena Police Department.
***** **12 March 2026** - Bell Textron Inc. announced during VAI Verticon the signed purchase agreement of a third Bell 429 to QuikTrip Corporation.
***** **12 March 2026** - Bell Textron Inc. announced during VAI Verticon that the National Transmission Company South Africa has signed a purchase agreement for seven Bell 407GXis for utility operations.
***** **15 April 2026** - Bell Textron Inc. announced that the U.S. Army officially designated the MV-75 as the Cheyenne II. Consistent with the U.S. Army tradition of honouring Native American tribes, the MV-75 honours the heritage of two federally recognized Cheyenne nations: the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in Montana and the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes in Oklahoma.
***** **22 April 2026** - Bell Textron announced that it has successfully signed purchase agreements for three Bell 429s for undisclosed VIP operators in the United Kingdom and Estonia during AERO 2026.
***** **6 May 2026** - Bell Textron Inc. celebrates the commissioning of three Bell 429 helicopters by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) for use in North Queensland.
***** **14 May 2026** - Bell Textron Inc. announced the order of three additional Bell 407GXis by Life Flight Network, the largest not-for-profit air medical program in the country with the largest Bell HEMS fleet, operating 35 Bell aircraft.
***** **28 May 2026** - Bell Textron Inc. announced the order of the first Bell 407GXi helicopter in India to TransBharat Aviation Private Limited, one of India's most established non-scheduled rotary-wing operators, founded in 1990.
VERTICAL AEROSPACE: - 14 April 2026 - Vertical became the second company globally to complete a two-way piloted transition flight in a full-scale tiltrotor eVTOL and the first to do so under civil aviation Design Organisation Approval regulatory oversight. Chief Test Pilot Simon Davies completed the flight – transitioning from vertical take-off to wing borne cruise and back to vertical landing - all in one continuous flight. This builds on Vertical's thrust borne transition on 2 April 2026
WINDRACERS: - 9 March 2026 – The British dual-use heavy-lift drone company is the first heavy-lift drone operator in the world to achieve the "Basic Aviation Risk Standard", Green status.
***** **11 March 2026** – Windracers ULTRA, the world's most accomplished dual-use heavy-lift drone, will be deployed in Greenland to unlock new climate data in one of the most remote and extreme environments on Earth. The deployment planned for June 2026 forms part of the Greenland Ice sheet to AtlaNtic Tipping points from ice loss programme, an international research mission to understand how melting glaciers are pushing the Atlantic Ocean towards a critical climate tipping point.
***** **15 April 2026** – Has been selected as one of three primary suppliers in the UK Government's largest ever drone support package for Ukraine. Announced by Defence Secretary John Healey at the Ukraine Defence Contact Group in Berlin, the landmark £752m package includes 120,000 drones and represents a significant step in strengthening Ukraine's operational capability, while reinforcing the UK's position as a leader in autonomous defence technologies.
***** **5 May 2026** – Has been recognised in a UK Government announcement setting out nearly £50 million to accelerate drone adoption and unlock advanced air mobility across the UK.