



Bell gives FLIR image rights

FLIR Systems' (Hall 2, B14) Brite Star II sensor system has been selected by Bell Helicopter for the US Army's armed reconnaissance helicopter (ARH-70A) programme.

The Brite Star II airborne stabilised multi-sensor system will act as the ARH-70A's target acquisition sensor suite.

It incorporates a third-generation thermal imager, a CCD-TV camera, a laser designator and a laser rangefinder.

The system's predecessor is fitted to US Marine Corps' UH-1N Huey helicopters, many of which are deployed in

Iraq and Afghanistan.

FLIR president and CEO Earl Lewis said: "We are delighted to have won this award from Bell and to be selected to provide this critical system for an important Army aviation programme.

This selection demonstrates FLIR's ability to provide state-of-the-art commercially developed, military qualified products to the US Armed Forces."

The announcement follows the selection at the start of July of FLIR's Star Safire III multi-sensor thermal imaging systems for the Spanish Marine Safety Agency's fleet of AgustaWestland AW 139 helicopters.

First showing for Indian IT pioneer HCL Technologies

Among this year's show debutants is HCL Technologies (Hall 4, G15), a Boeing 787 software development partner and the first Indian software and IT services provider to be awarded AS 9100 aerospace quality-assurance certification.

Besides the new Boeing, HCL has worked on another 25 fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, serving airframe manufacturers, systems integrators and Tier 1 suppliers.

Its service offering covers software and hardware engineering, field-programmable gate array (FPGA) design and verification, and mechanical design and analysis.

Explosive

Current projects include the establishment of a design centre for a Tier 1 aerospace company that will employ 100-150 engineers.

"We're in the midst of explosive growth," says Martin Hunt, head of HCL's European engineering and aerospace division.

"It's estimated that the aerospace technology outsourcing market in India is currently worth about \$150 million, rising to \$1 billion over the next four years.

"We aim to continue to grow with this industry."

HCL Technologies operates a global network of 26 offices in 15 countries, serving the banking, insurance, retail, automotive, electronics, telecoms and life sciences sectors as well as aerospace.

Qinetiq team gives hi-fi to high-fliers

Farnborough-based technology company Qinetiq (Hall 4, C12) and its German partner Lufthansa Technik will reveal here today that they are to supply trim-panel speaker (TPS) kits for series-production business aircraft.

Qinetiq's TPS technology uses existing aircraft fittings to produce significantly higher audio quality than conventional speakers, while blending indistinguishably with the cabin lining in the form of flat or curved panels.

Following a memorandum of understanding between the two companies in 2003, Hamburg-based Lufthansa Technik has incorporated the new speakers into the range of entertainment and other systems supported by its NICE Ethernet-based cabin network. The speakers have already been installed successfully in two Boeing BBJs and the upper deck of a VIP Boeing 747, and they



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are now to be made available in kit form for smaller business aircraft.

"TPS delivers better sound quality than conventional speakers, making muffled or ear-piercing audio and announcements a thing of the past," says Qinetiq civil aviation director Ron Van Manen. "The technology has its

origins in our military aerospace heritage but its future lies in the commercial world."

The principles behind TPS emerged from work by Qinetiq precursor DERA on cutting noise in military helicopter cabins which showed that the roof panels made excellent radiators of sound. It followed that

attaching a moving-coil actuator to a trim panel would turn it into a single large speaker.

Qinetiq and Lufthansa Technik are also carrying out complementary work designed to reduce the level of aerodynamic boundary-layer noise transmitted into airliner cabins by the aircraft's own structure.

Miniature valve packs big value

A miniature three-way high flow piloting solenoid valve produced by American component manufacturer Lee (Hall 4, F7) offers dramatic space and weight savings, says the company.

Available in a single coil configuration, the compact valve weighs just 4oz (11g) and uses only 7.8W at 28V DC.

A plunger design and materials used in the magnetic circuit result in a miniature, low power consumption solenoid with an unusually efficient force/stroke relationship.

Lee says the new sealing technology eliminates conventional O-rings and back-up rings, and radically simplifies port layout by allowing two ports to be sealed in the same axial plane.



FPT light fuel system supports Smart UAV

FPT Industries' ultra-light-weight fuel system for the Korean Smart UAV will enhance critical performance factors such as the 'loiter on target' time, range and payload.

It combines advanced composite materials with a new range of low mass fixtures and connectors, to create what the company describes as the most advanced UAV fuel system on the market.

FPT Industries has a track record in the application of flexible composite materials in the design and manufacture of lightweight fuel bladders for operation in extreme and rigorous environments.

System

The Korean Smart UAV's fuel system is based around six fuel tanks manufactured using this technology, with a supporting fuel supply and conditioning system that optimises the fuel supply - and therefore platform performance - in any operating environment.

Speaking at Farnborough, John Pritchard, vice-president operations of FPT Industries, comments: "The growth in the use of UAVs, and the potential of this market, clearly make this a focus for the FPT business in the medium to long term. This Korean contract demonstrates the strength of our relationship with the Korean aerospace industry and places FPT Industries in a strong position in the development of civil UAVs."

Smart UAV is a developmental programme scheduled to run to 2012 with the aim of designing an intelligent, VTOL, tiltrotor UAV platform, with levels of speed and reliability similar to general aviation aircraft.

JSF life support systems cleared

Air Liquide (Hall 1, B18) technology for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter has cleared testing hurdles.

The French company's Service Connection Package (SCP), part of the pilot's life support system (LSS), has come through the test programme on schedule, and been cleared for safety of flight, as has the LSS itself. Certification of the SCP and LSS is now in progress to support the first flight of the JSF next month.

Air Liquide's Advanced Technologies (DTA) was chosen by Honeywell in 2001 to develop the SCP. It is one of three companies that develop and manufacture SCPs for use in military aircraft.

The device, along with an OnBoard Oxygen Generation System (OBOGS) and a Backup Oxygen Supply, forms part of the LSS. Fixed to the pilot's seat, it regulates the flow and pressure of gases including oxygen-enriched air and pressurised air for the counter-G-force bladders in his jacket.

German duo cleared for joint 328 support

In an unprecedented development in European civil aviation, German-based companies 328 Support Services and GCT Design Organisation (Hall 4, E11), have obtained EASA (21J) approval for GCT to take over design organisation authority for the Dornier 328 Jet and Turboprop. 328 Support Services, whose parent company, Corporate Jet Services, purchased the former AvCraft Aerospace in January this year, continues as the type certificate holder.

Oberpfaffenhofen airport-

based 328 Support Services has its own maintenance, repair and modification facilities approved to EASA 145 standards. It employs 75 staff and specialises in customer support, providing Dornier 328 operators with spares and components, technical and engineering services, maintenance and modification.

Its site 20km south-west of Munich also holds an extensive inventory of non-proprietary and proprietary spares for both Dornier 328 Jet and 328 Turboprop, making it the prime supplier



Dornier 328.

of spares and components for the worldwide fleet.

GCT, which is 328 Support Services' neighbour at Oberpfaffenhofen airport, has become the direct employer of 35 engineers who worked on the Dornier

328 programmes, plus an additional 13 subcontracted engineers. GCT has also taken responsibility for technical publications and service bulletins, liaising closely with the 328 Support Services team.

'Total mission solution': Jeppesen signs deal with Etihad

Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways has formalised a contract for OPSControl, Jeppesen's flight operations management system. The UAE airline will use the system's flight planning, weather and NOTAM modules, as well as crew briefing tools.

OPSControl integrates, automates and streamlines operations manage-

ment functions, offering access to critical flight information from a single source.

It incorporates Jeppesen's flight planning and operations control products, and is powered by the company's JetPlan flight planning engine, which was used in 2005 to develop flight plans for Boeing's 777-

200LR world tour and record-setting flight. Jeppesen (Hall 3, A14) says it offers customers a total mission solution, including electronic flight bag (EFB); airline operations services, flight planning, scheduling and resource optimisation; complete navigation services; and document logistics management.

20-up for growing Derco

Derco Repair Services (Hall 4, C20), a Milwaukee-based MRO company, is at Farnborough celebrating its 20th year of serving the international aerospace industry.

Founded in 1986, the company has grown from a staff of two to employing more than 60 people. Acquired in 2002 by Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, Derco Repair Services continues to grow and is looking to hire aviation mechanics at its Milwaukee, Wisconsin facility.

"We take immense pride in continually expanding our business to meet the needs of our customers worldwide. If bringing a capability in-house is more beneficial for our customers, we develop that capability," says Jason Wiedoff, Derco's operations manager.

This year, Derco Repair Services is expanding its repair and overhaul capabilities to include commercial and military fuel components.

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