

IN BRIEF

Bombardier reaches training milestone

Bombardier has trained its 1,000th pilot to type rating on a Bombardier Global aircraft. Bill McClintock of General Electric Corporate Air Transport was presented with a plaque and certificate by Bombardier Training Center staff in Montreal, after reaching the milestone. Bombardier launched the Global aircraft pilot training program in 1999. The three-week training course, concentrating for the Bombardier Global 5000 and Global Express XRS, flight trains 130 pilots annually.

Gulfstream set to certify EVSII next spring

Gulfstream is on schedule for FAA certification in the second quarter of 2007 of its Enhanced Vision System II (EVSII), which it plans to install in new production G550 and G450 business jets. "EVSII is the next logical step following the overwhelming success of EVS, which was the first system of its kind in the business aviation industry when it was introduced five years ago," says Pres Henne, senior vice-president, programs, engineering and test.

Bombardier blows trumpet for Skyjet

Judith Moreton hosted a cheese and wine event at the show on Wednesday, which the company described as a "Farnborough first". There was a serious message behind the tongue in cheek invitation. Skyjet's sales were 26% above its target last year, which Moreton attributes to the "dedication and flexibility" of the team.

RJs on finals for 'City' certification

The Airbus A318 and the Embraer E-190 are both on steep approach trials for London City Airport's 5.5° glideslope. The A318 began its approach trials earlier this year and expects certification by spring 2007. Certification for both types would bode well for the executive variants: the A318 Elite and Embraer's Lineage 1000.

BUSINESS & GENERAL AVIATION

Bombardier inks first sales to Libya

United Aviation, a Tripoli-based charter company, has signed up for a Challenger 300 and a Global 5000. This is the first time the Canadian airframer has sold a business aircraft to a Libyan company. The order is worth approximately \$55 million.

United will offer the aircraft for flights to Europe and the Middle East. The company says it selected the two aircraft because its customers prefer widebodies and look for speed and comfort with the 5000.

Bombardier received more good news when Switzerland's VistaJet added a further Global Express XRS to the fleet of aircraft orders it revealed on Tuesday.

TBM850 turboprop throws down the gauntlet

EADS Socata's high performance six-seater TBM 850 turboprop is visiting Farnborough for the first time. Powered by Pratt & Whitney Canada's PT6A-66D engine and with a maximum cruise speed of 320kt at FL260 in ISA conditions, the model is billed as the world's fastest business prop.

It competes against new generation very light jets (VLJs) on direct operating costs (DOC) – it has DOC of roughly 0320 (\$400) per hour. The aircraft squares up to other turboprops on speed and comfort.

The TBM 850 is now certificated in the US and in Europe and is enjoying strong sales from Eastern Europe. Gerard Bodin, international sales director aircraft sales and marketing, says: "The money is over there – 90% of our customers are owner-pilots."

The TBM 850 has a maximum range of 1,519nm at long-range cruise speed (ISA conditions). Socata plans to ramp up production as the model has proven so popular. The TBM850 has replaced the TBM 700C2.



90% of our customers are owner-pilots, says EADS Socata's Gerard Bodin.

Dassault says UK is its hottest market

Liz Moscrop

Dassault says the UK is its hottest market with 34 Falcons flying in the country. It has ten Falcon 7Xs on order and is the company's number one European market. John Rosanvallon, president and CEO, says: "The UK is a very important market for us – it took over the US by order growth for the first time last year and the trend was confirmed this year."

Order

"Orders for the company's large jets are no longer restricted to heads of state and that more and more customers are coming from the Middle East", continues Rosanvallon, who says that the 2000EX does "particularly well" in the region. In January, the



The UK has ten Falcon 7Xs on order and is Dassault's number one European market.

airframer received its first firm order for a new 900DX from China's largest state-owned financial services holding company, Citic.

Another critical next step for the company is an in-depth review of its maintenance software, in which it has invested more than \$100 million. After exten-

sive customer surveys, it tackled the issue of parts availability and improved its service level for parts to 98%. It also reduced parts costs overall by 22% and last month doubled its parts warranty for two years after purchase.

The airframer will further develop its Product Life

Cycle management, (PLM) tool for maintenance and technician training. The software identifies issues as they arise on an individual aircraft.

It could potentially be uplinked while the aircraft is flying and would be a perfect fit with the all-digital platform on the 7X.

Phenom set for mid-'07 first flight

Embraer's new Phenom 100 very light jet (VLJ) has successfully completed wind tunnel testing. The three-stage test employed a 1:6 scale model in various flight configurations and checking control surfaces. The tests confirm the aircraft's expected characteristics and design specifications.

"The company says that previous wind tunnel tests have proven to be very precise for the Embraer 170 and Embraer 190 aircraft, where results have come within one percent of flight test numbers.

Henrique Langenegger, senior program manager, Phenom 100 and Phenom 300 says: "The Phenom 100 wind tunnel results give us a high degree of confidence that its projected range, maximum speed and field performance will be met".

The VLJ's PW617F engine has also just completed its first engine run in Canada.



Versace: de rigueur for cabins of the rich and famous.

High style from Versace takes off

The rich and famous can match their aircraft cabins to their clothes, following the decision by Italian fashion house Versace to get into the business-jet interiors business.

Partnered by TAG Group, parent of fixed-base operator TAG Aviation (Chalet B26), the darling of those with money to burn announced at April's Milan Furniture Fair that it would offer a cabin design service for private jet operators. Another TAG offshoot, TAG Aircraft Interiors, is responsible for technical aspects and marketing.

The partners are targeting the top end of the corporate/VIP market – the Bombardier

Global Express XRS and Global 5000, Gulfstream G550 and Boeing BBJ and 737 – offering customised luxury interiors and external paint schemes. They will also provide lighting, crockery, glassware and furniture, all integrated into the chosen design concept.

Versace aircraft interiors are expected to reflect the furniture, fittings and furnishings the fashion house has created for its home collection. Stressed executives will be encouraged by the company's claim to be able to provide the ultimate in seating, not to mention its readiness to provide airborne lounges, home theatres and bars.