

News In Brief, Day 4

Jun 18, 2015 Show News



First [GENx](#) Overhauled in AFI [KLM](#) Shop

The Air France Industries KLM Engineering & Maintenance engine shop at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport recently completed its first "Quick Turn" shop visit on a GE Aviation GENx-1B engine. This first operation marks the beginning of a product offer slated for substantial

development in the years ahead. Franck Turner, EVP of AFI KLM E&M, said: "AFI KLM E&M is proud to be able to showcase its skills and know-how for its clients and their MRO needs as regards this cutting-edge engine that pushes the technology envelope."

Boeing Eyes [747-8F](#) Sales Upturn

Boeing ([Chalet 321 and 324](#)) is confident that a steady uptick in airfreight demand will result in a full market recovery by 2017, which could bode well for its factory-new freighter offerings, notably the [Boeing 747-8F](#). "It's still a challenging market for everybody, but with some growth in some of these really key areas and concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular," said Boeing Commercial Airplanes president & CEO Ray Conner. "The market is moving basically now from a recovery stage into a growth phase, with growth being about 5.5%. Overall, while global growth is a little slower than anticipated, we still continue to see the market fully recover by the end of 2016."

Russia and China for Advanced Heavy Lifter

[Russian Helicopters](#) ([Chalet 367](#)) and Aviation Industry Corp. of China (AVIC, [Chalet 3 and Hall 2a, Stand D252](#)) have agreed to co-develop the Advanced Heavy Lifter, a helicopter similar in size to [Sikorsky's](#) CH-53K. China will be an investor in the program, likely paying most of the development cost as Russia does not have a requirement for the helicopter, and will produce the airframe. The AHL is planned to have a takeoff weight of 38 tons, and to be able to carry 10 tons of cargo inside the cabin or 15 tons on an external sling.

Crane to Provide ATRU for Parker Aerospace

Parker Aerospace has chosen Crane Aerospace & Electronics ([Hall 4, Stand A178](#)) to supply its ELDEC Auto-Transformer Rectifier Unit (ATRU) to provide power conversion for the [Comac C919](#) Horizontal Stabilizer Motor Control Electronics (MCE). The ATRU converts aircraft AC power to high-voltage DC at a continuous 1,500 watts with high efficiency and low distortion, Crane said. ATRU "delivers extremely high reliability with lighter weight," said Ed Fuhr, Crane's VP of Power Solutions. "We are delighted to continue our relationship with Parker Aerospace."

AgustaWestland AW169 Sim Operational

AgustaWestland's new AW169 Flight Training Device is now operational at its A. Marchetti Training Academy in Sesto Calende, Italy. Certified to FTD Level 2

standard, it offers the functionality of a full flight simulator without motion. It features a flight dynamic model, avionics, software modeling and a visual system with a 150x60-deg. field-of-view 12-ft. dome to train pilots in the use of automated flight data systems and flight procedures, including situational awareness and decision making under normal and emergency conditions. The facility will eventually house up to nine FFSes and five FTDs.

Eltra Aeronautics to Be Merged Into Satair Group

Airbus Group-owned Singapore-based airline aftermarket service company Eltra Aeronautics is being integrated into Satair Group (**Hall 4, Stand F192**), also owned by Airbus. Integration, which begins this month and is expected to be complete in late summer, will help strengthen Satair's aftermarket work. "There is a very strong strategic fit between Eltra Aeronautics and Satair Group," said René Frandsen, managing director of Satair Group in Singapore. "The combined expertise of these two strong players will provide better services to existing and future business partners in the Asia-Pacific region," added Steen Karsbo, VP of business development at Satair.

Astronautics Up Front Control and Display

Astronautics (**Hall 3, Stand E320**) has developed a digital Up Front Control and Display (UFCD) integrating the functionality of conventional cockpit data-entry keyboards with digital display positioned at one of the premium locations in the cockpit, in front of the pilot, just below the head up display (HUD). The UFCD was developed as a drop-in replacement for the analog panel used in the [F-15C/D](#) cockpit. While the keyboard operates as any other keyboard, the pilot can interact with it on the display, or opt to display other high-priority information.

Honeywell, Inmarsat, Validate GX Broadband Services

This month, Honeywell Aerospace and Inmarsat completed the first phase of hardware and satellite network flight tests for GX Aviation's broadband services. Honeywell's JetWave hardware enables aircraft to connect to Inmarsat's Global Xpress satellite constellation for GX Aviation's Ka-band in-flight Wi-Fi. The tests, which were conducted in the UK, included streaming YouTube videos and live radio, online conference calls and file downloads. They validated GX's ability to deliver high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity over land and water to Inmarsat's I-5 F1 satellite, which powers GX's services for Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Cleveland Wheels & Brakes in Custom Colors

Parker Aerospace's Aircraft Wheel & Brake Division now offers its Cleveland Wheels & Brakes product line in customizable colors. The wheels and brakes – for the general and business aviation and helicopter markets – can be painted in unique, specific colors to match aircraft livery. "These colors give our already high-performance brakes a sporty and customized feel and offer the aircraft manufacturer or operator one more way to enhance their brand or unique aircraft appearance," said Aircraft Wheel & Brake Division Business team leader Tom Dorinsky. Parker is at **Hall 5, Stand C210**.

AAR Certified for Black Hawk APU Overhaul

AAR has won an endorsement from Pratt & Whitney to enhance the U.S. Army contract to upgrade and overhaul auxiliary power units (APUs) for its [UH-60](#) Black

Hawk helicopters. The new certification augments work being performed at AAR's Aircraft Component Services facility in Garden City, New York, as part of a five-year contract, which began in 2014. The original agreement, valued in excess of US\$23 million, covers work on 60 APUs from the U.S. Army's Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, with a maximum of 520 APUs over the life of the contract.

Mitsubishi Evaluates Further [MRJ](#) Stretch

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp. is conducting market research to evaluate the feasibility of a longer stretch of the Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ), the company's president, Hiromichi Morimoto, told Aviation Week. "We want to make a decision in the near future, but there is no timeline," he said at the Paris Air Show. "We have heard about some customer expectations for a 100-seater," Morimoto said, so the current focus is on completing development of the MRJ90 and MRJ70, the 70- and 90-seat versions of the aircraft. Mitsubishi is preparing the first MRJ90 for its first flight, which is still expected in the "September/October timeframe."

VistaJet Celebrates 50th Bombardier Biz Jet

Thomas Flohr, founder and chairman of VistaJet, along with Alain Bellemare, president and CEO of Bombardier (Chalet 384, Static B10), and David Coleal, president of Bombardier Business Aircraft, toasted the 50th aircraft in the VistaJet fleet, a Global 6000. "We've actually had 85 Bombardier aircraft deliveries, but we sell the aircraft after five years when their warranties expire," Flohr says. "We flew 15,000 international flights last year and carried 40,000 passengers. On the Global 6000, turn right and you'll find the best cabin in business jets."

Supply Chain Issues Delay Bell 525 Flight

[Bell Helicopter](#) CEO John Garrison says that supply chain issues as well as paperwork have held up the company's plan to fly its new fly-by-wire Model 525 super-medium helicopter. The 525, unveiled in 2012, had been due to fly late last year, but delays have pushed the maiden flight back and the company is now hoping to fly in the coming weeks. "We set a very aggressive objective for a first flight given the complexity of the aircraft and the new technology we are bringing to it," said Garrison, speaking at the Paris Air Show on June 17.

Doncasters OK'd for Metal Treatments

Doncasters Aerospace's Precision Castings' Blaenavon, Wales-based facility has received National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program (Nadcap) for heat treatment and hot isostatic pressing processes. In addition, it has been awarded AS9100 Certification for the provision for those processes and for digital x-ray services. "The approvals will enable Doncasters to support aerospace customers with key thermal processing services," says the company, which has more than 30 operating facilities worldwide.