

AVIATION MAINTENANCE NEWS

Lufthansa Technik AG (LHT) is stepping up its presence in Berlin and plans to build a new aircraft maintenance hangar at the future Berlin Brandenburg International (BBI) airport. The new hangar, which will have three bays for short- and medium-range aircraft, will be used to maintain Lufthansa aircraft from 2012. At the same time it will be possible to expand the capacity available for other LHT customers in Berlin.

The Maintenance Centre at Schoenefeld airport has been offering maintenance and repair services for aircraft in the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320 families for two decades. Today, the 450-strong workforce carries out 100 or so major and almost 200 minor checks every year in the two maintenance hangars on the eastern side of the airport. In 2009, some 360 000 man-hours of labour flowed into the various technical services provided for short-haul aircraft belonging to Lufthansa and other customers - among them Condor Berlin, Germania, Germanwings, EasyJet and Hamburg International. For 2010, Lufthansa Technik is expecting a further small increase in utilization in Berlin.

Lufthansa Bombardier Aviation Services (LBAS) with its staff of 150 highly skilled employees, which is also based at Berlin Schoenefeld airport, is also optimistic about the future. Specializing in the maintenance of Bombardier business jets and the only Bombardier service centre outside North America, LBAS is one of the leading providers of these services in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. #885.MRO1

Boeing Shanghai Aviation Services Co. (Boeing Shanghai) has received European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) maintenance certification, greatly enhancing the aviation maintenance facility's market potential. The EASA maintenance license includes heavy maintenance and line maintenance for Boeing Next-Generation 737 series and 767-200/300 models. Boeing Shanghai also holds heavy maintenance licenses from airworthiness authorities in the U.S., Korea, Thailand, Europe, Bangladesh and Bermuda. "EASA certification is another important milestone in the development of Boeing Shanghai as a global player in the aircraft maintenance market," said Boeing Shanghai CEO Bernard Hensey. "European customers will now have access to a high-quality, cost effective and efficient maintenance facility with unique ties to an aircraft OEM." -- Boeing Shanghai was established in June 2006 as a joint venture of Boeing, Shanghai Airport Authorities and Shanghai Airlines. The mission of Boeing Shanghai is to provide high-quality MRO to regional and international airlines as well as to domestic Chinese airlines. #885.MRO2

Gulf Technics and partner SIA Engineering Co. (SIAEC) intend to open a new maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in Bahrain by 2012. The facility will to be able to accommodate up to two wide-body aircraft or four narrow-body aircraft, says project manager Saleh Al Othman. Construction is expected to start later this year or early next year, he says.

Gulf Technics is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mumtalakat Holding Co., the investment arm of the Kingdom of Bahrain and a sister company of Gulf Air. It and SIA Engineering subsidiary, SIAEC Global, signed a memorandum of understanding in January to set up the facility.

Both sides also are looking at the feasibility of SIAEC taking an equity stake in the new facility.

SIAEC, which set up operations in Bahrain in June 2009 to undertake fleet management and light maintenance checks for Gulf Air's fleet, has a team of about 200 engineers and technicians based there. SIAEC is a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines. #885.MRO3

Goodrich Corporation and Turkish Technic have signed an agreement for the formation of a joint venture company to provide MRO services in Istanbul, Turkey. The JV company, known as Goodrich Turkish Technic Service Centre, will provide nacelle, thrust reverser and related component services including rotatable support. The centre will provide services for the Airbus and Boeing fleets of Turkish Airlines and other carriers in Turkey and neighbouring regional fleets. The two companies previously announced the intention to form the joint venture in November 2007. Site selection is currently underway for the new facility, which will be located near Sabiha Gokcen International Airport in Istanbul. Initial plans call for the facility to be approximately 20 000 ft² with the option to double in size. The facility will initially employ about 20 people with plans to expand to more than 70 employees within 10 years. The facility is expected to be operational in the first quarter 2011.

"The Goodrich Turkish Technic Service Centre will meet the needs of Turkish Airlines by providing a local maintenance solution for the airline's growing fleet," said Goodrich Aerostructures Aftermarket Services General Manager, Bob Gustafson. The joint venture will also leverage Turkish Technic's already-extensive MRO capabilities. "We are combining our technical expertise and perfection with the global Goodrich reputation for excellence in order to be the leading nacelle, thrust reverser and related component service provider in our region within a short time," said Turkish Technic General Manager, Dr Ismail Demir. "With this agreement, we are once again proving Istanbul to be an important maintenance and repair hub both for Turkey and surrounding international market." #885.MRO4

A J Walter Leasing is providing Delta TechOps with a significant spares package valued at more than USD 10 million to support Airbus A330 operators. A J Walter Leasing has been trading in the international aviation market for several years. Based in the Isle of Man it has customers in more than 15 countries. AJW Leasing is predominantly involved in providing long-term leasing solutions to international operators but it also provides power-by-the-hour solutions and offers customers the opportunity to sell their surplus inventories on consignment terms. #885.MRO5

*** Jordanian carrier Royal Falcon has selected A J Walter Aviation to provide power-by-the-hour (PBH) support for the first Airbus A319 of its planned A320 series fleet.** AJW already provides A320 series PBH support to several carriers across the region and to more than 120 aircraft globally. AJW is well positioned to fully support Royal Falcon from its London and Dubai hubs with a significant customer base across the MENA region. AJW operates globally and provides a wide range of sale, loan and exchange services from its extensive modern Airbus and Boeing inventories as well as PBH, pooling, leasing and repair management support options. #885.MRO6

ExecuJet Mexico has announced the opening of their new office at Toluca airport. ExecuJet have been operating in Mexico since 2002 offering a range of aircraft management, charter, aircraft sales and maintenance solutions and have existing offices in Monterrey's Mariano Escobedo and Del Norte International Airports. The base will be managed locally by Adilson Palmas, Dispatch Co-ordinator, and overseen by Mark Hardman, Operations Director. #885.MRO7

The Middle East's MRO market is expected to double in the next 10 years as the number of aircraft operating in the region is growing. Last year, the industry netted USD 2.1 billion in revenues of the global USD 42.7 billion, and is expected to reach USD 4.4 billion, according to a report by global investment advisory firm AlixPartners. Additional opportunities will be brought as the region's position as a logistics and passenger hub grows, bringing an increasing number of international carriers stopping over for maintenance. Local airports such as Fujairah International and newly-launched Al Maktoum International in Jebel Ali have plans for dedicated maintenance facilities as a result of significant demand, while local companies have also begun to enter the market. Abu Dhabi investment firm Mubadala acquired sole control of Swiss aircraft maintenance company SR Technics, with a 40%, and discussed possibilities of building a facility in the UAE. #885.MRO8

Aircraft MRO provider Dublin Aerospace has won a multimillion Euro contract with Aer Lingus to carry out checks on 12 A320 aircraft from 1 November 2010 in a move that will create 50 new jobs. The contract was won following a tender process for a portion of Aer Lingus's base maintenance requirements in Ireland and continental Europe this coming winter. The remainder of Aer Lingus's base maintenance services will continue to be carried out by Sabena Technics (SNT) in Bordeaux under an existing contract. -- Dublin Aerospace was founded by former Ryanair executive Conor McCarthy and opened for business in 2009 following the closure of SR Technics. It employs about 100 workers, of which 75 are permanent staff. #885.MRO9

SR Technics is to invest in its Zurich and Cork facilities with the aim of turning them into centres of excellence for engine part repairs. The initiative is part of SR Technics' 'piece part repair' business expansion. The company has begun investing to further develop and extend its existing repair capabilities. It is working closely with its partner Sanad to provide specific package deals which will include leasing solutions for the material management of engines and engine line replaceable units. SR Technics chief operations officer André Wall says the expansion of the piece parts repair programme means that customers "will benefit from shorter repair cycles, new technologies and our tailor-made service packages in managing and financing their entire engine parts". #885.MRO10

Air China is considering combining Ameco Beijing, its successful MRO joint venture with Lufthansa, and its internal maintenance organization, Air China Engineering and Technics. According to an industry insider, the airline is having internal discussions about how the companies might be integrated but has not determined a specific plan. Ameco, which was created in 1989, is the oldest JV MRO organization in China involving mainland and foreign participants. The Beijing-based carrier holds a 60% stake while the German carrier holds the remaining 40%. The JV agreement runs through 2029. Ameco provides MRO services for more than 80 domestic and international customers on various types of Boeing and Airbus aircraft. -- Air China Engineering was launched in February 2004. Headquartered in Beijing, it mainly provides MRO services for Air China's fleet, and has maintenance bases in Chengdu, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Tianjin, Shanghai and Hohhot. #885.MRO11

Fokker Aircraft Services have announced the recent award the GCAA – CAR Part 145 approvals for the United Arab Emirates. This enables Fokker Aircraft Services to extend its full service MRO solution to the fast expanding region of the Middle East. Stephen Hands, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Fokker Aircraft Services, said: "We have far reaching capabilities for all airframe maintenance and modification needs and at Fokker we are able to provide a One-Stop-Shop solution for all airframe support. We consider ourselves highly experienced as a leading MRO and are constantly looking to ways in expanding our horizons in meeting customer needs. The mix of painting and MRO support is widely recognized as adding value to customers, reducing aircraft downtime and eliminating non-revenue flights. Fokker has tremendous capabilities and a growing reputation for the Boeing 737 and A320 families, the CRJ700 in addition to our own aircraft types." #885.MRO12

Constant Aviation LLC, a aircraft MRO facility headquartered at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, OH, is opening a new state-of-the-art accessory facility and will now offer full composite repair services for on and off wing repairs. The expansion of the accessory repair capabilities will now include Embraer Legacy 600 and Beechjet thrust reverser and engine inlet repairs and replacements. Stephen Maiden, President of Constant Aviation, said: "We are in the final stages of opening our new 15 000 ft² facility that will house both our new composite shop and the expansion of our accessory business. The addition of composite work to our extensive list of capabilities was the right next step to reaching that goal." Constant Aviation has locations at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and Birmingham International Airport, AL. Both facilities specialize in airframe maintenance, engine repair maintenance, major repairs, avionics installation and repair, parts distribution, accessory and composite services. #885.MRO13

Goodrich Corporation and Hawaiian Airlines have signed an extension to their existing agreement for nacelle system support. The flight-hour agreement will provide MRO services, management of spares, rotables and dedicated Goodrich technical support for additional Boeing 717 aircraft powered by Rolls-Royce BR715 engines. The services will be provided under the banner of Goodrich Aerostructures' Prime Solutions[®] suite of aftermarket services. In this new arrangement, Goodrich Aerostructures will extend its existing Prime Solutions support to include four aircraft that Hawaiian Airlines introduced into its fleet in 2008. The additional aircraft will receive the same customized full-support package as established in the original flight hour-based agreement signed in 2001. -- Launched in 2007, the Prime Solutions customizable suite of services provides full support for nacelle systems, giving airline customers the option of no longer having to invest in nacelle maintenance infrastructure. Under Prime Solutions, long-term nacelle system packages can be customized to incorporate MRO, management of spares, rotables and other assets, and Goodrich technical support of the flying hardware. #885.MRO14

Jet Aviation Hong Kong has received base maintenance approval from the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department (CAD) to carry out base maintenance on aircraft registered in China (PRC) and Macau. The approval enables the facility to now carry-out heavy maintenance on aircraft registered in PRC and Macau. In addition, Jet Aviation Hong Kong has also been awarded a number of additional maintenance approvals for aircraft registered outside of the vicinity. The firm received approval

from the Bermuda authority to work on Gulfstream, Bombardier and Boeing BBJ aircraft up to a C check, as well as an approval from the Isle of Man's aviation authority to provide maintenance on G550 aircraft registered in Isle of Man. "With these latest approvals, we will be able to further support our increasing Asian customer base in Hong Kong and strengthen our global MRO network serving major OEMs," said Christof Spaeth, Senior Vice President, MRO & FBO services for EMEA & Asia. #885.MRO15

Eaton Corporation and Shanghai Aircraft Manufacturing Co., a subsidiary of Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), have signed a joint venture (JV) agreement to support the COMAC C919 single-aisle commercial aircraft programme. The formation of the JV, the first for the COMAC enterprise with a foreign company, is subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions. The planned joint venture will be based in Shanghai and will focus on the design, development, manufacturing and support of fuel and hydraulic conveyance systems for the global civil aviation market. Total programme value for C919 conveyance systems, including aftermarket opportunities, is estimated at USD 1.8 billion, based on an anticipated volume of 2500 aircraft. "This joint venture demonstrates Eaton's continued commitment to expand its overall presence in China," said Craig Arnold, Eaton Chief Operating Officer – Industrial Sector. "The comprehensive conveyance system engineering and manufacturing capabilities that will reside in our joint venture with SAMC will strengthen Eaton's presence in China's aviation industry. We look forward to working with SAMC to develop this unique full-service capability for the global civil aviation market." #885.MRO16

Names

John Gough has been named Leader of GE Aviation's OnPoint Fuel and Carbon Solutions. In this role, Gough will be responsible for developing this new programme that is focused on providing recommendations to airlines to help them save fuel and measure and quantify their carbon emissions. Gough has been with GE for six years and has led the Flight Operations team for five years. He will remain leader of the Flight Operations team and integrate the team's efforts into the OnPoint Fuel and Carbon Solutions organization. #885.MRO17

MTU Maintenance Berlin-Brandenburg will have a new President and CEO when André Sinanian, 41, takes the helm of the Ludwigsfelde-based MRO specialist on 1 October 2010. He succeeds Dr Wolfgang Konrad, who will take on new responsibilities outside MTU. Sinanian, who holds a degree in aerospace engineering, has been with the company since 1999. #885.MRO18