

AVIATION MAINTENANCE NEWS

ARINC Engineering Services LLC has formally opened a new 60 000-ft² commercial aircraft hangar at its Aircraft Modification and Operations Centre in Oklahoma City, OK.

The new hangar eclipses the original 50 000-ft² hangar at ARINC's facility, which was previously the largest commercial aircraft hangar in the area. At 300 ft x 200 ft, the new hangar more than doubles available workspace and can accommodate three Air Force KC-135 tanker aircraft under roof. Mike Young, ARINC Engineering Services Vice President, said the company has already strengthened its workforce. "We began advertising for skilled aircraft workers in June [2011], and we have had a good response," he said. "We feel prepared to handle the amount of work we can now foresee at Hangar 2. The expansion not only doubles our capacity, but will make more efficient use of our existing 20 000 ft² of shops, engineering and administrative offices." ARINC has already started work inside the new hangar on the avionics systems of several military aircraft, under contracts recently received.

The hangar addition was developed by the Gardner Tanenbaum Group, which develops, owns, and leases industrial, office, and multi-family properties throughout the state of Oklahoma, and has developed and built each of ARINC's Oklahoma City office and hangar facilities. #911.MRO1

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal has announced an MRO hangar project at Chennault International Airport, Lake Charles, LA. The investment of USD 18.5 million will enable a significant expansion of aircraft MRO activity, and the expansion should attract at least 500 new jobs to Calcasieu Parish. The new hangar will be between 112 000 to 115 000 ft² in area to support the work that needs to be done on aircraft at Chennault. The construction of the new hangar will begin in December 2011 and be completed within 2012. #911.MRO2

AAR Corp. has been awarded an 18-month contract from Virgin America to provide maintenance and installation services for the airline's growing fleet of Airbus 320 series aircraft. Through its Aircraft Services facility in Miami, FL, AAR will perform comprehensive heavy maintenance D-Checks on Virgin America's existing fleet of aircraft and install seating and advanced in-flight entertainment systems (IFE) on their upcoming aircraft deliveries from Airbus. -- AAR was recently named a Top-Performing Company by Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine, and ranked the number one U.S.-based company in all categories of Overhaul & Maintenance magazine's biennial 'Top 10 MRO' report. #911.MRO3

Jet Support Services Inc., an independent provider of hourly cost maintenance programmes for the business aviation industry, **has announced that Prime Fraction Club has executed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to enrol its fleet of engines onto a JSSI hourly cost maintenance programme.** Prime Fraction Club recently launched the first fractional aircraft service based in Brazil with a fleet of Embraer Phenom 100 and Phenom 300 aircraft, as well as an Augusta A109 helicopter. JSSI has agreed to provide Prime Fraction Club with comprehensive hourly cost maintenance programs for all three engine types that will simplify their budgeting process and lower their maintenance costs. JSSI offers an exclusive

25 August 2011
No. 911
MRO

programme for Pratt & Whitney PW617 engines on the Phenom 100 that covers the cost of Low Utilization Inspections and engine compressor washes. JSSI hourly cost maintenance programmes are customized to meet the needs of JSSI clients and can include scheduled events, unscheduled maintenance, 24 hour, seven day per week technical support, future mandatory and recommended Service Bulletins, future Airworthiness Directives, rental engines and more. #911.MRO4

BBA Aviation Engine Repair and Overhaul (ERO) company Dallas Airmotive do Brasil has experienced rapid growth of its engine repair and support business since the addition of Honeywell TFE731 and 36 series APU authorizations in February, 2011. The company's Belo Horizonte facility is authorized by Honeywell for Major Periodic Inspection (MPI) and line maintenance of the TFE731 turbofan and line maintenance on 36 series APUs. "The response by Brazilian operators to our TFE731 service has been nothing short of spectacular," commented Hugh McElroy, President of BBA Aviation Engine Repair and Overhaul Group. "In less than six months since start-up, our Belo Horizonte facility has performed work on dozens of engines both in our shop and through field service at our customer's facilities and FBO locations."

In addition to on-site resources, Dallas Airmotive do Brasil has access to the full breadth of capability of Dallas Airmotive, H+S Aviation, Premier Turbines, IGS, Barrett Turbine Engine Company and ITS. The company offers customers the benefits of a wide spectrum of products including spare parts and whole engine solutions including new, serviceable, rotatable and exchanges. #911.MRO5

Embraer continues to expand the operations of its factory-owned service centre in Brazil, to better care for its growing fleet of executive aviation customers. Located at the Company's headquarters, in São José dos Campos, the centre has been operational for two years to service its business jets in Brazil. The operational expansion plan includes new services and certifications, a substantial increase in maintenance equipment, and larger facilities. As of September 2011, operators will have dedicated technicians for remote services in emergency situations, based at Congonhas Airport in São Paulo. By the end of the year, a mobile maintenance unit, with parts and trained mechanics, will join the current structure. The objective is to handle operators' needs away from their home base, AOG (Aircraft on Ground) situations, and minor maintenance issues, thus saving time and travel expense. By December 2011, the service centre will be certified as an authorized service facility (ASF) for maintenance of the Rolls-Royce engines on the Legacy 600 and Legacy 650 aircraft in Brazil. Embraer also plans to broaden the services covered by the service centre in the region, and is analyzing the feasibility of a new service hangar near São Paulo. The new facility would provide maintenance, hangaring and fixed base operations (FBO). #911.MRO6

Delta Air Lines plans to invest USD 65 million in Aeromexico, as the two SkyTeam airlines reached a tentative agreement for a long-term exclusive commercial alliance and a new MRO joint venture. Delta will make the investment through the purchase of ordinary shares in Grupo Aeromexico; Delta will also get a seat on Aeromexico's board of directors. The tentative deal, which was signed as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), is subject to approval from Mexican regulators. The two airlines, which already co-operate together on MRO work, will establish a new MRO joint venture

25 August 2011
No. 911
MRO

facility in Mexico. Scheduled to open in the third quarter of 2013, the facility will build on existing repair work for the two airlines and will also offer services to third-party carriers.

Prior to this, Aeromexico was already doing MRO work for Delta, and has been the exclusive provider for Delta's entire Boeing MD-80 fleet. #911.MRO7

The city of Duluth, MN, is reported to be courting AAR Aircraft Services to move into the former Northwest Airlines maintenance facility, which has largely sat empty since the airline moved out in 2005. Duluth is on the short list of possible Midwestern sites for AAR's planned expansion, city officials have said. If Duluth is chosen, the company could bring up to 250 well-paying aviation maintenance jobs to the city. They include airframe and power plant mechanics, sheet metal, avionics, interior specialists and inspectors. #911.MRO8

Air Malta and U.K.-based Monarch Aircraft Engineering (MAEL) have signed a line maintenance technical handling agreement. Under the contract, MAEL will provide support to the carrier's fleet of Airbus A319 and A320 aircraft, said the MRO firm. MAEL added that it will provide the maintenance service at its line stations in Luton, Birmingham, Dublin, Alicante and Malaga. #911.MRO9

SuperJet International (SJI), a joint venture between Alenia Aeronautica and Sukhoi Holding, and Volga-Dnepr Technics, have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for the provision of maintenance services for the Sukhoi Superjet100 (SSJ100) aircraft. The agreement was signed during the recent International Aviation and Space Salon MAKS 2011 in Zhukovsky, Moscow Region. This LoI confirms the partnership established between SJI and Volga-Dnepr Technics that with its certified aircraft MRO facility at Ulyanovsk Vostochny airport, has joined the SJI's MRO network of Authorized Service Centres to provide maintenance services to SSJ100 Operators. In Ulyanovsk, Volga-Dnepr Technics is establishing a state-of-the-art multi-functional MRO facility to meet current international operating standards, also benefiting from its location within a Special Economic Port Zone. #911.MRO10

Killick Aerospace LP, a provider of global aircraft MRO services, has raised USD 160 million through debt and equity financing, consisting of a new and enlarged senior banking facility led by Roynat Asset Finance, with participation by Frost Bank (Capital Group) and PNC Bank, National Association; and a subordinated loan from Killick Capital. The transaction also involved Alaris Royalty Corp. in acquiring a stake in Killick Aerospace. Alaris Royalty invested USD 27.25 million in exchange for an annual distribution of USD 4.3 million, a 15.8% yield in the first year of the partnership. Dallas, TX-based based Killick Aerospace will use the proceeds to retire existing debt as well as fund continued growth at Prime Turbines, CT Aerospace and Kansas Aviation. The increased capital will also enable Killick Aerospace to complete selected acquisitions in order to complement existing product and service offerings to its global customer base. #911.MRO11

Virgin Australia has signed a broad multi-year Airbus A330 support agreement with SR Technics. The deal includes component maintenance, financing and training to support Virgin Australia's Airbus A330 fleet - initially covering two aircraft, but set to expand to five in 2013 as the airline's

operations grow. Two other Mubadala Aerospace companies, Abu Dhabi Aircraft Technologies and Sanad Aero Solutions, are also involved. The 13-year nose-to-tail component deal includes component exchange, repair, engineering services and access to spares. Neither side has disclosed the value of the deal. The two Mubadala MROs would not disclose which one would maintain which component, but they said that Abu Dhabi Aircraft Technologies (ADAT) would work closely with SR Technics on parts maintenance. SR Technics' main component pool is in Zurich, but it places additional spare components in Melbourne, VIC, to support Virgin Australia.

Sanad Aero Solutions will provide parts financing - the second piece of the deal. Mubadala launched Sanad in February 2010, and by that point it already had two customers, including a USD 100 million engine sale-and-leaseback agreement for 12 engines with Air Berlin, announced in January 2010. The third part of the Virgin Australia agreement marks SR Technics' first training service in Australia; its training arm will provide specialized courses and B1 and B2 A330 type training for Virgin Australia over the next four years. Examples of specialized classes include engine borescoping, health and safety, and fuel tank training. The first training occurred early in 2011. #911.MRO12

Japan Airlines will expand Boeing's Airplane Health Management (AHM) coverage to its future Boeing 787 fleet. AHM is a software system that monitors, collects and analyzes data to give airline customers valuable, real-time maintenance information. This information allows Japan Airlines to initiate the needed maintenance immediately upon arrival at the airport gate. Japan Airlines has 35 Boeing 787s on order, and has licensed Airplane Health Management for these aircraft in addition to its existing fleet of 46 Boeing 777. Japan Airlines was a developmental partner for the original AHM development effort and has used the service continuously since 2005. The airline will use the AHM Real Time Fault Management Module on their Boeing 777s and Boeing 787s to communicate in-flight information to ground stations for diagnosis and quick operational decisions by scanning troubleshooting and historical repair data. #911.MRO13

AgustaWestland has appointed Helipark in São Paulo, Brazil, as an AgustaWestland Authorized Service Centre (ASC) for its range of commercial helicopters. The appointment of Helipark in Brazil will be followed in the coming months by the appointment of additional AgustaWestland ASCs in other countries of Latin America, including Argentina, Chile and Colombia; further expanding the network of AgustaWestland service centres and bringing maintenance and support services close to its customers. Helipark is Latin America's largest specialized service centre for helicopters. Its facilities have all of the necessary infrastructure, including spacious and modern hangars for carrying out a wide range of maintenance and support services. #911.MRO14

StandardAero Business Aviation has signed a new 10-year lease on its Augusta, GA, facility. The lease ensures StandardAero's continued occupancy and includes an additional 10-year option. StandardAero has been the facility's tenant since 1974. Unrelated to the lease, but part of its ongoing efforts to improve each of its service centres, StandardAero Augusta is installing new hangar ventilation systems and is painting the buildings - all key components in its business strategy of improving the 'customer experience' for its business aviation customers. #911.MRO15



25 August 2011
No. 911
MRO

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Sean O'Connor has been appointed General Manager for SR Technics America Inc. He assumed his new position on 1 August 2011. As General Manager, O'Connor will be responsible for driving the expansion of SR Technics' business in the Americas. Being a leading global MRO provider and as part of its growth strategy, SR Technics is focused on the Americas as a vital expansion region. O'Connor and his team will be focused on increasing market share for SR Technics on all services within the companies' capabilities. He will be based at the SR Technics America Inc., main office in Sunrise, FL. #911.MRO16

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