

AVIATION MAINTENANCE & FBO

Safran Aircraft Engines and Brussels Airport Company (BAC) have signed an agreement to construct a new 11,000 m² maintenance facility at Safran Aircraft Engine Services Brussels (SAESB) in the Brussels airport zone. Scheduled for completion by mid-2027, the "Module Factory" will support the maintenance of CFM International LEAP engine modules, increasing SAESB's annual capacity to 1,200 shop visits by 2028. This expansion will create 220 new jobs, raising the site's workforce to 570, and integrate advanced automation and predictive maintenance technologies. The carbon-neutral facility will feature renewable energy, including rooftop solar panels and circular heating systems, aligning with Safran's commitment to sustainability. The project strengthens Safran's global MRO ecosystem to meet rising demand and reinforces Brussels Airport's reputation as a key European hub. #1233.MRO1

Lufthansa Technik has announced plans to establish a new component repair facility in Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal, near Porto, with operations expected to begin by late 2027. The facility will cover approximately 53,882 m² on a 223,000 m² site in the Lusopark business park and represents a multi-million-euro investment. Construction is scheduled to commence in 2026, focusing on repairing individual engine and aircraft parts. The project addresses capacity constraints in Lufthansa Technik's MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) network, which have led to increased maintenance costs for the Lufthansa Group. It will create over 700 jobs, with recruitment starting in 2025, alongside the establishment of a training center to prepare technical talent. Portugal was selected over a backup location in Spain due to its accessible labour market, EU membership, stable political environment, and strong infrastructure. This investment supports Lufthansa Technik's growth strategy to enhance its global market leadership in the MRO sector and meet the needs of over 800 international customers. #1233.MRO2

The City of Jacksonville (Florida, United States) has approved a USD 90 million project for a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility dedicated to the U.S. Navy's KC-46 aircraft. These aircraft support aerial refuelling, cargo, passenger, and aeromedical evacuation missions. Located at 13240 Wing Lane on Jacksonville Aviation Authority land, the facility will expand Boeing's military aircraft hub. The project features an eight-hangar, 34,375 m² (370,000 ft²) hangar and office space alongside an 18,740 m² (201,714 ft²) South Yard building. Scannell Properties owns the property, with The Haskell Company overseeing construction. The facility is scheduled to become fully operational by January 2024. #1233.MRO3

Flamingo Air has acquired 17 hangars from Air Tolin Inc. at Cincinnati Municipal Airport (Ohio, United States), expanding its footprint with an 8,547m² facility. The facility includes tools, testing and metalworking equipment, and tens of thousands of aircraft parts, strengthening Flamingo Air's position as a leading provider of aviation services. One 1,115m² hangar will be used to train aviation and maintenance students, while the remaining 16 hangars will be rented out for aircraft storage. From 2025, the newly named GCA Maintenance and Repair, honouring the Greater Cincinnati Airmen, will offer services including maintenance, repairs, painting, restoration, and inspections. This acquisition bolsters Flamingo Air's ability to meet growing aviation demands and solidifies its role in the regional aviation sector. #1233.MRO4

Archer has completed construction of its 37,160 m² ARC aircraft manufacturing facility in Covington, Georgia (United States), located adjacent to Covington Municipal Airport. With the certificate of occupancy secured, tooling load-in for the initial manufacturing line is underway. Production of Archer's all-electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) Midnight aircraft is set to begin in early 2025, aiming to achieve a production rate of two aircraft per month by the end of the year.

Developed in partnership with automaker Stellantis, ARC is designed to scale production to 650 aircraft annually by 2030. Stellantis has provided capital, advanced manufacturing technology, and personnel to support this goal. The Midnight aircraft is intended to deliver sustainable, low-noise transportation as an alternative to ground vehicles in congested urban areas.

Archer's CEO, Adam Goldstein, highlighted the shift from research and development to commercialisation, praising the team's ability to complete the facility on budget and on time. Stellantis also expressed its commitment to supporting Archer in advancing clean mobility solutions. #1233.MRO5

HAECO is set to open a new state-of-the-art 26,942 m² facility in Dallas, Texas, United States, with operations beginning in January 2025. This relocation will enhance HAECO's capabilities in repairing and industrialising next-generation aircraft engines, addressing growing global demand while creating over 100 high-skill jobs in the region.

The facility, equipped with advanced manufacturing and engineering technologies, will expand HAECO's production capacity and reinforce its position as a leader in the aviation maintenance and repair sector. The company plans to implement comprehensive workforce training programs to support local talent development and drive innovation.

Dallas Interim City Manager Kimberly Bizer Tolbert highlighted the dual benefit of economic growth and workforce development for the community. With facilities in Hong Kong, London, Amsterdam, and Dallas, HAECO provides on-wing and near-wing engine services, advanced tooling, and FAA/EASA-approved workshops for a global clientele. #1233.MRO6

GKN Aerospace is opening a dedicated 13,935 m² engine parts repair facility in San Diego, California, United States, to meet the growing demand for maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services. This new state-of-the-art facility, adjacent to GKN's existing manufacturing site, will focus exclusively on aftermarket work, allowing the current facility to concentrate on original equipment production.

The new repair station will feature advanced automation and cutting-edge technology, enhancing efficiency and capacity while maintaining the same regulatory certifications as the existing facility. Equipment transfers have begun, with the complete transition expected by the end of 2025. GKN Engine Systems President Joakim Andersson emphasised the strategy's focus on capturing increased MRO capacity while leveraging lessons from similar operations, such as GKN's Johor facility in Malaysia. GKN supports 19 engine programs, including the CFM56, GE Aerospace CF6, and Pratt & Whitney PW1000G. The San Diego site will expand its expertise in metallic fan blades, fan disks, blades, and blisks, integrating innovative repair methods and additive manufacturing to broaden its capabilities. The investment underscores GKN's commitment to meeting rising demand while advancing repair technology and automation in the aviation sector. #1233.MRO7

Aircraft Manufacturing Facilities

A new USD 12.2 million aerospace manufacturing facility is set to be established at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) in Hebron, Kentucky, United States. Operated by Texas-based L2 Aviation, the plant is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2025 and will create 250 jobs in the region.

This development highlights Kentucky's expanding aviation and aerospace sector, which has experienced significant growth in recent years. The state has been a hub for transportation-focused manufacturing investments, attracting major companies like Ford, Toyota, and AESC.

The facility will strengthen CVG's aviation ecosystem by offering advanced avionics, manufacturing, and engineering solutions, supporting the airport's efforts to enhance operations and accommodate future growth. #1233.MRO8

Boeing has announced a USD 1 billion investment to expand and upgrade its facilities in North Charleston (South Carolina, United States), creating 500 new jobs over the next five years. The expansion will enhance the Airport and North campuses, which are integral to producing, assembling, and delivering the 787 Dreamliner models globally. Operations from this investment are expected to begin in early 2027, aligning with plans to increase 787 Dreamliner production to 10 airplanes per month by 2026.

The North Charleston facility, established in 2009, currently employs nearly 8,000 people and serves as a critical hub for Boeing's global operations. South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster praised the expansion, emphasising its reflection of Boeing's confidence in the local workforce and the state's pro-business environment. However, Boeing's operations in Orangeburg will not benefit from this plan. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply via Boeing's careers page. #1233.MRO9

Archer Aviation Inc. (Georgia, United States) has opened its new 37,160 m² eVTOL aircraft manufacturing facility, ARC, next to Covington Municipal Airport. This marks a significant step toward commercial production of its Midnight aircraft, designed for sustainable, low-noise urban transport. Production is expected to begin in early 2025, with a target of two aircraft per month by the end of the year and scaling to 650 annually by 2030.

Global automaker Stellantis is partnering with Archer to contribute capital, manufacturing expertise, and personnel to accelerate production. Georgia officials, including Governor Brian Kemp, highlighted the facility's economic impact and job creation. Archer maintains a strong financial position, with over USD 500 million in cash reserves and a current ratio of 6.03.

Archer is also expanding internationally. In the UAE and Abu Dhabi, the company has secured agreements to establish electric air taxi operations, becoming the first eVTOL manufacturer in the Middle East and North Africa region. Additionally, Archer Defense, a new segment, is collaborating with Anduril Industries to develop hybrid VTOL aircraft for defence applications.

These developments underscore Archer Aviation's rapid growth in the eVTOL industry, supported by financial strength and strategic partnerships, as it continues to transform urban air mobility.

#1233.MRO10

FBO & Business Aviation Airports

SEA Prime, operating under the Milano Prime brand, is expanding its facilities at Linate Prime in Milan (Italy) to improve services for passengers ahead of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Games. The project includes expanding the apron space by 10,000 m², with terminal upgrades to follow.

The expansion will offer new lounge spaces and enhanced services, ensuring greater comfort and efficiency for both local and international travellers. Middle Eastern customers, who currently make up about 5% of the airport's traffic, are among those expected to benefit. SEA Prime's CEO, Chiara Dorigotti, highlighted that the development reflects their commitment to providing a top-tier travel experience while reinforcing their role in European business aviation. #1233.MRO11

Biddle Carson Developments has begun construction on a new multi-use FBO facility at Hamilton International Airport (Ontario, Canada). The 9,290 m² facility, located in the Northeast Airport Development area, will feature three state-of-the-art hangars, premium services like a lounge, conference room, and a second-floor observation deck. The facility will connect to the airfield via the new Taxiway Foxtrot and have road access through Aviation Drive.

Two tenants have already secured space: FlyXcite, a private aircraft charter, will occupy 30,000 ft² (2,787 m²), while Aerofina Aviation, specialising in helicopter and fixed-wing completions, will occupy 20,000 ft² (1,858 m²). The remaining 4,645 m² hangar will be available within two years. The first phase of construction is set for completion in late 2025 or early 2026. #1233.MRO12

Naples Aviation (Florida, United States) has become the first location in the eastern U.S. to consistently offer sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) as part of a collaboration with Avfuel Corporation, a major aviation fuel supplier.

The initial SAF delivery, sourced from Port Everglades, marks a significant milestone in scaling SAF distribution within the business aviation sector. SAF supplied by Avfuel is produced using the HEFA SPK process, utilising materials like used cooking oil, and can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80% compared to conventional jet fuel. The current blend includes 30% neat SAF, offering a lifecycle emissions reduction of 24%.

Naples Aviation, known for its sustainability leadership, also recently introduced 94 octane unleaded fuel (UL 94) as an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional aviation gasoline. This move aligns with its commitment to providing cleaner fuel options for the aviation community. The initiative is part of a broader SAF supply agreement between Avfuel and Valero, highlighting a shared dedication to advancing sustainability in the aviation industry. #1233.MRO13

Naples Airport (Florida, United States) plans to invest up to USD 25.33 million in improvements, including the construction of 42 new hangars. The project is part of efforts to replace aging tie-down and shade hangars with modern facilities, offering protected spaces for aircraft and improving aesthetics along North Road.

The 81-year-old airport, which generates USD 781 million annually for the area, will fund the project through airport fees and a USD 7.5 million grant from the Florida Department of Transportation. The improvements include three 10-unit T-hangars, a 12-unit box hangar, stormwater upgrades, taxiway enhancements, and a future pilot's lounge. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2025 after design approvals.

While the NAA initially budgeted USD 16.6 million, the current estimate has increased due to design expansions. Some NAA commissioners expressed concerns about costs, urging contractors to remain competitive. The plans are scheduled for preliminary review by the Naples Design Review Board, with final approval anticipated by spring 2025. #1233.MRO14

AviaVIP, a company specialising in business aviation handling and Fixed-Base Operator (FBO) management, has launched the AviaVIP Club at the Middle East Business Aviation Association (MEBAA) show.

This initiative is aimed at expanding AviaVIP's network, which currently operates at 57 airports across Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands. The AviaVIP Club will enhance commercial power, brand recognition, and network visibility for its partners while allowing them to maintain independence. The first members of the club, who were unveiled at MEBAA, marked AviaVIP's entry into two key countries in the MENA region. This aligns with the company's strategy to strengthen its presence through exclusive partnerships with prominent FBO operators.

In addition to external partnerships, AviaVIP is focused on internal growth by establishing new FBOs across Europe. This dual approach ensures both network expansion and the maintenance of high service standards. AviaVIP's mission is to create a consolidated network for VIP aircraft operations, which aims to deliver a seamless experience for business jet operators and flight support companies. The AviaVIP Club exemplifies the company's commitment to innovation and collaboration in the global business aviation sector. #1233.MRO15

ExecuJet Middle East, a partnership between Luxaviation Group and Alpha Middle East Holdings, has opened a 15,000 m² private jet terminal at the Mohammed bin Rashid Aerospace Hub in Dubai South (United Arab Emirates). The facility combines luxury and operational efficiency, offering tailored services such as a high-tech conference room, private spa, grooming services, and a dedicated kids' lounge.

The terminal aims to enhance Dubai's role as a global aviation hub, catering to the growing demand for bespoke private travel experiences. Executives highlighted the facility's role in advancing innovation and passenger service, reflecting Dubai's commitment to economic growth and leadership in the aviation sector. #1233.MRO16

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