

AVIATION MAINTENANCE & FBO NEWS

Metrojet Engineering Clark (MEC), the Philippines based MRO station of Hong Kong-based Metrojet Ltd, has announced the official opening of Metrojet's largest single investment in nearly 25 years: a state-of-the-art aircraft parking and maintenance facility. To mark the occasion, MEC welcomed the first aircraft into the new hangar – a Gulfstream G650, with a ceremonial 'Water Salute'.

"We are grateful for the excellent support we have received from the local Philippines authorities, including the Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC), Clark Development Corporation (CDC), and the Luzon International Premier Airport Development (LIPAD) Corporation," said Sarith Vaikuntan, General Manager of Metrojet Engineering Clark. "With our strong and dedicated team of professionals, we are confident that over time, MEC will become the MRO of choice in the region."

"The growing strategic and geographic importance of Clark and the Philippines enables us to provide our clients with high quality and competitive hangar parking and maintenance options in the region. Hangar parking can minimise the risks of corrosion damage to aircraft and hence preserve the asset value, which is critical for aircraft owners within the Asia Pacific region," said Gary Dolski, CEO of Metrojet Ltd.

The new hangar has more than 7,100 sqm of floor space, with the capacity to accommodate up to 10 long-range business jets including Boeing Business and Airbus Corporate jets. Workshops, stores, staff and customer offices and lounges with available space for a dedicated FBO encompass a 2,500-sqm, two-storey annex building at the rear of the hangar. Coupled with 11,000 sqm of apron area in front of the hangar with an exclusive private taxiway, the world-class facility has been designed to the highest international standards including typhoon and seismic loadings which meet current Philippine codes.

#1145.MRO1

Denmark-based MRO provider Skyways Technics Group is set to expand its regional Asia-Pacific hub at Subang Airport (SZB) in Malaysia with a full-service end-to-end MRO facility.

This follows the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the company and Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB). Randhill Singh, head of MAHB's subsidiary KLIA Aeropolis, said the global aerospace player was looking to establish line and base air frame MRO hangar, component repair workshops, parts distribution centre, and aircraft on ground (AOG) services within the Asia-Pacific region. "Skyways Technics' intention to continually expand its capabilities and grow in Southeast Asia is in complete alignment with our Subang Airport Regeneration strategy, which seeks to position Subang Airport as the hub for turboprops in Asia-Pacific and meets the demands of ATR maintenance in the region," he said in a statement. Randhill Singh also said the MRO activities in this region were set to grow by 150% over the next 10 years, totalling USD 21.7 billion.

Skyways Technics, which has more than 30 years of experience in maintenance of regional aircraft such as ATR, aircraft component MRO services, and spare parts support, established its Asian headquarters outside of Denmark in Subang Airport in 2014 with only a component repair workshop. #1145.MRO2

Spain-headquartered inflatable structures maker Buildair Inflatable Structural Solutions, has delivered more than 20 hangars worldwide, including an inflatable hangar to GMR Aero Technic, the wholly owned subsidiary of GMR Hyderabad International Airport.

The company is seeing growth opportunities in India in future. Felipe Cano Ventas, commercial director, Buildair said in an interview: "The Indian market is particularly attractive to our technology. The taxation reduction in MRO activities will bring back to India most of the aircraft that are now doing heavy maintenance in third countries. We do expect being part of this. We have a local partner (Global Aerospace) that is supporting

us to introduce our technology in the Indian market.” Ventas added: “As of today, Buildair has delivered more than 20 hangars worldwide, having the current world record in inflatable structures with our H75 hangar (75 m clear span) suitable for accommodating Airbus A330 or Boeing 787 long-haul aircraft. Our main target markets are the Middle East and India. Those areas are growing fast in the MRO market and have no hangars enough to accommodate this expected growth.” #1145.MRO3

With the start of a recovery in the Chinese aviation market, Lufthansa Technik Shenzhen (LTS) has resumed its investments into new capabilities; the company is currently converting its bonded warehouse into a 2,100-sqm maintenance workshop. The corresponding conversion measures are scheduled to be completed in June 2021 and will enable LTS to further build up its capabilities. These will include providing component repair services for more than 70 Honeywell shipped components onboard the Airbus A350, for which the company will be the only licensed facility in Asia-Pacific. The increase of capabilities will also include a cooperation of LTS with its partner TAT Technologies. LTS will soon provide the Asia-Pacific market with the largest capability of heat transfer component repairs, overhaul, and core replacement services, supporting most major platforms and components on the environmental control, bleed air and fuel inerting systems. Additionally, LTS plans to build up service capabilities for components of Meggitt fire & safety Systems, valves, sensors, and fuel systems, with LTS serving as Meggitt OEM Centre of excellence in China. #1145.MRO4

FBO News

Rise Aviation, formerly known as Lake Texoma Jet Centre, has broken ground on its new terminal at North Texas Regional Airport (GYI) just 60 miles north of Dallas, TX. It is the sole FBO at the airport. To accommodate the USD 3.7 million project, the company negotiated with the Grayson County Regional Mobility Authority to expand its leasehold by 1.4 acres. The new 10,800-sq-ft, two-storey terminal will include a spacious passenger lobby, pilot lounge with snooze room, shower facilities, and flight-planning and vending areas. It will also offer a 12-seat conference room, observation deck overlooking the runway, tenant office space, and the airport’s administrative offices. The terminal is slated for completion in Q1 2022.

The former 4,500-sq-ft 1950s-era terminal, which has been modified many times over the years, will be retained for tenant use. The FBO complex also includes approximately 68,000 sq ft of hangar space that can accommodate aircraft up to the size of a Gulfstream V, as well as seven acres of ramp space. #1145.MRO5

Premier Private Jets, a Part 135 air charter company headquartered in Stuart, FL, has acquired Oakland Air, a full-service FBO, air charter and certified repair station at Oakland County International Airport (PTK), MI. The acquisition brings Premier’s charter fleet to 14 and expands their capacity in the maintenance arena. The PTK facility will be rebranded Premier Jet Services. Premier’s entry into the FBO arena will allow them to better manage fuel purchases and overnight aircraft maintenance needs. With aircraft based at strategic locations at airports targeted to business and leisure travel, Premier offers quicker response to customer schedules and offers competitive pricing through cost efficiencies.

In addition to supporting Premier Private Jets operations, the newly-acquired FBO will be expanded to attract private aircraft owners and third-party operators in Pontiac and the surrounding area. The company plans to modernize its passenger terminal facilities at PTK including an all-new lobby, complete with a state-of-the-art air filtration system capable of defending against viruses such as Covid-19. #1145.MRO6

Vnukovo-3, Russia's largest FBO, is ready to strengthen its position in the domestic market this year thanks to the ongoing recovery of the country's business aviation sector from the pandemic's consequences, according to recent statements by representatives of the FBO and independent analysts. According to data provided by WingX Advance in April 2021, Vnukovo-3 is the leading airport in Europe in terms of the number of business aviation flights year-to-date. The airport plans to retain that status throughout the year. At present, Vnukovo-3 continues to show positive dynamics, as the demand for business aviation flights in Russia is steadily growing. However, a further expansion of Vnukovo-3, according to its representatives, will probably be suspended until 2022. At present, about 90% of Russian business aviation traffic concentrates in the Moscow region. In addition to Vnukovo-3, Terminal A of Sheremetyevo Airport remains a centre of business aviation in the country. According to local analysts, Covid-19 has not had a catastrophic effect on business aviation in Russia, as local authorities did not impose restrictions on business flights even during the pandemic's peak. On the contrary, the cancellation of the majority of regular flights and closure of Russia's borders with the majority of foreign states from the end of March to August 2020 actually led to the growth of business aviation flights to and outside the country. #1145.MRO7

Following its 1 May 2021 acquisition of the assets of Gemini Air Group at Scottsdale Airport (SDL), AZ, Dallas-based The Arnold Companies (TAC) has established a Keystone Aviation operation there. Additionally, it created TAC Private Hangars, which will manage more than 65,000 sq ft of upscale private hangar and office space at SDL. Keystone, which was acquired by TAC in 2012, will provide its full range of charter, aircraft management, and Part 145 repair station services at SDL that will serve as a second hub to Keystone's primary hub at Salt Lake City International Airport. The Keystone charter fleet comprises 13 business aircraft and includes Pilatus PC-12 turboprop singles, an Embraer Phenom 100, and a Gulfstream G550. "Picking up a second hub in Scottsdale expands our regional footprint south from Salt Lake City in the desert to mountain corridors we fly regularly," said Keystone COO, Aaron Fish. "With the addition of Scottsdale, we can now offer a greater selection of aircraft to get customers where they want, when they want." Meanwhile, the brand extension under TAC is a strategic opportunity for development as we continue to diversify our services and expand into new [business aviation] markets, according to TAC Private Hangars COO, Joe Gibney. In addition to providing customers with hangar space and tenant office space, TAC Private Hangars will offer dedicated handling services at SDL. #1145.MRO8

Construction has begun at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Executive Airpark. The facility will consist of a three-hangar development of more than 185,500 sq ft at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (AZA), AZ, which will be available for occupancy by Q4 2021. The facility will be state-of-the-art, multi-tenant, and freestanding full-service hangars which are constructed with steel-frame infrastructure, a metal roof, and metal exterior walls. The steel-frame infrastructure provides clear span bays necessary for aircraft movement. The Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Executive Airpark will also provide office space built to suit tenant's requirements. The office spaces will have LED overhead lighting with on/off motion sensors in hangars, hangar doors 28 ft high with widths spanning 90 ft to 110 ft, and sealed concrete floors. The unit is being constructed to facilitate the increasing demand trend for the larger long-range business jets. The dimensions of the hangar bays and hangar doors at Gateway Executive Airpark will accommodate larger jets as well as other aviation uses such as maintenance, repair, and overhaul operations. Advantages of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport location of this project also include lower operating costs and reduced taxes through unique tax programs and incentives. #1145.MRO9