

Aviation Maintenance News

Sabena Technics and Kuwait's Al Wazzan Group have announced a joint venture to provide MRO operations in Kuwait City, starting autumn 2009. The objective of the partnership is to develop an MRO centre providing services to operators in the Middle East. This MRO centre will offer proximity services such as line, light and heavy aircraft maintenance, pool and logistics support, providing tailor-made solutions to customers in the region. The company's first customer will be Wataniya Airways, an operator already supported by Sabena Technics, which provides passenger services from Kuwait to destinations within the Middle East. Christophe Bernardini, Chief Executive Officer of Sabena Technics, said: "I am very pleased and honoured to partner with a major Kuwait-based group, in line with our group's worldwide development strategy and furthermore benefiting from an important and renowned name in the region, which will help us in our development." Mr Al-Wazzan, Chairman & CEO of Al-Wazzan group said that the two groups "can now develop synergies in the region, which will be the keys for the success of our Kuwaiti-based MRO centre." #860.MRO1

* Sabena Technics has signed a seven-year full-support contract with new Romanian carrier Medallion Air for its fleet of MD82-83 aircraft. Under this agreement, Sabena Technics will perform component repair and overhaul services, including pool access with advanced standard exchange, component and engineering services for Medallion Air. The services will be carried out through Sabena Technics' integrated services division. #860.MRO2

Jet Aviation Singapore has expanded its base and line maintenance service offerings to include base maintenance for Bombardier Challenger 601/604/605 and Cessna 560XL aircraft under the company's EASA 145 maintenance approval. The list of aircraft serviced by the facility now includes BBJ and Bombardier aircraft, as well as Cessna and the full range of Gulfstream jets. "With the additional service offerings, we can now better support Bombardier and Cessna operators that are based in Asia or frequently fly in and out of the region," said Sebastian Groeger, General Manager of Jet Aviation Singapore. "We will continue to strengthen our maintenance network in Asia by adding further capabilities not only in Singapore, but also at our line maintenance locations in Beijing, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur," he said. #860.MRO3

Goodrich Corporation has opened a new facility in China's Tianjin Airport Industrial Park to support nacelle and thrust reverser original equipment as well as MRO activities. The 50 000-ft² facility will perform nacelle and thrust reverser MRO work for customers in the region. In addition, it will support engine buildup and podding work for the new Airbus A320 family aircraft final assembly line in Tianjin. The facility, which is part of Goodrich's Aerostructures business, serves as an interim location; in 2010 Goodrich plans to open a 170 000-ft² permanent facility in Tianjin directly across from the Airbus final assembly line. Greg Peters, President of Goodrich Aerostructures, said: "We will be able to provide Airbus with complete engine assemblies ready for installation on their new A320 aircraft assembled in Tianjin. And we will supplement our existing MRO footprint in Asia, currently centred in Singapore, to better support customers in fast-growing China." The new facility will also serve as the headquarters for Goodrich's supply chain activities in China. #860.MRO4

Singapore's ST Aerospace and China's Shanghai Airlines have signed an eight-year maintenance-by-the-hour agreement. Starting in July 2009, the USD 21 million contract includes repair management and pool access for the airline's Airbus A321 fleet. The agreement expands on the two companies' existing relationship, under which ST Aerospace provides component maintenance, repair and overhaul. #860.MRO5

* ST Aerospace has signed a EUR 9 million agreement with Denmark's Cimber Sterling to support its fleet of five Boeing 737 Next Generation aircraft, with options for additional aircraft over the next year. The Cimber Sterling contract starts in July 2009 and involves a five-year maintenance-by-the-hour component support programme. #860.MRO6

SIA Engineering Company Ltd (SIAEC) has taken over from SR Technics (SRT) as the MRO service provider for Gulf Air. In March 2009, the Bahrain-based airline signed a long-term fleet management programme contract with SIAEC under which SIAEC will provide a wide range of services for Gulf Air's Airbus fleet, which will be performed in Bahrain and Singapore. During a handing-over function held at the Gulf Air hangar at Bahrain International Airport, Felix Ammann, Vice President Gulf Region Operations of SR Technics, handed over a symbolic key to Johnny Eng, General Manager SIAEC. Thanking the SRT team for its co-operation and support in the transition process, Gulf Air Director of Special Projects, Jasim al-Marzooqi, said: "The change in MRO service is part of our overall management strategy as it provides us with an opportunity to refocus on our engineering and maintenance systems and processes in order to improve our operational reliability, manage costs and have a self sufficient and robust aircraft maintenance system." #860.MRO7

Europe Aviation and Monod-Piguet & Associés engineers and planners have submitted a construction permit for a new 10 000 m² hangar with a capacity to host one widebody and two narrowbody or four narrowbody aircraft at Châteauroux-Centre Airport. The opening is planned for the end of 2010 and is expected to lead to the creation of 120 additional staff, bringing the total to 240. With the new hangar, the total work space available will be 14 000 m². #860.MRO8

Lufthansa Technik AG has successfully expanded its component support services throughout the complete Aeroflot Group. After several years of successful partnerships with Aeroflot Russian Airlines and Aeroflot Don, Arkhangelsk-based Aeroflot Nord recently became the newest member of Lufthansa Technik's customer base in Russia. Under the new five-year contract, LHT will provide Aeroflot Nord's 15 Boeing 737 Classic aircraft with Total Component Support TCS®. In addition to the new contract, two existing TCS contracts with the Aeroflot Group have been extended. Nine additional Airbus A320 family aircraft were added to the contract with Aeroflot Russian Airlines, taking the overall number of aircraft under the contract to 45. Aeroflot Don has signed with LHT to add three Boeing 737 Classic aircraft to the current TCS contract. Dmitri Zaitsev, Sales Director for Russia, the CIS and Eastern Europe for Lufthansa Technik, said: "The relationship between Aeroflot and us has a long successful history and we will be pleased to continue this successful tradition with outstanding reliability and service." The component services for all branches of the Aeroflot Group will be carried out by Lufthansa Technik Vostok, a 100% subsidiary opened at Moscow Domodedovo Airport in 2007. #860.MRO9

Lufthansa Technik Tulsa has been awarded a ten-year contract to overhaul thrust reversers on a scheduled removal programme on JetBlue Airways' complete fleet of Airbus A320

aircraft equipped with V2500 powerplants. After completing a specified number of cycles, the thrust reversers will be dismantled and shipped to Tulsa, where they will be overhauled, using some of the most modern repair procedures available to date. The agreement between LHT Tulsa and JetBlue also includes non-scheduled repair and overhaul of thrust reversers which unexpectedly have to be replaced.

#860.MRO10

GE Aviation has signed an exclusive twelve-year OnPoint solution agreement with Canada's WestJet for the MRO of its fleet of CFM56-7+ engines powering 79 Boeing 737 Next Generation aircraft. As part of the agreement, valued at more than USD 850 million over the life of the contract, MRO of WestJet's engines will be performed at the StandardAero plant in Winnipeg, which has just undergone a major expansion. GE Aviation and StandardAero have completed a material and licensing agreement in connection with the WestJet contract. As part of the agreement, GE Aviation will provide material and high-technology component repairs to StandardAero. The material is produced at various GE facilities, including Bromont, Canada, Hooksett, New Hampshire, and Madisonville, Kentucky. StandardAero will become a GE Designated Fulfillment Centre for CFM56-7B engines. Tom Gentile, General Manager of GE Aviation, said: "The agreement is a perfect example of the flexibility of GE's service offerings and enables WestJet to benefit from GE's OEM material while getting overhaul services from StandardAero, a world-class engine overhaul facility that is part of the GE global MRO network."

#860.MRO11

Cessna Aircraft Company announced at the recent European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibit (EBACE) that it will build its new European Citation Service Centre at Spain's Valencia Airport. After two years of studies and negotiations, Cessna and AENA, Spain's aviation administrator, signed a land grant contract for a location at Valencia Airport. Mark Paolucci, Cessna Senior Vice President, Customer Service, said: "With over 1000 Citations operating in Europe and more on the way, the new facility in Spain will be an excellent complementary location for our Paris Service Centre." The Valencia Citation Service Centre will be similar in size and capacity to the recently inaugurated centre in Mesa, Arizona, with 5800 m² of hangar space and 3500 m² of office and administration spaces. Within the next six months, a Cessna and the AENA team will begin planning site development, with construction plans to be announced in the future. #860.MRO12

Iberia has signed two new contracts to maintain Rolls-Royce aircraft engines. For the next three years, Iberia Maintenance will be the sole provider of engine MRO services on two Rolls-Royce RB211-535-E4 engines belonging to Russia's Yakutia Airlines. Iberia Maintenance has also signed an MRO contract with India's Blue Dart Aviation. During the summer of 2009 it will provide these services on the three RB211-535-C37 engines powering the B.757-200 cargo aircraft operated by the Mumbai-based airline. The work will be carried out at Iberia's installations near the Madrid-Barajas airport. #860.MRO13

Nürnberg-based Aero-Dienst has expanded its range of services for Dassault customers and has been approved by the Luftfahrt-Bundesamt (LBA) as an EASA/FAR Part 145 maintenance organization for the Falcon 7X. Dassault has also appointed the company as Authorized Service Centre (ASC) for the 7X. As such, Aero-Dienst not only offers AOG services round the clock but also carries out all scheduled and unscheduled maintenance activities as well as repair services under warranty. "As we are already an ASC for the Falcon 2000EX EASy, 900EX and 900EX EASy, extending this

capability to the 7X was a logical step for us," said Martin Bauer, Managing Director of Aero-Dienst. With some 100 experienced aircraft technicians and a hangar surface area of some 5500 m² at Nürnberg Airport, Aero-Dienst has been offering professional business aviation services for more than 50 years. #860.MRO14

Five companies have shown an interest in participating in, or taking over, Atitech, the Naples-based aviation maintenance firm once owned by the 'old' Alitalia. Italy's Finmeccanica plans to acquire a stake of between 10% and 14% in the new Atitech. The other interested parties are Investimenti e Sviluppo Mediterraneo SpA (IeS Med), a regional development company; Aviation Management Consulting GmbH & Co KG, a German investor in aeronautical activities; DEMA Design Manufacturing SpA, an Italian engineering company for aerospace products; and Alvent24 SpA, an Italian manufacturer of aircraft cabin equipment. The 'new' Alitalia may also take a stake. #860.MRO15

Alenia Aeronautica and MAS Aerospace Engineering (MAE), a subsidiary of Malaysia Airlines, have sealed an agreement to create a joint-venture company to provide MRO services for turboprop commercial aircraft. Alenia Aeronautica's Chief Executive Officer, Giovanni Bertolone, and MAE's Managing Director, Mohd Roslan Ismail, signed the agreement at the recent Paris Air Shows. The new company, MAS-Alenia Aeronautica Aerospace Engineering (MAAE), is 51% owned by MAE and 49% by Alenia Aeronautica. The company's headquarters will be in Malaysia. The JV agreement is related to the earlier order of 20 ATR 72-500s by Malaysia's Firefly and MASwings airlines. MAAE aims to offer MRO services for ATR aircraft within the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region and the Indian sub-continent, with plans to offer these services to other countries in the near future. #860.MRO16

MAS Aerospace Engineering Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malaysia Airline System Bhd (MAS), will team up with EADS Group subsidiary EADS SECA to create a world-class PW100 series engine MRO facility in Subang. MAS Executive Director, Tengku Azmil Zahrudin, said the facility is expected to be operational in 2010 and is positioned as a one-stop centre for engine, airframe and component support for the PW100 series engines. Under the joint venture, the plan is to set up a PW127 engine maintenance and Hot Section Inspection (HSI) capability. This will be extended to line maintenance support and on-site HSI through the Mobile Repair Team (MRT). According to Tengku Azmil, there are some 100 aircraft in the region equipped with the PW100 series engines and the number is expected to double by 2012. #860.MRO17

* Malaysia Airlines (MAS) was expected to seal the agreement for an MRO joint venture in Hyderabad, India, by the end of June 2009, according to its Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Seri Idris Jala. He said that MAS was hopeful that India's Jet Airways would become its anchor tenant. However, he declined to say how much stake MAS will hold in the joint venture. #860.MRO18

Abu Dhabi investment company Mubadala announced at the 2009 Paris Air Show that it is bidding to sign more airlines up to its aircraft MRO operations in the United Arab Emirates. The company earlier announced that it had joined forces with GE Aviation to establish an MRO facility in the U.A.E. This co-operation sees GE Aviation and its affiliates providing technical support and services to Mubadala's subsidiaries, aircraft maintenance provider Abu Dhabi Aircraft Technologies (ADAT), and SR Technics. Mubadala Associate Director for Business Development, Homaid al-Shemmari, said the partnership would help secure more airlines seeking MRO services. Al-Shemmari said: "We are providing

services for between 70 and 80 airlines through ADAT and SRT and will hopefully be able to increase that." Al-Shemmari said the company will soon be capable of servicing all Airbus aircraft, including the A380. #860.MRO19

Emirates Airline has awarded a USD 3 billion maintenance contract for its A380s to the Engine Alliance. The deal will see Engine Alliance providing MRO services for Emirates' GP7200 engines, which power the carrier's five A380s. Engine Alliance, a 50:50 joint venture between General Electric and Pratt & Whitney, will also manage aftermarket services for the GP7200s. -- Emirates Airline has 53 A380s and 250 GP7200 engines on order. Apart from powering Emirates' A380s, the GP7200 will also be used in Air France and Korean Airlines' A380 fleets. #860.MRO20

Shannon Aerospace Ltd. (SAL) has signed a contract with British Airways for the supply of line maintenance services at Shannon International Airport. The contract is for Extended-range Twin-engine Operational Performance Standard (ETOPS) checks on eleven Airbus A318 aircraft services per week. The maintenance relates to the launch of a new transatlantic Business Class-only service by British Airways from London City to New York, via Shannon later in 2009. #860.MRO21

Monarch Aircraft Engineering Ltd has signed a contract with US Airways to provide maintenance support for the American carrier's flights into Birmingham International Airport during summer 2009. The agreement, which started in May 2009, will see Monarch's engineering staff carrying out daily checks, unscheduled maintenance, and ETOPS support for a US Airways Boeing 757s operating between Birmingham and Philadelphia on a five-times-per-week service. Monarch Aircraft Engineering Ltd and US Airways have previously worked together to support a similar line of flying into Glasgow Airport. The current contract will last for three years. Monarch Aircraft Engineering Ltd Managing Director Richard Mintern commented: "We are delighted that US Airways chose Monarch Aircraft Engineering Ltd as their maintenance partner for their flights to Birmingham." #860.MRO22

SR Technics has reduced the average downtime for a variety of aircraft maintenance checks by up to 30% as part of its strategy to make the company's production methods and services even more efficient. SR Technics has reduced turnaround time (TAT) for an Airbus A320 family intermediate layover check (IL-check) from 21 to 14 days. This is a market-leading TAT for an IL-check, resulting in substantial benefits for operators. SR Technics has also improved services for A330/A340 aircraft, with an average TAT for the IL-check reduced from 24 to 21 days. In addition, the A320 family A-check interval for some customer aircraft has been increased from 600 to 800 flight hours. This is currently the highest interval available on the market and leads to a reduction of more than 30% for A-check related costs. "Our short ground times are achieved by using lean production methods on the aircraft and in the shops, as well as through detailed workflow planning from our highly skilled personnel," explains Helmut Himmelreich, SR Technics Senior Executive Vice President, Aircraft Maintenance. #860.MRO23

* SR Technics' new Equalized Maintenance (E-check) concept reduces aircraft downtime by a total of 17 days during a six-year period. The service distributes all traditional A- and C-check tasks for Airbus A320 family aircraft from a block maintenance concept into equal maintenance packages. SR Technics first introduced this concept in 2003 for the EasyJet fleet, in order to minimize scheduled maintenance downtime. Having successfully completed the first cycle, SR Technics is now launching its E-

check service to the aviation market. The service package consists of fleet technical management, component and parts management (SCM management), E-check maintenance management, and line maintenance management. #860.MRO24

* Stansted Airport-based Titan Airways will continue to entrust its component maintenance to SR Technics. The contract renewal for Integrated Component Services (ICS) for the entire Titan Airways fleet was signed at the recent Paris Air Show. The agreement covers comprehensive services, such as replacement, maintenance, repair and component management on Titan's fleet of Boeing 737-300, 757 and 767 aircraft. These services will be carried out at the SR Technics facilities at London-Stansted. The contract, originally concluded on 2007, has been prolonged for another five years to 2014. It will include the additional Boeing aircraft to be acquired by Titan in the upcoming enlargement of its fleet. #860.MRO25

SAFRAN Group company Messier Services, a leading landing gear and hydraulic service provider, has signed a four-year contract with Aerotron, a European specialist in component support solutions. The agreement covers the support of hydraulic components and avionics for an estimated quantity of 50 Airbus aircraft. The work will be performed from now until 2013 at two of the Messier Services European facilities, one in Molsheim, Alsace, and one in Gloucester in the United Kingdom. #860.MRO26

A new aircraft maintenance hangar at Spokane International Airport, Washington, will house work for Cascade Aerospace and painting firm Associated Painters. Cascade Aerospace plans to add 227 jobs, and Associated Painters about 40. The hangar project has been under consideration for some time, but has been trimmed from an original plan that asked the State of Washington for a USD 8.7 million loan to construct two buildings. A USD 300 000 State grant will supplement a USD 4 million no-interest loan the State approved in May 2009. These funds, in addition to money from both companies and the airport, will allow the construction of a joint facility at Spokane International. #860.MRO27

The European Commission (EC) has adopted the update of the 'blacklist' of airlines banned from flying into the European Union because of safety concerns. The EC has imposed a ban on six airlines from Kazakhstan, one airline certified in Thailand, one additional Ukrainian air carrier, and on operations of all carriers certified in Benin. "The Commission will continue to actively pursue a dialogue with everyone involved in aviation to ensure that all aircraft and air carriers conform to internationally required levels of air safety," said Antonio Tajani, Commission Vice-President in charge of Transport. The new list, which replaces the previous one published in November 2008, can be consulted on the Commission's website at <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban> #860.MRO28

The global hull loss rate for aircraft in 2008 was 0.81 accidents per million flights. For IATA members, the accident rate was 0.52 per million departures. IOSA is one of the elements driving the significantly better safety record of IATA member airlines. IATA invested USD 3 million in its Partnership for Safety programme, which has helped 180 airlines worldwide to prepare for IOSA with gap analysis audits and specific training courses. The FAA accepts the use of IOSA by American carriers for their code-share arrangements with foreign airlines. Audit results, stored in a central database, can be shared with partner airlines and governments. Since its inception, IOSA has helped to avoid almost 1200 redundant audits, saving USD 71 million. IATA is also committed to improving safety on the ground. The

IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) was launched in 2008 for ground handlers to improve safety. ISAGO uses industry best practice standards with a similar central registry. Since launching, a total 45 audits have been conducted. -- Both IOSA and ISAGO are part of the IATA 6 point safety strategy. Along with auditing, the strategy includes specific programmes for infrastructure safety, safety data management and analysis, operational safety, safety management systems and maintenance. #860.MRO29

At the recent Paris Air Show, the Aviation Logistics Network presented its patented design study FliteCube, a sophisticated packaging system for customized aviation logistics management. The system, which meets the most stringent requirements of international aviation authorities, is approved for use with many MRO organizations and airlines. Compared with existing engine transport solutions, FliteCube, with its revolutionary foldable and modular construction, offers about 80% less volume and chargeable weight. At 300 kg unloaded, it is some 180 kg less than the usual rigid carrier. The FliteCube has a unique damper action and locking mechanism which provide greater security of the cargo. The location of a FliteCube can also be tracked using a built-in GPS module. "The FliteCube is the answer to the shortcomings of the existing engine packing solutions," said Thomas Röser, Project Manager at Kelsterbach-based Aviation Logistics Network. #860.MRO30

Names

Jet Aviation has appointed Ian Ludlow as the new Managing Director of the company's Moscow Vnukovo maintenance operation, effective 1 August 2009. He will succeed Carsten Fimm, who has served as station manager of Jet Aviation Vnukovo on an interim assignment since August 2008. Ian Ludlow joins Jet Aviation Vnukovo from Aeromobile Ltd, where he served as Vice President Aircraft Operations. At Jet Aviation Vnukovo, he will be responsible for the maintenance and AOG services operation. – The Vnukovo maintenance operation now offers 24/7 line maintenance services and AOG support. In addition, Jet Aviation Vnukovo also provides AOG support at Moscow's Domodedovo and Sheremetyevo airports and elsewhere in Russian. #860.MRO31