

The monthly newsletter of RegisterAnAircraft.com – the Aviation Division of The Sovereign Group

Nigeria bids to develop business aviation

The first Nigerian Business Aviation Conference (NBAC) is to be held on 7 May this year at The Wheatbaker Hotel in Lagos. The event aims to bring together owners, potential owners, operators, FBOs and service providers to discuss ways of developing corporate aviation in one of the world's few booming economies.

Oil is the key to both Nigeria's wealth and its potential for the expansion of corporate aviation. The industry however faces a number of challenges which to extent mirror those of some other developing economies – a lack of corporate aviation infrastructure, a questionable safety record, legislative bureaucracy and a shortfall in regulation and policy.

As with Russia and China a substantial number of corporate aircraft owned by Nigerians continue to be registered overseas. This is largely due to requirements set in place by financial institutions. The latest listing shows just 45 jet aircraft on the register (including five owned by the military). It is understood that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority will shortly announce new regulations covering business and private aircraft which aims to attract domestic registration and to separate the sector for the first time from commercial aviation.

This month construction is due to start on a new 18,500m² business aviation facility at Iddo-Osun International Airport in the west of the country. Financed by a group of US and local investors, the facility is scheduled to be open by the end of October. At the same time, Jet Alliance of Austria and a German company have announced a partnership with Cita-Triax Aviation, a US and Nigerian combine, to develop corporate aviation services including ad hoc charters available with Nigerian-based aircraft.

These developments come in the wake of healthy figures published by the country's main FBOs – Evergreen Apple Nigeria and Execujet Aviation Nigeria. Evergreen confirmed late last year that the number of movements it had handled had doubled to an average of 15 per day. Execujet opened its FBO in Lagos in October 2012 and both operators have major expansion plans.



Dassault Falcon 2000 update

The Dassault Falcon 2000 celebrated the 20th anniversary of its first flight on 4 March this year. Close to 500 of the super mid-size jets have been delivered and the design has accrued nearly two million flying hours. The aircraft has become one of the world's most popular corporate jets with a client base that ranges from individuals and corporations to government air arms. In the space of 20 years the 2000 has gone through a total of six variants with the latest, the 2000S set for introduction later this year and the longer range 2000LXS set for initial customer deliveries in 2014.

Both the 2000S and 2000LXS received EASA certification in March this year. The 2000S offers enhanced short-field performance while the 2000LXS is designed to replace the long-range 2000LX while also adding the operating capability of the 2000S.

RANA SERVICE CENTRE:

Aviation insurance

Clients of RegisterAnAircraft.com can obtain world class brokerage and competitive quotations through the dedicated team at Sovereign Insurance Services (SIS). Geoff Trew and his Gibraltar-based colleagues offer direct links to underwriters based at Lloyds of London and elsewhere. SIS offers a professional service to owners and advisers, often in time-critical situations.

Aviation coverage spans the full range from airframe, hull and power plant insurance for both new and used aircraft to public liability, as well as to specialised areas such as kidnap and ransom risk. The SIS team can obtain quotes on corporate jets and turboprops, helicopters and commercial aircraft. It is also happy to work with clients who have other classes of aviation asset including flying schools and FBOs.



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UK APD extended to private aircraft passengers

On 1 April 2013 the British government extended its Air Passenger Duty (APD) to corporate and private aircraft with a maximum take-off weight (MTOW) in excess of 5,700kg. The tax applies to passengers departing from UK airports and the amount charged varies according to the distance flown and the size of the aircraft in which the passenger is travelling. The government's intention to extend the duty beyond passengers on commercial airline flights was announced in the Budget statement in 2011. Other national governments within the EU levy APD on corporate aircraft but the newly introduced UK rates are the highest. It has been estimated that the change will bring some 50,000 additional flights within the scope of APD.

The "Standard" rate of APD will be equal to that charged to commercial passengers in premium classes of travel. This amount will be doubled as a "Higher" rate if the aircraft has an MTOW in excess of 20,000kg and provides fewer than 19 seats. There is also a "Reduced" rate for the lowest class of travel – if the seat pitch is lower than 1016mm (40in). Depending upon circumstances and amount of travel, the tax can be paid per flight or on a six-monthly or annual basis by registered operators. The relevant duty for each flight is calculated using a formula based on the number of chargeable passengers, the applicable rate and the distance flown. There are four mileage bands using the capital city of the destination country as the charging point.

Corporate Aircraft News

In a major announcement, Swiss manufacturer **Pilatus** confirmed that it will unveil its new PC-24 twin-jet project at EBACE in Geneva on 21 May. Although the existence of a new jet design has been known for some time, specific details have been closely guarded. It is however known that the aircraft will offer accommodation for eight passengers. It is anticipated that the aircraft will be designed to attract existing customers of the manufacturer's single engine PC-12 turboprop.

On 4 March **Cessna** rolled out the first New Citation Sovereign at its plant in Wichita, Kansas. The new version of the best selling 680 Sovereign offers a new cabin management system, blended winglets and enhanced avionics. The aircraft is expected to receive certification and enter service in the third quarter of this year. In another milestone, the manufacturer rolled out the 400th example of the light jet 525 Citation Jet CJ3 on 25 March.

On 18 March, the revitalised Albuquerque, New Mexico-based manufacturer **Eclipse Aerospace** confirmed that it had powered up the first production Eclipse 550.

AIRCRAFT FACT FILE:

Cess. 208B Grand Caravan



CATEGORY:

Single Engine Turboprop

MANUFACTURER:

Cessna, USA

ENGINES:

1x P&W PT6A 114A turboprop

LENGTH:

12.67 m

WINGSPAN:

15.88 m

RANGE:

1,996 km

MAX. SPEED:

317 kmh

SEATING CAPACITY:

Up to 14

NO. OF CREW:

1

MAXIMUM TAKE-OFF WEIGHT (MTOW):

3,969 kg

DESCRIPTION:

The 208B Grand Caravan is a highly successful single-engine utility aircraft which is in service with passenger airlines, air taxi companies and cargo carriers around the world. It has also been sold, in considerable numbers for corporate/VIP use. The 208B is a stretched version of the original 208 which first flew in 1982. The 208B, which recorded its first flight in 1980, offers a more powerful Pratt & Whitney engine.

In July 2012 the manufacturer announced a new version – the 208B Grand Caravan EX which will offer increased horsepower and improved capability to operate from 'hot and high' airfields and enhanced short field performance. The first of the new variant was delivered at the end of 2012.