

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

## NBAA 2013

The US government “shutdown”, which had paralysed the administration of aviation, came to a timely end just a few days before the opening of this year’s annual meeting and convention of the National Business Aircraft Association (NBAA). A total of 25,425 visitors passed through the gates in Las Vegas from 22 to 24 October, a slight increase on 2012. The show boasted just over 1,100 exhibitors with a static display of 83 aircraft at Henderson Executive Airport and a further 12 inside the Las Vegas Convention Centre.

It was the manufacturers that grabbed the headlines: Dassault unveiled its biggest and most advanced business jet, the Falcon 5X (see story right), and US-based Nextant Aerospace confirmed that its next re-manufacturing project would be the G90XT, based on the Beechcraft King Air C90 series. Brazil’s Embraer unveiled a new version of the Lineage corporate airliner – the Lineage 1000E – which will offer extended range, an enhanced interior and flight deck options and also announced that its Legacy 450, due to enter service in 2015, will boast an extended fuselage and longer range. In a major programme landmark, US-based Eclipse Aerospace delivered its first Eclipse 550 at the show, while Honda Aircraft, which brought a conforming prototype HondaJet to Las Vegas, confirmed that it hopes for FAA certification by the end of 2014.

NBAA 2014 will be held in Orlando from 21 to 23 October.

## The Learjet at 50

The iconic Learjet – the 8-seat series 23 – made its maiden flight from the production plant in Wichita, Kansas, on 7 October 1963. This milestone anniversary was marked by a number of events arranged by the aircraft’s current manufacturer, Canada’s Bombardier. The main event in Wichita saw a gathering of examples of virtually all 15 versions of the Learjet family including a number of the 23, 24 and 25 series from the 1960s. Many of these early aircraft may be grounded from 2015 when Stage 2-compliant aircraft are prohibited from operation under new FAA noise rules.



## Falcon 5X surprises

The specifications for Dassault’s new Falcon 5X have been a closely guarded secret since the project was launched as ‘SMS’ (Super Mid-Size) in 2007 and, as of the official unveiling at NBAA 2013 revealed, much of the speculation in the world’s aviation media has been wrong.

It had been widely reported that the aircraft would be a twinjet designed to replace the trijet Falcon 50 and to compete directly with the G280 and Challenger 300. In fact, it is very much a large and wide cabin aircraft with room for up to 16 passengers.

The aircraft will be powered by two Snecma Silvercrest 1D turbofans and will offer a range of 8,370 km, permitting non-stop operation between Dubai and Tokyo. In an industry first, the new fuselage design will offer a skylight in the cabin roof. The first flight of the 5X is due in early 2015 with certification following a year later. Customer deliveries should begin in 2017.

## RANA SERVICE CENTRE:

### Aircraft registration

The choice of aircraft register will depend on a number of vital questions. What will be appropriate for one client will not work for another. Certain registries, for instance, will not permit their aircraft to be used for “hire and reward,” placed on an AOC and chartered to third parties. It is also vital to consider the proposed geographical base of the aircraft, its intended sphere of operation and the acceptability of crew and maintenance standards. The advantages of “offshore registries” – neutral registration marks, confidentiality and potential tax savings – also need to be considered.

RANA’s specialist aviation team benefits from having established links with many of the world’s major registries and is well placed to offer advice on all these issues.



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## Malta register continues to grow

Malta's adoption of a new Aircraft Registration Act in October 2010 has, as we have reported in several issues of Airborne, proved to be a success in respect of widening the scope of the register. The figures are impressive. In September 2010, just before the new legislation was passed by Parliament, there were 87 aircraft registered in Malta. Of these, 16 were corporate jets listed to six operators, of which ten were owned by charter operator Comlux. As of November 2013, the register has almost doubled to reach a total of 154 aircraft, of which 52 are corporate jets. These jets were registered to a total of 17 owners with AOCs (Air Operator Certificates). These figures are clear proof of the success of the authorities' stated aim of attracting commercial operators of corporate aircraft to the island.

## The world's fastest

The new Cessna Citation Ten, due for certification early in 2014, has been confirmed as the world's fastest civilian aircraft. Following high-speed test flights in advance of FAA approval, the aircraft's maximum operating speed has been validated as Mach 0.935 (1,155kmh or 711mph). This puts it ahead of Gulfstream's flagship G650, which was the previous record holder with Mach 0.925. Until the G650 arrived on the scene, and following the retirement of Concorde, the record was held by the Cessna's predecessor – the Citation X at Mach 0.920. The Citation Ten first flew in January 2012.

## Corporate Aircraft News

**Cessna** has confirmed that the first flight of the prototype of its new Citation Latitude mid-size jet is on schedule to take place in early 2014. The aircraft will seat up to nine passengers.

**Viking Air** delivered the first Viking Twin Otter Series 400 equipped with a corporate interior to an undisclosed customer.

**Gulfstream** announced at the NBAA that a G650 had broken the record for a round-the-world westbound flight by a subsonic aircraft. The G650 completed the 32,685km flight in 41 hours, seven minutes at an average speed of 915kmh with just three fuel stops en route. In other positive news for the manufacturer, it confirmed that it had delivered 38 aircraft – comprising 32 large-cabin and six midsize jets – in the third quarter of 2013, versus 17 large-cabin jets in the same period in 2012.

In a significant milestone for **Airbus**, the manufacturer announced that it had sold its first ACJ in the US market. The ACJ318 will be based at Van Nuys Airport in Los Angeles, California, and will be operated for an undisclosed customer.

**Beechcraft** delivered the first of up to 105 King Air 350i to new membership-based operator Wheels Up during the NBAA in Las Vegas.

### AIRCRAFT FACT FILE:

## Hawker 900XP



### CATEGORY:

Mid-Size Jet

### MANUFACTURER:

Hawker Beechcraft, USA

### ENGINES:

2x Honeywell TFE731-50R turboprops

### LENGTH:

15.60 m

### WINGSPAN:

16.56 m

### RANGE:

5,219 km

### MAX. SPEED:

863 kmh

### SEATING CAPACITY:

Up to 15

### NO. OF CREW:

2

### MAXIMUM TAKE-OFF WEIGHT (MTOW):

12,701 kg

### DESCRIPTION:

The Hawker 900XP is a version of a design which first flew in 1962 and which has become the best-selling corporate jet of all time – the British (DH)HS125. Its direct design heritage lies with the BAe125-800 which first flew in 1983. Production of the line was transferred to the USA in 1997 following the sale of BAe Systems' corporate aircraft division to Raytheon.

The 900XP received type certification in August 2007. The aircraft was the first to offer Honeywell's new TFE731-50R turboprop which provides improved "hot and high performance". Although popular worldwide, promotion of the 900XP has focused particularly on markets requiring longer range and fuel-efficient operations such as Russia and Latin America.