

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

## LABACE 2013

The tenth annual Latin American Business Aviation Conference & Exhibition (LABACE) was held at Congonhas airport in São Paulo from 14 to 16 August. This year's event drew 13,823 attendees, only about a 1,000 fewer than expected. Exhibitor numbers were slightly down despite the organiser, expanding the exhibition space to accommodate demand.

According to data released at the show, the Brazilian market for corporate and general aviation aircraft is second only to that of the US with some 13,965 aircraft registered. Total growth in 2012 was 6.7% with long-range jets increasing by some 16%.

For this reason, all of the major manufacturers were in attendance at this year's event. Indigenous manufacturer Embraer displayed its full range of designs from the Phenom 100 to the Lineage 1000, along with the Legacy 500 which was making its LABACE debut after its visit to Geneva's EBACE in May.

## EU HQ for Comlux

On 5 September, Swiss-based corporate aviation management and charter operator Comlux Aviation Group formally opened its new headquarters in Malta. The country's status as a full EU member along with the 2010 changes to its civil aviation legislation to encourage applications for Air Operator Certificates (AOC) – which require operators to establish a physical presence in Malta – has led to this substantial relocation. It is understood that Switzerland's status outside the EU was causing the company issues, particularly in respect of charter operations within the member states.



The worldwide operation boasts a total of 19 aircraft, with 11 registered in Malta according to the latest listing. Of these 11, six are Airbus ACJ aircraft covering the complete single-aisle range – from ACJ318 to ACJ321. Malta will be headquarters of the company's charter division, with a worldwide fleet of 14 units available for hire. The company also has aircraft registered in Aruba and Kazakhstan, with completion and maintenance operations in Indianapolis.

## Jetcraft-world's largest broker

Jetcraft, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, now claims to be "the world's largest business aircraft brokerage company" following its acquisition of ExecuJet Aircraft Trading. Jetcraft specialises in acquisitions and trades of both new and pre-owned corporate jets. The company has purchased the business aircraft sales arm of Swiss-based ExecuJet Aviation Group.

Niall Olver, CEO of ExecuJet Aviation Group, said: "This deal is win-win for all involved, most importantly – the client. ExecuJet's roots are in aircraft sales and our experience told us that this was a unique fit of exceptional sales professionals." ExecuJet will now concentrate on its substantial FBO and MRO activities, along with an active aircraft management fleet that now numbers just under 190 units.

## RANA SERVICE CENTRE:

### Tailored aviation consultancy

RANA's aviation clients can benefit from our substantial and broad ranging knowledge of the corporate and commercial aircraft scenes. The spectrum of our expertise is wide and encompasses both the macro to the micro. From providing insight into potential options for corporate jet ownership and operation through to a complete database of commercial and corporate aircraft airframes, RANA's specialist consultants can add critical value to the decision making process.

Our coverage includes: technical and performance specifications of competing aircraft models; research and detailed reporting on the operational history of individual airframes and operators; assessment of available modes of operation for corporate aircraft; the registration/ownership requirements of registries worldwide; and the most suitable and efficient corporate structures for holding assets worldwide. Contact our team to find out what you need to know.



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## San Marino registry update

The San Marino Aircraft Register was re-opened on 7 November 2012 and was officially launched at MEBA in Dubai in early December. The republic is actively promoting its register to corporate and private clients. Ten months down the line, a quick look confirms that a number of aircraft have taken up San Marino's "T7" registration prefix.

At its relaunch, the registry held a Citation Mustang and Citation-Jet CJ1+. These have now been joined by an early production Learjet 24E, a Falcon 2000 and a Gulfstream V. The register also holds four corporate turboprops. In addition, the first dormant airliner (a former Royal Air Maroc Express ATR72) has been re-registered while between leases.

## Flexjet booming

Headquartered in Richardson TX, Flexjet is the world's second largest fractional jet ownership operator after NetJets. The company recently reported an overall 96% increase in fractional shares and jet card sales for the first six months of 2013. The airline ceased recruiting flight crew and laid off a substantial number of pilots at the height of the economic downturn but has now started to actively recruit again. As this issue went to press Bombardier announced that it was selling Flexjet to Directional Aviation Capital, owners of Flight Options among others. The new entity, Flexjet LLC in turn announced an order for up to 245 Bombardier aircraft valued up to \$5.2 billion.

## Corporate Aircraft News

On 7 August, Swiss manufacturer **Pilatus** delivered the 1,200th PC-12 to US fractional operator PlaneSense. The single turboprop first flew in May 1991. In another significant milestone, the manufacturer's Chinese joint venture, Pilatus Aircraft Industry China, opened for business. Set up with Beijing Tian Xiang Jian Yu Science, the company is based in Chongqing and will produce both PC-12 and PC-6 airframes for the Asia Pacific region.

**Cessna** announced in mid-August that it had completed the first fuselage of its new Citation Latitude mid-size jet. The Latitude is expected to enter service in mid-2015 and is designed to fill the gap between the 560 Excel and the 680 Sovereign. On 23 August the manufacturer also marked the first flight of the first production model of the Citation M2. The design is expecting FAA certification by year end 2013.

The first **Embraer** Legacy 650 to be built in China had its maiden flight on 26 August. The aircraft was built by Harbin Embraer Aircraft Industry – a joint venture between the Brazilian manufacturer and Aviation Industry Corporation of China. The first delivery is scheduled to a Chinese customer by the end of this year.

### AIRCRAFT FACT FILE:

## Sikorsky S-76C++



### CATEGORY:

Helicopter

### MANUFACTURER:

Sikorsky Aircraft, USA

### ENGINES:

2x Turbomeca Arriel 2S2 turboshaft

### LENGTH:

16.00 m

### WINGSPAN:

n/a

### RANGE:

761 km

### MAX. SPEED:

287 kmh

### SEATING CAPACITY:

Up to 13

### NO. OF CREW:

2

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

5,307 kg

### DESCRIPTION:

The design of the S-76 stretches back to the 1970s. Originally known as the S-74, the aircraft was re-christened as the S-76 to mark the US bicentennial in 1976. FAA certification was granted in November 1978. The S-76A, the initial production model, was Sikorsky's first helicopter to be designed exclusively for the civilian market.

The S-76C++ entered production in 2006 and features enhanced avionics and interior modifications. The C++ has now itself been replaced by the S-76D, which first flew in February 2009 and received certification in October 2012. The new version offers a new powerplant, interior and enhanced performance. Over 800 examples of the S-76 have been delivered with a sizeable proportion being used for corporate/VIP transport.