

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

Historic roll-out for Pilatus's new PC-24

Swiss manufacturer Pilatus marked its own 75th birthday and the 25th anniversary of the launch of its best-selling PC-12 turboprop by rolling out on 1 August – Switzerland's national day – the first prototype of its new PC-24 jet at its base at Buochs in the centre of Switzerland in front of 25,000 spectators.

The prototype was drawn from the production facility by a team of 24 horses – representing both the PC-24 type designation as well as its intended “mission profile as a workhorse”. Marketed as the world's first “Super Versatile Jet”, the PC-24 was unveiled amid much fanfare at EBACE in Geneva in May 2013.

The PC-24 features a large rear cargo door, a range of 3,611km, corporate seating for up to eight passengers and the ability to operate from short and unprepared runways. According to Pilatus, these features provide the versatility of a turboprop with the cabin size of a mid-size jet and the field performance of a light jet. First flight of the aircraft is slated for early 2015, with certification and service entry scheduled for 2017.

As we reported at the time, Pilatus took a total of 84 orders for the PC-24 when it opened its order book at EBACE 2014. It has now confirmed that its production capacity has been fully sold until the end of 2019 and that it has temporarily stopped taking orders for the aircraft.

Plans for Jersey register approved

The Jersey States, the parliament of the Channel Island, approved legislation to establish the Jersey Aircraft Registry on 9 July 2014. The legislation has now been submitted to the UK Privy Council for Royal Assent.

The new registry is expected to open for business later this year in direct competition to the Channel Islands Aircraft Register, based in neighbouring Guernsey, which launched at the end of 2013. Aircraft registered in Jersey will use the prefix “ZJ”.

According to the new registry's website, Jersey will offer “a new proposition for the registration of high-value private and corporate aircraft, the Registry will place an emphasis on safety and professional expertise, with the assurance of an exceptional client service.”

Maltese register continues to grow

The latest Maltese aircraft register, published on 6 August 2014, reflects impressive growth in the number of corporate aircraft and operators registered in Malta since new legislation was enacted in October 2010.

The legislation aimed to broaden the appeal of registration in Malta. In particular it sought to attract operators looking to use corporate aircraft on a commercial or “hire and reward” basis by widening the criteria for acceptance and offering competitive advantages to new operators.

In September 2010 the register held a total of 87 aircraft. Just 16 of these were corporate jets registered under six Air Operator Certificates (AOC) and 10 were operated by just one company, Comlux. The latest listing shows that there are now 165 aircraft registered, of which 70 are corporate jets – together with three turboprops – managed by 20 operators holding AOCs.

RANA SERVICE CENTRE:

Aircraft insurance

The range of aviation insurance products provided by our colleagues in Sovereign Insurance Services (SIS) includes bespoke coverage for owners of private aircraft and helicopters. Clients of RegisterAnAircraft.com can obtain world-class brokerage and competitive quotations through Geoff Trew and his team of Gibraltar-based colleagues. SIS enjoys direct links to underwriters based at Lloyds of London and elsewhere, and offers a professional service to owners and their 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.



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Farnborough 2014

A record-breaking \$201 billion worth of orders and commitments were placed during the 2014 Farnborough International Airshow (FIA). The biennial event, held at Farnborough airport in Hampshire, brings together global manufacturers and representatives of commercial and military aerospace operators.

Outside show times, Farnborough airport is now one of Europe's busiest centres for corporate aviation and is one of the principal bases of FBO and operator TAG Aviation. FIA 2014 saw a substantial presence from each of the main manufacturers, with a large number of aircraft on static display. As expected, Gulfstream showed both the G650 and G280 while Embraer, Airbus, Dassault and Bombardier each displayed their latest models. In a significant milestone, Piaggio Aero announced the first major order for its new Avanti EVO, which had been announced at EBACE back in May. Hong Kong-based Bravia Capital placed an order for 10 aircraft with options for a further 40. The Avanti EVO will be the world's fastest turboprop following EASA certification, which is expected later this year.

New Isle of Man Director of Civil Aviation

The Isle of Man has appointed a new Director of Civil Aviation (DCA) to replace Hartley Elder who retired in May this year. Simon Williams will be joining the Manx registry from the UK Civil Aviation Authority and will succeed the current acting-DCA Brian Johnson on 1 October 2014.

Corporate Aircraft News

Two days before the opening of the Farnborough International Airshow the world's fastest civilian aircraft, the newly certified **Cessna** Citation X+ made its first transatlantic crossing. The aircraft flew from Presque Isle, Maine to Paris Le Bourget in 5 hours 33 minutes. It then made the short hop to Farnborough. It was planned to display the aircraft around Europe following the show before the aircraft returned to the US.

On 22 July **Dassault** confirmed that it had mated the engines, wings and fuselage of the first Falcon 8X, clearing the way for the start of initial ground tests. The new tri-jet is expected to fly in 2015 with certification expected a year later.

Brazilian manufacturer **Embraer** marked three significant milestones on 25 July. The company handed delivered the 200th Phenom 300, itself the 25th 300 to NetJets and the 75th such aircraft to be assembled in the US at its plant in Melbourne, Florida.

The first production **HondaJet** made its public debut at the EAA AirVenture show at Oshkosh, Wisconsin. First deliveries of the new aircraft are expected in early 2015.



AIRCRAFT FACT FILE:

AgustaWestland AW109E



CATEGORY:

Helicopter

MANUFACTURER:

AgustaWestland, Italy/UK

ENGINES:

2x P&WC PW206C turboshaft

LENGTH:

11.49 m

WINGSPAN:

N/A

RANGE:

932 km

MAX. SPEED:

285 kmh

SEATING CAPACITY:

Up to 7

NO. OF CREW:

1 or 2

MAXIMUM TAKE-OFF WEIGHT (MTOW):

2,850 kg

DESCRIPTION:

The AW109E is the upgraded civilian version of this light weight twin engine helicopter. The original Agusta A109 first flew in 1971 and a total of 24 variants have since been produced. The design has been produced in substantial numbers for both civilian and military operators worldwide.

The AW109E has seen use in offshore and medical evacuation, surveillance, and various military missions including VIP transport along with service with corporate operators. The aircraft can perform category "A" takeoffs from elevated helipads without payload reduction and offers the flexibility of single pilot IFR operations. The design features a digital glass cockpit with liquid crystal displays and is noted for both high-performance and cost-effective operation.