

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

A new helicopter from the UAE

Quest Helicopters grabbed headlines at the recent Dubai air show by announcing that a new design for a helicopter is to be built in the United Arab Emirates. The AVQ, a family of light twin-engine and twin-rotor helicopters, will be designed in the Ukraine and then produced in the Emirates. The privately owned company announced that it is to build the new craft at a facility in Umm al-Quwain, with initial production scheduled to commence in 2014.

One design feature that has been a talking point for industry observers is a unique crew and passenger safety capsule which can be ejected from the aircraft. The helicopter will also feature full 'fly by wire' control and

engines designed in the Ukraine.

The company exhibited a full-scale mock-up with "V.I.P." interior at the air show. This helicopter is targeted at a number of market segments, including the corporate customer.

Comlux grabs a rare chance

It is comparatively rare for official government or head of state aircraft to transition into the private sector but, in a significant transaction, Comlux has purchased an aircraft until recently used as presidential transport by Kazakhstan. The Boeing 767-200 first flew in November 2001 with delivery for interior outfitting three months later. Replaced earlier this year by an Airbus A330-200, the aircraft was sold to Comlux in September 2011.

Marketed now as a Boeing 767BBJ, the aircraft is the first to be placed under the AOC of Comlux Aruba; a new division of the VVIP charter operator that has been added to those in Switzerland, Malta and Kazakhstan. The aircraft, registered P4-CLA, has been refitted with a luxurious interior with accommodation for up to 60 passengers and will be marketed



to governments and heads of state for medium and long haul operations. The aircraft is based in Bahrain.

Al Bateen puts on growth spurt

Al Bateen Executive Airport in Abu Dhabi, the Gulf's only airport dedicated to corporate aviation, has continued its impressive growth in traffic. The third quarter of 2011 recorded 1,903 aircraft movements – an increase of over 12% on the same period last year.

This upward trend was boosted during the second week in November – the week that included the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix – when the airport reported more than 150 movements during the period leading up to the race; a 58% increase on the figures from 2010. The hike in traffic was a mix of operations by based charter aircraft and a large number of visitors using dedicated facilities provided by FBOs.

RANA SERVICE CENTRE:

Aviation Consultancy Case Study

In October's 'Airborne' we outlined the aviation consultancy service that we can offer to clients. Several recent enquiries have illustrated the added value that this service can provide. These enquiries were all essentially seeking our advice as to the advantages and disadvantages of using corporate aircraft for their particular businesses. RANA's specialist aviation team was able to provide outline case studies setting out the available options – from charter, through fractional ownership to outright aircraft acquisition – and examining how they might be applied to the client's business. The business case for corporate aircraft operation is compelling. Providing commercial perspectives on using such aircraft as business tools is a core facility that we can offer to clients. Contact us for further details.

Dubai Air Show 2011 generates big order book

Although not dedicated exclusively to the corporate aircraft sector, the biennial Dubai air show provided some significant headlines for the industry. Held at the Dubai Airport Expo next to Dubai International Airport from 13 to 17 November, and covering the military and commercial airline sectors in addition the executive market, the show broke records for both visitor and exhibitor numbers. All the major manufacturers of corporate aircraft took space in the static park, with notable designs including the Gulfstream G150, G450 and G550 rubbing shoulders with the Bombardier Global Express XRS, Embraer Legacy 650 and Lineage 1000.

Among the US\$63 billion worth of orders announced at the show was a first order for the Airbus ACJ321. This aircraft has been ordered by V.I.P. charter operator Comlux and will join the company's existing fleet of ACJ318, ACJ319 and ACJ320 aircraft. The new aircraft will enter service in 2014 and will offer the tallest and widest cabin of any business jet along with significantly greater floor space and baggage capacity.

The other significant announcement came from Execujet,



which launched its SimplyFly concept designed to ease the process of corporate aircraft acquisition, financing and operation. The company has established a fund specifically to finance aircraft purchases and will also manage and operate the aircraft on behalf of clients.

The Dubai air show 2013 will switch location to the new Dubai World Central airport.

Corporate Aircraft News

On 18 November, Gulfstream announced that its new flagship G650 had achieved provisional type certification (PTC) from the FAA. The test aircraft have amassed over 2,200 flying hours. This certification allows the company to commence interior completions on the initial production aircraft, which are due to be delivered to customers during the second quarter of 2012. When it enters service, the G650 will be the world's fastest corporate jet with a top speed of Mach 0.925.

In a significant landmark for the company and the rotorcraft industry, **Robinson** delivered its 10,000th helicopter on 11

November. A significant number of the current range of R22, R44 and R66 are flown as corporate transports.

AIRCRAFT FACT FILE:

Pilatus PC-12



CATEGORY:

Turboprop

MANUFACTURER:

Pilatus Aircraft, Switzerland

ENGINES:

1x Pratt & Whitney PT6A-67B turboprop

LENGTH:

14.40 m

WINGSPAN:

16.27 m

RANGE:

2,915 km

MAX. SPEED:

519 kmh

SEATING CAPACITY:

Up to 9

NO. OF CREW:

2

MAXIMUM TAKE-OFF WEIGHT (MTOW):

4,740 kg

DESCRIPTION:

At the end of November, Pilatus Aircraft delivered the 1,100th PC-12 to a customer. This timely statistic demonstrates the popularity of the Swiss-designed single engine turboprop. Although the aircraft is used widely for regional passenger operations, it has also achieved significant orders from corporate customers for use as an executive transport.

The PC-12 received US FAA certification in July 1994. An upgraded version of the design, the PC-12NG, was launched at the NBAA in 2007. The new version offers increased cruise speed, improved climb performance and a glass cockpit. Although the aircraft can seat up to nine passengers in commuter airliner configuration, the usual corporate seating is for between four and six.

The team at RegisterAnAircraft.com and The Sovereign Group would like to send all 'Airborne' readers Season's Greetings and our best wishes for 2012