

NEWS CLIPS

Comlux America Now an Approved Airbus Outfitter

Airbus announced that Comlux America has been appointed an Airbus cabin outfitter in the U.S., following a detailed audit of the Indianapolis, Indiana-based company. The addition of Comlux America to the Airbus-approved VIP cabin outfitting network brings the list of approved outfitters to nine.



MARK WAGNER

At the announcement appointing Comlux America as an Airbus cabin outfitter were, left to right, Christophe Pelet, head of Comlux transactions; Scott Meyer, v-p of operations Comlux America; Ettore Rodaro, president of Comlux America; Arnaud Martin, v-p, and Gregory Costan, senior procurement manager, Airbus Corporate Jet and VIP program; and Fabienne Fioroni, Airbus cabin procurement manager.

Comlux plans to complete three to four jets per year, and its first VVIP Airbus ACJ is an ACJ320 that is being shown here at the EBACE static display. The 19-passenger ACJ320 is fitted with three cabin areas, including a center private lounge with full lavatory and shower. The lounge's divan can be converted into a queen-size bed.

"Growing the Airbus-approved VIP cabin outfitting network by adding companies, such as Comlux America, helps us provide an efficient solution to increasing customer demand for turnkey solutions, as well as facilitating faster access to completion slots," said Klaus Richter, Airbus executive vice president of procurement.

Jet Aviation Signs BBJ2 Completions Contract

Another Boeing BBJ2 is slated for completion at Jet Aviation Basel, following the signing of a new contract with an undisclosed client. Jet Aviation (Stand 7060), founded in Switzerland in 1967 and now a wholly owned subsidiary of General Dynamics, has completed more than 30 wide- and narrowbody jets during the past 15 years.

"Interest in customized completions of both widebody and narrowbody aircraft continues to be high," said Eugen Hartl, vice president of sales, market development and customer service for the completions business unit. Due for re-delivery this year are a Boeing 747-400 and 757-200 and two Airbus A340s and one A319.

ABS Jets and Avcon Jet To Open

Embraer Line Maintenance Station in Kiev

Prague, Czech Republic-based ABS Jets (Stand 775) has announced the creation of a joint venture with Vienna, Austria-based Avcon Jet to open an Embraer line maintenance station at Kiev Borispol airport in Ukraine. The agreement also covers warranty work. Both companies are Embraer sales representatives, and both operate Legacy 600s—five and four, respectively. The station will service the partners' fleets and be open to third-party operators.

Avcon Jet operates 30 aircraft "all over Europe, specifically in Ukraine and Russia." It is the appointed Embraer sales rep for southeast Europe. Avcon Jet CEO Alexander Vagacs claims the company is the largest business jet operator in Ukraine. He told AIN that the maintenance station is to start with the Legacy 600 and then expand to other Embraer models.

VISTAJET UNVEILS GLOBAL XRS WITH TA



PHOTOS: DAVID MCINTOSH

VistaJet is introducing new cabin interiors, above, into its 30-plus-strong fleet, with new silverware and china by Christofle and Italian-produced cashmere soft furnishings. In-flight snacks are now provided by London's Harvey Nichols.

On Monday, VistaJet unveiled this unusual tail painting on one of its Bombardier Global XRS business jets—a work of art by U.S. street artist Retna (far right). Joining him on the ramp here at EBACE are, left to right, creative art consultant Andy Valmorbidia, Bombardier president Stefano Ridolfi and VistaJet founder and chairman Thomas Flohr.

VistaJet throttles up

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plan that would see its fleet rise above 100 aircraft. Between this month and November, it is due to take three more of the previously ordered Challengers and a pair of Global Express jets.

Flohr pointed out 75 percent of the operator's flights now originate from or go to "fast-growth markets," such as Brazil, Russia, India, Nigeria, China and the Middle East, instead of 25 percent four years ago. Hence, the need for ultra-long-range, fast jets. "With the Global 6000, you can fly from London to Abuja, Nigeria, and back on the same day," he said. Most international flights are in the five- to nine-hour bracket, he added. [The Global 6000 is the renamed Global XRS featuring the Global Vision cockpit.—Ed.]

While 2011 is "off to a good start," Flohr said 2010 saw a 25-percent increase in revenues over the previous year. He added some 20,000 passengers traveled aboard VistaJet aircraft last

flights. The Swiss-based operator aims to keep a fleet of young aircraft, with an average age less than two years and no individual aircraft more than three years old.

"The first quarter of this year has been blockbuster for us," Flohr told AIN. "The world crisis is far behind and we are fully booked and flying longer ranges. Focusing on the top of the market has paid off." Since around October last year, VistaJet has seen flight

CAE signs training agreement with International

Austria's International Management (IJM) and CAE signed a four-year training agreement on Tuesday at EBACE.

Under the contract, more than 100 IJM pilots will train at CAE facilities in the Middle East, Europe and the U.S. on a number of aircraft. IJM

Legacy's lift Kazakhstan