BBGA opposes changes to passenger duty

The British Business General Aviation Association has pledged to oppose changes to the UK’s current air passenger duty which penalises business aviation specifically and could equate to a 54% increase in the rate per passenger.

Aircell rebrands as Gogo Business Aviation

Gogo Inc. has announced that Aircell, the company’s business aviation division, has rebranded as Gogo Business Aviation. The company provides on-board services including internet, email, voice, texting, personal smartphone usage, movies, TV episodes, news, weather and cockpit data.

PrivatPort expands to Munich

Geneva-based FBO PrivatPort has opened its newest base in its network of 79 stations. The base offers passenger and crew lounges, flight planning, customs and immigration assistance, airport shuttles, concierge services, fuelling and catering arrangements.

Air BP purchase adds 73 locations

Air BP has purchased the aviation fuel business Stanolil Fuel and Retail Aviation AS, from Canadian company Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. The deal will add around 73 new airports in the Nordic countries and northern Europe to Air BP’s 600-strong global fuels network.

RUAG markets HUD for Challengers

RUAG Aviation has signed a dealership agreement with Aircraft Corporation to market HUD Vision Access for the Challenger 604 and 605. Under this agreement, RUAG will be responsible for the sale and installation of the enhanced flight-vision system, which enables operations in low visibility conditions.

Global Jet is a long haul leader as it adds another Express

Geneva-based operator Global Jet has added a Global Express, entirely refurbished in 2013, to its fleet. This aircraft will be fully available for charter. “We have been waiting for this private jet for quite a long time now and we are thrilled for it to be entering our fleet,” states Léonard Berthoulet, head of charter sales. “With its 12 individual seats, the aircraft is expected to match up to client expectations. It has capacity to sleep eight and, with its Wi-Fi connection, available along with two lavatories and a fully-equipped galley.

Versatile King Air will suit multiple UK and European roles for Gama Aviation

UK operator Gama Aviation has expanded its charter fleet with the addition of a multi-role King Air 350C. The prop is being offered for utility and corporate use, and will be available in four configurations: executive, commuter, cargo and medevac. The King Air will be based at the company’s Glasgow Airport facility, which formally opened in November 2013. It is also expected to run regular charters from Farnborough.

Commercial manager Paul Cremer says “We have received considerable interest for the aircraft in its cargo configuration as currently there is restricted access to aircraft of this size for cargo and freight missions. “We expect it to be very popular with existing clients as well as encouraging a new client base.”

The aircraft can be quickly configured for medevac. Adds Cremer “The dual liftport facility in the medevac configuration provides yet another option for this flexible platform.” In its executive and commuter formats Cremer anticipates the aircraft will be in high demand from travellers seeking easy access to the more remote parts of Scotland. With a range of up to 1,400nm it also provides a cost-efficient transport mode for European charters and only requires a 1,000 metre runway.

Global marketing officer Duncan Daines explains the reasons for basing the King Air in Glasgow: “We will use it in its ambulance configuration as part of our contract for the Scottish Ambulance Service, so it will be a relief aircraft for there as well, in case one of our existing aircraft goes tech or if we have increased capacity. However, it is spending a lot of time further south too. It is going wherever the market is taking it. “If we have a booking for cargo we can facilitate that rather easily. It is essentially why we bought the aircraft, because it is flexible and multi-role. It takes us back to the beginnings of the company when we had our original Beech Baron.”

With its authorised service centre at Farnborough providing maintenance for King Air, Baron and Bonanza aircraft, the company has a long association with Beechcraft and Textron Aviation products. The aircraft joins a varied UK fleet that includes types such as the Challenger 604, Learjet 45, Gulfstream G550 and Hawker 1000.

Cremer continues: “Our mixed fleet means we can fulfil a variety of mission requests. However, the addition of such a versatile aircraft brings an extra dimension to our offering.”

Concludes Daines: “There are particular industry verticals, such as automotive, aviation, and medical, where items are required on a ‘just in time’ or emergency basis. The King Air, with its flexible configuration, is ideally suited to these missions.

“Naturally we will take a view on adding further aircraft once we have fully understood how this aircraft is being sold and which configurations are most commonly used.”