

## Gama wins West Africa CL604 oil contract

Gama Aviation has won a contract to support a major oil company in West Africa, primarily using a Challenger 604. The operator will supply air and ground services, flying and maintaining the aircraft on behalf of the client. The length of the contract is for two years, with the option to extend for a further two.

MD for Europe Mark Gascoigne says: "We are delighted to have extended our relationship with this client by winning a hard-fought tender process. We have been able to create a solution that delivers the right mix of security, safety, resilience and value by combining our air and ground assets."

The Challenger 604 will be backed up by other aircraft as required. Line and AOG maintenance will be supplied in country, while base maintenance is due to take place at Gama's London Oxford facility, which specialises in CL601/604/605 types.

Head of jet maintenance Scott Corbett says: "We are well positioned to support this aircraft, both down route and through its contracted lifecycle via our Oxford base.

However I also anticipate that, because of the aircraft's mission profile, we will draw upon our teams in Nice and Sharjah, all of whom have support capabilities."

The company has also appointed former Close Brothers MD Richard Kearsey as director of corporate development. A chartered accountant by profession, Kearsey spent 27 years at Close Brothers' aviation and marine finance division, establishing the merchant bank in the market.

He comments: "Gama Aviation has the structure, financial means and shareholder backing to capture the opportunity that exists within the business aviation sector. I'm delighted to join the company and look forward to its development in the years ahead."

Group CEO Marwan Khalek adds: "Richard is another excellent addition to our leadership team and I am very pleased that we continue to attract such high calibre talent to our business. His experience and proven business acumen will add immediate bandwidth."



Global Jet marketing and sales co-ordinator Margo De Kalbermatten.

### Global Jet adds floating base G5000 for short notice requests

Swiss-headquartered Global Jet has added a Bombardier Global 5000, configured for 12 passengers, to its charter fleet. The aircraft has no fixed base in Europe and offers swift availability.

The Global 5000 is capable of flying 5,200 nm and offers guests a range of entertainment features, including an office system and wi-fi. It features a two-sided forward galley, two lavatories and three cabin zones, and its 12 single seats can be converted into a double and four individual flat beds.

The Wyvern Wingman-certified operator has a sizeable presence at Paris Le Bourget airport as well as bases at Moscow (Vnukovo and Sheremetyevo), Farnborough, Geneva, Macau, Marseille and Warsaw.

## Centreline adds second Legacy 500 to boost short runway capacity

Centreline, headquartered at Bristol airport in the UK, has taken delivery of a second Embraer Legacy 500. The managed jet is based in Manchester and will be available for charter bookings from the end of this month. With a range of 3,100 nm, the Legacy will add to the operator's ability to fly to destinations including the former CIS, Greece and the Canary Islands, even from short runways such as Dundee and Oxford. It is Centreline's third super midsize jet, complementing an existing Legacy 500 and Falcon 2000LXS.

Flight ops manager James Pyne comments: "I have had the pleasure of flying the Legacy 500 for the last two years and I am thrilled that we now have a second one in our fleet. The aircraft is a delight to operate and we have had very positive feedback from our passengers about the onboard experience we provide."

CEO Tanya Raynes adds: "Winning this contract is a clear sign that we are establishing ourselves as a management organisation of choice with owners of aircraft of any size. The Legacy 500 is the perfect aircraft for us, as it is designed to deliver an exceptional experience."

## Akagera adds AW119Kx to EMS and tourism fleet

Rwanda's Akagera Aviation has taken delivery of two AW119Kx helicopters from Leonardo. The aircraft can be configured for either passenger transport or HEMS, depending on the mission at hand.

Established in 2004 and headquartered at Kigali International airport, the company has been operating an AW109 GrandNew and an AW139 since 2010. The aircraft are said to be well suited to the hot and high conditions in Rwanda, and will support local communities as well as the growing tourism sector, for which Akagera is the first operator in the country. It also offers maintenance and training services.



Sir Lee Pearson CBE, Neil Back MBE and John Challis with the Midlands Air Ambulance team.

## Midlands Air Ambulance expects swifter response times with well-equipped H145

UK charity Midlands Air Ambulance (MAA) has commenced operations with its upgraded H145 helicopter. The aircraft is supporting patient care across six counties and will be housed at RAF Cosford in Shropshire. It was unveiled by chairman Brendan Connor alongside ambassadors John Challis, Sir Lee Pearson and Neil Back.

MAA employs three air ambulance helicopters, wholly owning the latest one and an H135, and leasing a second H135 from Babcock Mission Critical Services.

The larger H145 was medically kitted out at Babcock's Staverton facility and is expected to handle an average of three missions a day. It can travel long distances before refuelling, enabling the aircrew to respond faster. A large interior means that additional aircrew can be flown to major incident scenes, and further medical equipment can be carried on board to treat more complex emergencies.

Connor states: "Excellent pre-hospital patient care is at the heart of everything we do. To support our

mission, build resilience and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the charity, we made the strategic decision to invest a proportion of donations into this H145. The new airframe will enable us to reduce our operating costs and complements our plans to further improve care in the region."

MAA chief executive Hanna Sebright adds: "The new airframe cost £7 million and has been funded by our dedicated supporters, including the communities we serve and our corporate partners."

### Nomad's SMS is validated by IS-BAO certificate

Swiss operator Nomad Aviation has received certification for successfully implementing the International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO), which is issued by the International Business Aviation Council (IBAC).

"We are proud to hold the registration certificate," says CEO Thomas Koehli. "The programme centres on safety management systems (SMS) and leads our company from establishing principles to achieving an effective SMS, and eventually attaining a risk-averse, generative safety culture."

"The audits are conducted every two years and ensure conformance with the standards and recommended practices. The audits also provide valuable feedback to us."

IS-BAO certification was launched in 2002 by IBAC and promotes the use of high quality operating practices for business aircraft operations by establishing a framework for effective safety and operational processes.

Nomad Aviation has offices in Zurich/Kloten, Switzerland and Sliema, Malta.



Thomas Koehli says that the IS-BAO audits provide valuable feedback to his team.

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