Amac is broadening its expansion strategy with new capabilities

by Kirby J. Harrison

Asked if business at MBO and completion and refurbishment company Amac Aerospace is good, the response from COO Bernd Schramm was simple: “We can’t complain.” It was also a classic understatement, describing business at a company that saw a 2011 net sales increase of about 30 percent over 2011.

The seven-year-old completion center (Booth 255), based in Basel, Switzerland, has already begun work on its first executive Boeing 747-8 and in June expects to deliver the Airbus A330/799 green completion as well as a major Boeing 777 refurbishment.

More important, Amac has taken a significant step in expanding its maintenance capabilities beyond the Airbus ACJ and Boeing BBJ and now includes executive widebodies, up to and including the Airbus A330/340 series and Boeing’s latest 747-8. “It is part of our expansion strategy,” said Schramm, who noted that in moving toward that goal the company opened a new 88,200-sq-ft maintenance hangar last June and has just delivered its first finished product, an executive Boeing 777-200 that was in for a 12-year maintenance check. Currently in the shop for a C-check is an ACJ340, and with activity continuing to grow there are plans for an additional hangar.

“I appears there is a lack of maintenance availability for larger airplanes,” he added, noting that Amac is in a good market position with a complete range of design and maintenance approvals from EASA as well as from a half-dozen countries outside the European Union.

EBACE, Schramm said, is one of the most important shows for Amac, allowing meetings with current and future clients, market evaluation and maintenance of relationships with suppliers and vendors. “We will also be promoting our new facility in Turkey,” he added. Amac Aerospace Turkey was recently awarded EASA Part 145 certification, allowing the facility to undertake all base and line maintenance on aircraft under 12,566 pounds (5,700 kilograms), including the Pilatus PC-12 NG. The approval allows the facility, at Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul, to serve as the maintenance service center base for PC-12 NG owners in the Middle East. Amac became the exclusive Middle East distributor of the PC-12 NG for the Swiss OEM last December.

In other news from Amac, the facility has been granted maintenance approval by the Civil Aviation Agency of Brazil (ANAC). The certification permits Amac to carry out base and line maintenance work on all Brazilian-registered Boeing 737 types at its EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg facilities. This also allows Amac to undertake on-wing engine maintenance, engine removal and installation, replacement of engine components and accessories in accordance with the capability list approved by ANAC, as well as undertake specialist services in Level-3 nondestructive inspections.

Amauc’s other international approvals include those from Arabia, Nigeria, Cameroon and Russia, as well as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates where it is GCAA-approved.

myExecuJet gives owners world-eye view of aircraft

Zurich-based aviation service provider ExecuJet Europe has launched an iPad app for its aircraft management customers and is demonstrating it to EBACE visitors at Booth 851. The app, called myExecuJet, enables customers to locate their aircraft and access information such as fuel consumption, schedules and crew.

Aircraft appear on a world map in real time, and the app will also show routes, aircraft usage statistics, weather forecasts, flight schedules and maintenance events for past and future dates. Capable of displaying up to one year’s worth of retrospective data, more functions, including the ability to view monthly itemized expenses and invoices, will be added to the app later this year, according to ExecuJet.

“Our new customer app again takes our service to a new industry level,” said Gerrit Basson, managing director of ExecuJet Europe and Coo of ExecuJet Aviation Group. “By using our advanced operating system – Flightforce – the myExecuJet app offers a very high level of functionality to our clients that no other company is doing to date and provides an excellent overview of aircraft operations.”

ExecuJet parent company Executive Aviation Group, which manages more than 150 business jets worldwide as well as offering aircraft sales and other aviation services, has three aircraft available for purchase on the EBACE static display: an Airbus A320 with a VIP interior, a Bombardier Challenger 605 and a Challenger 300.

 ExecuJet Europe also announced at EBACE that its FBO at Berlin Schoenefeld Airport has won Shell Aviation’s Platinum Award for Safety and Quality, the fifth consecutive year the FBO has claimed the award. Additionally, ExecuJet’s FBO at Frankfurt am Main International Airport won the Shell bronze award after its first year of operation.

Global Jet charter fleet still growing

Geneva-based Global Jet (Booth 485) has continued the dramatic expansion of its fleet with 10 new aircraft added in the first half of 2013. Its managed fleet now stands at more than 65 aircraft. Flight of the 2013 arrivals are available for charter, increasing the commercial fleet to 25: four Bombardier Global Express/XRSs, three Falcon 2000s, three Gulfstream 550s, and pairs of Falcon 7Xs, Falcon 900s, Gulfstream 450s and Challenger 604s. The fleet also includes single examples of the Airbus A318 Elite, Gulfstream 500, Embraer Legacy 600, Gulfstream 200, Learjet 45XR, and the Hawker 900XP and the Cessna Citation CJ2.

Announced here at EBACE, Global Jet’s latest arrivals comprise a Falcon 2000EX EASy, Hawker 900XP and a Gulfstream 550. The Falcon is based at London City Airport and offers transatlantic capability in a luxury cabin for up to eight passengers. The Hawker is a 2012 aircraft that will be based in Moscow and Western Europe, also fitted out with an eight-seat interior. The Gulfstream is a 2013 model to be based in Europe, bringing Global Jet’s charter fleet of 55 to three. It can accommodate 13 in great comfort, with the cabin features such as Wi-Fi, iPad and iPhone control stations and massage seats.

The company introduced a revamped website last month that allows potential customers to get 360-degree views and interactive floor plans of all the charter fleet.

—D.D.