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WaltAir and Hummingbird's wings beat as one in Sweden

Swedish Hummingbird Aviation Services and WaltAir have completed a merger of fleets and personnel and will now trade as Hummingbird. The majority of the group's will be based in Sweden but will also include two Citation XLS positioned at Paris Le Bourget. "We do not only focus on Scandinavia; we consider the rest of Europe too," says business development manager Robin Ahlman. See page 8 for the full story.

Blink adds managed Mustang as Wijet merger continues

UK VLJ operator Blink has added a managed Mustang to its fleet, increasing the roster to 16 aircraft. The latest addition will have very limited charter availability but will assist the operator if an aircraft goes tech.

Blink recently acquired fellow Mustang operator Wijet, based in France. "Now that we have a larger fleet, we will have greater availability in our key European hubs including Blackbushe, Paris, Geneva, Milan and Zurich," says commercial manager Rebecca Cornthwaite. "In turn this will allow us to stretch our familiar operating area.

"In terms of operating to smaller airfields, the Wijet merger is opening up new geographies for us there. These are places that we were not really used to going to as Blink. It is giving us more experience and is very helpful for us; it is something that we can share with the rest of our European clients."

Wijet's fleet of Mustangs is currently being moved over onto the G register and Blink's AOC. As it stands, two former Wijet aircraft are already G registered, and the operator hopes to re-register the remainder by Christmas. The French crew are also in the process of transferring and retraining to Blink's SOPs. "The aim is to get the aircraft through their winter maintenance. At the beginning of the second quarter all aircraft will be crewed and ready to go. We are undergoing more recruitment at the moment, to make sure that we are fully crewed for those busy summer months," concludes Cornthwaite.

Global Jet expects refurbished Global 5000 to impress charter clients in London

Swiss-headquartered operator Global Jet is now offering charter brokers and operators access to a refurbished Global 5000 based in London. The jet is equipped with wi-fi, iPads and satphones. "With an elegant exterior paintwork and personalised interior, this Bombardier typifies a Global Jet aircraft," says VP of business development Bjorn Naberhuis. "It also has a full-time dedicated crew, which has been with the aircraft for a number of years, and the London base further ensures rapid response as well as competitive pricing. Judging by the low hours, the aircraft has not been utilised as a 'flying taxi' but instead falls in the



Bjorn Naberhuis says that the Global has low hours and is in immaculate condition.

category of a 'private yacht'.

"There is no doubt that competition in this segment is competitive and that end-users have a wide choice. However, for those really special occasions, or if you have a client that you want to impress, this is the aircraft to recommend."

Discussing the Middle East and other territories in EMEA, Naberhuis says that the market has not been as depressed as other companies have found. "We've done extremely well for aircraft sales and management in the Middle East. Looking forward, we do expect to see some countries growing local businesses with the aim of

generating jobs, while we anticipate further regulatory challenges in other geographic areas."

Economic growth in Asia has slowed from a forecast 10 per cent to two or three per cent, while the US continues to lead the way in terms of aircraft transactions and overall market size. Following recent IS-BAO certification and building on its Wyvern approval, the company expects to see a lot of US activity. "We can comfortably predict that the President Elect will be supportive of GA and encourage OEMs to continue investing," Naberhuis states. "Global Jet expects to fly more often to and from the US."

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