

# WINGS CHAMBER

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★ JULY 2016

★ PAGE 04



Picture: ZTA Chief Executive Mr Karikoga Kaseke (right) and PATA Chief of Staff Mr Dale Lawrence (left) during the signing of the agreement.

## Zimbabwe Tourism Authority signs landmark agreement with PATA

The Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) is the first national tourism organisation from the continent of Africa to join the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA). The two organisations signed a Letter of Agreement during the annual Sangana World Tourism Expo in Bulawayo held from June 16-18, 2016.

The Agreement reinforces Zimbabwe's determination to increase the numbers of International Visitor Arrivals (IVAs) from influential source markets across the Asia Pacific region and the ZTA has already confirmed its participation at PATA Travel Mart 2016 in Greater Jakarta, Indonesia on September 7-9.

Addressing media and dignitaries at the signing ceremony in Bulawayo the ZTA's Chief Executive Officer Mr Karikoga Kaseke described as 'paltry' the numbers of Chinese visitors to Zimbabwe over the past 10 years, failing to surpass the 200,000 mark from a country that is projected to supply over 120 million outbound travellers by end of 2016. "Gone are the days when just being a tourist destination was a selling point on its own. Now, with the growth of the digital world, destinations must be more innovative to get the much-needed attention from tourists in the face of growing competition. We have no doubt that the journey that we are embarking upon with PATA will go a long way to penetrating the huge Asia Pacific market," he said. Zimbabwe is set to benefit more from

working with PATA, a distinguished organisation and specialist in building businesses, networks, people, brands including insights as well as promoting the Asia and Pacific region based from experiences accumulated since its formation in 1951.

In welcoming the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority to PATA the Association's CEO Dr. Mario Hardy said that there would be close collaboration between the two organisations in support of the drive by the ZTA to attract more tourists from the Asia Pacific region in general and mainland China in particular.

"Zimbabwe is a fascinating country with many valuable tourism assets. The government's new visa regime will enable easier access for visitors from many markets. I look forward to strengthening our ties with the public, private and academic sectors in Zimbabwe and I am convinced that PATA's many membership benefits will act as a solid foundation for a new bridge that links Zimbabwe with the Asia Pacific region."

Dr. Hardy has also pledged to align the Association's main advocacy themes with key strategic issues, challenges and opportunities arising in Zimbabwe. These themes embrace and evolve around visa facilitation, human capital development, sustainability, crisis management/business recovery, and the 'dispersal of tourists' to lesser known, emerging areas of interest to local and international visitors.



## Flying Colours awarded Bermuda DCA maintenance approval.

Flying Colours Corp. Peterborough, the Canadian MRO, completions, and refurbishment company has received approval from the Bermuda Department of Civil Aviation to carry out maintenance work on business aircraft listed on the popular Bermudan registry. The approval, which was awarded in late May, enables Flying Colours to undertake heavy and line maintenance work on a full range of Bermuda registered aircraft, including Bombardier, Falcon, Embraer and Gulfstream aircraft as listed on its Transport Canada Civil Aviation, (TCCA) Approved Maintenance Organization (AMO) certificate.

A dedicated maintenance team from Flying Colours Corp. will begin work on its first Bermuda registered aircraft at its Peterborough facility in July. The Bombardier Challenger will undergo maintenance inspections, external paintwork, and interior modifications.

"This addition to our growing list of international approvals is really good news for us. It makes it easier for clients with aircraft on the registry to bring aircraft to us for work, and on completion we can redeliver back to the client under our existing AMO. We know that the Bermuda registry is popular world wide so this provides an opportunity to continue developing our international client base," said Eric Gillespie, Executive VP of Flying Colours.

The latest addition bolsters a growing list of maintenance approvals held by Flying Colours which currently include certificates from the CAAC, GACA, Qatari CAAC, Transport Canada, FAA, EASA, and Cayman Island. Combined, these approvals enable Flying Colours to offer on-going services to a broad spectrum of private aircraft across a range of international registries. It also complements its status as a Bombardier Business Aircraft Authorized Service Facility and preferred completion center.

[www.flyingcolourscorp.com](http://www.flyingcolourscorp.com)

## World Travel Awards partners with Vietnam Airlines



Vietnam Airlines has been appointed Airline Partner to the upcoming World Travel Awards Asia & Australasia Gala Ceremony 2016. The event is scheduled to take place at InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort on October 15th, with the Vietnam flag-carrier now set to play a pivotal role in the event.

As the national flag carrier of Vietnam, headquartered in Hanoi, Vietnam Airlines operates 91 routes to 20 domestic and 29 international destinations with an average of 400 daily flights.

The airline operates a young fleet of 89 modern aircraft, including modern aircraft such as the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, Airbus A350-900 XWB, Airbus A330, Airbus A321 and Boeing 777.

Last year, Vietnam Airlines underwent a dramatic transformation, launching its new corporate identity, improving in-flight service to four-star standards, and beginning a major fleet-wide upgrade becoming the first Asian airline to operate both next-generation aircraft Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and A350-900 XWB at the same time. Vietnam Airlines has been a member of IATA since 2006 and a member of the SkyTeam Alliance since 2010.

"We are honoured to bring Vietnamese

culture to the world, providing warm hospitality with traditional touches from the classically Vietnamese Ao dai uniforms of our cabin crew, to the Golden Lotus logo which embodies our identity," explained Le Hoang Dzung, spokesperson, Vietnam Airlines.

World Travel Awards was established in 1993 to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all sectors of the tourism industry.

Today, the World Travel Awards brand is recognised globally as the ultimate hallmark of quality, with winners setting the benchmark to which all others aspire. Each year World Travel Awards covers the globe with a series of regional gala ceremonies staged to recognise and celebrate individual and collective successes within each key geographical region.

World Travel Awards President Graham Cooke said: "It is a pleasure to welcome Vietnam Airlines to the World Travel Awards fold

"I am sure our Asia & Australasia Gala Ceremony will prove to be the hospitality highlight of the year in the region and I look forward to welcoming our nominees to the destination."

## ASIAN SKY GROUP



**MARK THIBAUT**

### ASIAN SKY GROUP APPOINTS MARK THIBAUT VICE PRESIDENT, SOUTHEAST ASIA

Asian Sky Group (ASG) has appointed Mark Thibault as Vice President, Southeast Asia. With 35 years of experience in aviation, Thibault brings a wealth of experience from across the industry.

"I'm delighted to welcome Mark to the ASG team," says ASG Managing Director, Jeffrey Lowe. "ASG is experiencing a lot of growth within the region and we were looking to capitalize on that with this new addition. Mark has a proven track record within the industry from all aspects, which makes him a great asset to the company."

Starting his career in the U.S. Marine Corp, Thibault worked as an F-4 Phantom and an F-18 Hornet Captain and Engineering Supervisor. He has also held mission-critical business, quality and safety compliance management roles for various aviation companies around the world.

Previously the COO of Metrojet, COO of Hongkong Jet and the CEO of Mjets, Thibault has been instrumental in the growth of business aviation in the Asia Pacific region. Through his strong ability and leadership, Metrojet's fleet grew from two aircraft to over 25 in just four years.

At Metrojet he also built up the first full business jet MRO in the region, with multiple approvals from various OEM's and regulatory agencies. As a leader in the industry, Thibault has assembled world-class teams of highly-seasoned business aviation professionals, led the implementation of the region's first ICAO compliant Safety Management System for business aviation and has a reputation of unsurpassed dedication to five-star customer service.

"I am excited to have been chosen to join the highly acclaimed and respected ASG team," says ASG's Vice President, Southeast Asia, Mark Thibault. "I will draw from my 35 years of aviation experience, which includes two decades of managing and growing business aviation companies in Asia, to support my new role. I look forward to leading the growth of Asian Sky Group in Southeast Asia."



**ASIA PACIFIC REGION  
CIVIL HELICOPTER  
YEAR END 2015**



## Jota Aviation expands management team Leases new hangar at London Southend Airport

Jota Aviation announced today the appointment of Kevin Callan as Chief Financial Officer, effective immediately. Kevin brings three decades of aviation experience and joins Jota's senior management team from global business aviation company Gama Aviation Plc where he was Group Chief Commercial Officer. He was previously Board member and Chief Financial Officer of Hangar8 Plc, and had been instrumental in pulling together the merger with Gama in January 2015. "We are delighted to have enticed Kevin to return to his roots and help us implement our expansion plans from our London Southend Airport home," commented Jota Aviation's Chief Executive Officer Andy Green.

Kevin originally supported Flightline, a BAe 146 operator at Southend from 1993 for 16 years. "It has changed dramatically since I was last here, with considerable investment and an airport management team that firmly appreciates the business charter model," Kevin said. "Jota has achieved a lot in its first six years. They are energetic and swift to respond to market opportunities and I am looking forward to taking them to the next level." Jota Aviation is currently finalising the lease of a 23,000 sq ft hangar facility which will be ready in July. It intends to house its own spares for its BAe 146/Avro RJ aircraft and create the future opportunity to establish its own Part 145 line maintenance for its

own fleet. Heavy maintenance on the regional jets would continue to be outsourced and is currently handled by MRO partner Avalon Aero at Cranfield.

### Additional BAe 146/Avro RJ aircraft being sought

Jota is also exploring the market to acquire or lease the freighter variant BAe 146QT, as well as further Avro RJs, and will be actively recruiting more type rated pilots and cabin crew so it can increase passenger and freight flying, in response to demand. "It is pleasing that we are exceeding more hours than expected with Avro RJ G-JOTR with charter work and sub-contract work to regional airlines," said Andy Green. "We are in a niche market with this versatile and popular aircraft as there are very few 146/RJs available for ACMI charter in Europe now." The fully refurbished Avro RJ85 95-seater purchased from Falko Aviation, entered revenue service in April. Recent flying has included periods with British Airways CityFlyer and Ireland's CityJet.

Jota's Avro RJ85 and BAe 146-200 are complemented by a fleet of Beechcraft King Air turboprops all offered for charter, one of which G-JOTA is a dedicated cargo aircraft with a large cargo door, and it is upon this heritage that Jota believes the 146QT freight aircraft will be a natural progression and development.

## Marshall

### Professional Aviation Engineering Practice' Degree Courses Launch

Three-year BSc (Hons) Degree

Two-year Foundation Degree

Courses developed by academia and industry A balance of theoretical and hands-on training AeroAcademy, the University of South Wales (USW) and the Aviation Skills Partnership have created a Professional Aviation Engineering Practice degree level course. With lessons commencing in September 2016, the course is available as a three-year BSc (Hons) Degree or a two-year Foundation Degree.

Both courses are tailored to provide graduates with excellent career opportunities in aerospace and are based on an Aviation Skills Partnership framework and around the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Category B licence. Students will be taught at AeroAcademy, which is located close to Cambridge Airport and the headquarters of Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group; one of the world's largest independent aerospace companies. Ian Peart, General Manager of AeroAcademy, comments: "Our collaboration with the Aviation Skills Partnership and the University of South Wales has produced two extremely fit-for-purpose degree courses, leading to excellent career opportunities for the successful graduates - as well as feeding qualified, enthusiastic engineers into the aerospace industry."

The first two years of training/education are common to both courses. Year 1 provides the basic knowledge of the principles behind and the practical methods for performing essential engineering tasks; and provides an introduction to the use of design tools, manufacturing techniques and health and safety protocols. Year 2 will present students with the option of pursuing either an EASA Type-B1 licence (which focuses on the mechanical engineering aspects of aircraft design) or a TypeB2 licence (which focuses on the avionics systems used in aircraft design). Year 3 for the BSc (Hons) Degree only covers a range of topics around the aerospace business environment. Students will, for example, learn about a variety of aeronautical engineering issues, including planning, operations, health and safety, regulations and management. The 2016 intake has now opened and applications can be made at [www.aeroacademy.co.uk](http://www.aeroacademy.co.uk), where entry qualification requirements are also listed along with details of Applicant Open Days.



## Colombo to Host New Asia Hotel and Tourism Investment Conference

President of Sri Lanka offers full support



## Vector Aerospace completes first of three AS350 12-year inspections for San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

Vector Aerospace a global independent provider of aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services, is pleased to announce that it has completed the first of three 12-year inspections for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's (SBCSD) fleet of Airbus Helicopters As350 B3 Astars.

The SBCSD flew its second AStar to Vector's hangar in Langley, BC on June 20<sup>th</sup>, and returned home with the first completed aircraft, work on which included a full Arriel 2B1 engine overhaul and a comprehensive repaint. Vector is scheduled to receive the third and final SBCSD helicopter early next year for its 12-year inspection.

"Vector is very proud to provide ongoing support of SBCSD's fleet requirements," said Craig Pluim, Vice President, Sales Rotary-Wing at Vector Aerospace. "With our extensive OEM certifications, we are one of very few MROs that can offer tip-to-tail support on the AS350 series, including major/minor inspections, D-level structural repair, paint, avionics, engine and component repair/overhaul." "Vector is a pleasure to work with," said Lieutenant Mitch Dattilo, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. "We are especially pleased with the quality workmanship and outstanding customer service provided by the team at Vector." [www.vectoraerospace.com](http://www.vectoraerospace.com)



## CEPA EXPO becomes ISO 9001 certified

Prague CEPA Expo is delighted to announce that it has become ISO 9001 certified, the organizers applied for the quality management certification to further enhance the standards and presentations delivered at the event.



ISO 9001 ensures that quality management systems are adopted and improvements are made on a continual basis. By taking an approach that implements more efficient working practices and focuses on the business objectives of the organization, CEPA Expo will implement systems that will help and support the organization of the event and improve levels of customer satisfaction. A key benefit to delegates attending CEPA Expo is that the adoption of the systems outlined by ISO 9001 will mean that the event will have a "right first time" approach, leading to a greatly enhanced delegate experience.

CEPA EXPO chairman, **Roger Whyte** advises The fact that we have decided to become ISO 9001 certified is a great move forward for CEPA Expo. The standardization of quality systems and practices means that we can deliver a top quality event which will be excellent news for delegates and participants. CEPA Expo is already well known as a superbly organised event and the ISO 9001 certification will mean that this is taken a step further. The combination of ISO 9001 certification and Czech hospitality will mean that CEPA Expo is an event not to be missed." CEPA Expo 2016 takes place from the 18th to 20th October 2016 in Prague, the Czech Republic. At this year's three-day conference, there are going to be numerous innovations to take the event to new levels of excellence, including a unique Aviation Careers Day which will allow delegates to meet and network with future aviation professionals.



### Worker Killed By Truck, Company Fined \$100,000

BRAMPTON, ON - Dream Party Decor of Mississauga pleaded guilty and has been fined \$100,000 on July 5, 2016 for the death of a temporary worker struck by a truck at a loading dock.

### Young Ontarians Set Volunteer Record

*Province Celebrates Outstanding ChangeTheWorld Campaign*

More than 67,000 young Ontarians participated in the 2016 [ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge](#) - setting a new participation record for the annual campaign.

## Order of Prince Edward Island Recipients Announced

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI -- The 2016 recipients of the Order of Prince Edward Island were announced today by the Chancellor of the Order, His Honour the Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island and Mr. Charles Curley, Chair of the Order of Prince Edward Island Advisory Council.

The three Islanders selected to receive the honour are:  
Ms. Carolyn Bateman of Charlottetown  
Keptin John Joe Sark of Johnston's River and,  
Dr. Dagny Dryer of Little Sands  
These three individuals were selected from a total of 53 Islanders nominated to receive the award this year.