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TAG Aviation unveils new handling and maintenance centre at Sion Airport, Switzerland

TAG Aviation has announced the opening of its new passenger, FBO/handling and aircraft maintenance centre at Sion Airport (SIR/LSGS), Switzerland, on the first day of the European Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition (EBACE) 2013, which is being held at P ALEX PO in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21-23 May 2013.

The Sion facility, located near Lake Geneva features a passenger terminal with three spacious VIP salons and a dedicated pilot lounge, a 3,200 m² hangar and 12,000 m² of aircraft parking.

TAG Aviation Maintenance operates comprehensive maintenance services for aircraft including the Dassault Falcon, Bombardier Challenger and Bombardier Learjet as well as offering line maintenance services for a range of other aircraft. It also specialises in avionics modifications such as the Dassault Falcon E ASY II up grade, and wider modification programmes.

“This new facility will provide our customers with an even greater choice of services in Switzerland ; complementing our award-winning airport operations at Geneva Airport and our sister facility in the UK , TAG Farnborough Airport ,” said Franck Madignier, President, TAG

Aviation Maintenance and FBO/Handling Services. “Customers can expect TAG’s renowned service and a team of dedicated professionals who will be able to meet their every business aviation need.”

TAG Aviation's Flight Centre at Geneva International Airport is consistently voted one of Europe's best business aviation facilities and recently placed second in the Aviation International News (AIN) International FBO Survey 2013. It features a private terminal with spacious lounges, conference rooms and on-site Swiss and French customs and immigration. Aircraft handling services include authorised EASA and FAA 145 maintenance, fuelling and catering coordination.

Since 1966, TAG Aviation has built a reputation for pioneering standards in integrated aircraft management, charter services, FBO/handling and maintenance. In addition to its handling facilities in Switzerland , TAG Aviation provides FBO services at Madrid-Barajas Airport and TAG Farnborough Airport , which is located outside London and repeatedly ranks as the leading business aviation facility in the world.

www.tagaviation.com



UAE fashion designer organizes fashion show in Bahrain following overwhelming successes in UAE and UK

Nazek Al Sabbagh, founder of home-grown label 'Zari O'Breesam', continued her community support events by organizing a fashion show in Manama in Bahrain to raise funds to support Children & Mothers Welfare Society.

The fashion show featured Al Sabbagh's latest women's collection 'Masa Elward'. This is the fourth stop of her international roadshow which kicked off with the launch of Masa Elward collection in the UAE, then her fashion show in London and followed by 'Hag Al Lailah' local celebrations in the UAE in which she raised funds for the Dubai Women's Association. The final station was under the patronage and presence of Shaikha Thajba Bint Salman Al-Khalifa.

“The Bahrain fashion show was the biggest ever and we thank Shaikha Thajba Bint Salman for her support to this social event. Our plan is focused on increasing footprints and we have received positive feedback in Bahrain.” Al Sabbagh said.

“The fashion show included designs for GCC women, all designed according to UAE traditions and modernized to present a contemporary look.”

Zari O'Breesam combines two Arabic words: 'Zari' which is golden or silver even threads and 'Breesam', silk threads with bright colors. The brand has good knowledge of the local culture and traditions and all designs are blend of heritage and modernism. Zari O'Breesam has spread widely all over the Gulf in record time, as filled a gap in the local fashion industry by providing the right attire for women looking for beautiful dresses to fit different occasions. Al Sabbagh is a much sought after designer among GCC women, and there is a high demand to book her latest collections, many of which are sold through online orders through the Zari O'Breesam online store.



AfBAA launches AfBAA Expo and Announces 20th Founding Member

A year after launching the African Business Aviation Association (AfBAA), Chairman Tarek Ragheb has today announced it will be launching AfBAA Expo. This completely new event will be focused solely on the African Business Aviation sector and will run in conjunction with the Marrakech Airshow 23-26 April 2014. The formal agreement was signed at EBACE, by Tarek Ragheb and Frédéric Le Hénaff Exhibition Director of the Marrakech Airshow. Under the terms of the agreement, both organizations will work together to offer the African Business Aviation community a truly integrated event representing the complete spectrum of the continent's current, and potential, Business Aviation activity.

The show, which will be located at Marrakech's FRA Airport, will cover 50,000 square meters and will feature chalets for those wishing to host corporate hospitality and booths for exhibitors to display their products. With an extensive apron space there will also be an expansive static display which situated adjacent to the runway will enable fixed wing and rotary exhibitors to have easy take off and landing capability for demonstration flights for potential customers. As an international airport and also a military base, exhibitors as well as visitors will benefit from the distinct advantages of a high level of security, straightforward logistical operations and excellent access control to the AfBAA Expo area.

The show has been initiated in response to demand from AfBAA members and the African Business Aviation market in general which does not currently have a dedicated Business Aviation exhibition or conference. It is anticipated that the newly created AfBAA Expo will provide a lively sales and transaction show room for OEMs that are increasingly optimistic about aircraft sales across the African continent. It will also offer a forum for all African Business Aviation stakeholders to exchange views, share knowledge and experience. Marrakech was selected as the venue owing to its ease of access from Africa, Europe and the Middle East which will support visitor numbers.

This will be the first time that Marrakech Airshow will have an integrated Business Aviation component and reflects the growing importance of the sector to the African continent. Previously the event has focused more on the African civil and military aircraft sectors but in parallel with AfBAA's philosophy, the organisers recognise the significant contribution the executive jet sector makes to the economic development of the African continent.

"AfBAA is extremely active on behalf of our members and African Business Aviation in general and the launch of this event will be an historic moment for Business Aviation in Africa," commented Ragheb. "The Association's commitment to launch

a dedicated show demonstrates AfBAA's pledge to bring together African aviation companies from a wide variety of sectors. It is an exciting proposition for AfBAA to be collaborating with a prestigious Airshow like Marrakech and we know it will be a great success," he continued.

The concept was initially suggested in March when AfBAA held its first general meeting of the year in Rabat. "The fact that our Executive Team led by Rady Fahmy was able to transform the idea into an agreement in less than three months shows excellent execution and strong leadership from our Board. This underlines AfBAA's capabilities to efficiently and professionally support new ideas on behalf of its members" commented Ragheb.

Frédéric Le Hénaff, Exhibition Director of Marrakech Airshow adds, "Whilst the commercial side of aviation has been struggling on the African continent the business aircraft market in Africa is expanding rapidly. We see African Business Aviation attracting investors and interest from across the globe which is why we're delighted to work with AfBAA and to host AfBAA Expo in 2014. Business Aviation has not been our main focus for the first three editions and it will certainly add extra value for our regular visitors."

JETNET becomes AfBAA's 20th Founding Member

The African Business Aviation Association (AfBAA) announced today at EBACE 2013, that JETNET, the leading international data and analysis company for commercial and business aircraft worldwide, has become its 20th Founding Member. "We are delighted to welcome JETNET to our growing family," said Rady Fahmy, Executive Director, AfBAA. JETNET joins a strong line up of members and brings valuable intelligence and data to our expanding Association."

"JETNET salutes the mission and vision of AfBAA and we are committed to play a role in realizing its success," said Karim Derbala, Exclusive Agent, EMEA. "We are confident that JETNET's specialized research in the worldwide business aviation industry will provide the Association with a head start in regard to pertinent market intelligence in this fast emerging continent"

He reports that JENET has seen a 35% growth in the total fleet of aircraft based, operated and owned in the African continent these past five years. With a total 1,425 business aircraft based in Africa effective May 2013 the top 10 leading countries by number operated are: South Africa; Kenya; Nigeria; Angola; Tanzania; Egypt; Morocco; Botswana; Algeria and Zambia. Underlining this, numerous African based companies now feature in the top 10 worldwide civilian fleet operators of various wholly owned makes and models of business jets and turboprops, according to JETNET's statistical analysis reports (STAR).

"While the aviation market research in some of these emerging countries has proven to be challenging owing to the lack of basic infrastructure as well as the absence of an established regulatory environment, JETNET has been continuously striving to monitor and reflect this dynamic market and industry changes as they happen through its 25 years of experience in business aviation market research," said Derbala. "We will continue to do so, through our mandate as the latest founding member within the African Business Aviation Association."

The decision to invite JETNET to become a Founding Member was a strategic one on behalf of the Association as the data expert's membership will add considerable value to future planned research projects. "The need for sourcing professional research and reliable data from Africa sits at the core of AfBAA's goals. JETNET's credibility in researching and handling data within the business aviation sector is second to none," said Fahmy about the latest member. It is anticipated that JETNET will steer the committee that will be responsible for overseeing the extensive research project agreed at this year's general meeting in Rabat. The research will aim to establish the key areas of African Business Aviation that require major improvement and will make suggestions on how to best advocate for these changes.

Just like other inaugural members JETNET will retain membership until 2015. It will also adhere to the guiding principles, which focus on advocacy, safety, security, integrity, service and training. Launch Members will also have a strong voice within the association and will be responsible for contributing to the future of the Association's activity.



François-Xavier Moutel, the CEO of Abalone Group, with the company's TBM 850 Elite

ABALONE, FIRST CORPORATE CUSTOMER FOR THE TBM 850 ELITE 2013

The Abalone Group has acquired a TBM 850 Elite Model 2013 DAHER-SOCATA's latest very fast turboprop aircraft which will be operated for long-distance trips with company executives and managers.

The sale's announcement was made at this week's European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (EBACE), where DAHER-SOCATA is present at booth # 1643 in Geneva's Palexpo center, and has brought a TBM 850 Elite to the static display.

"We have been working on this project for the past year in conjunction with our business development plan, with the full understanding that while regular trips are needed, they are time-consuming and create stress and fatigue," explained Sacha Moutel, project manager at the Abalone Group. "The TBM 850 Elite will help us increase our productivity, bringing the best in private aircraft travel together with rapid en-route times and highly cost-efficient operations."

He added that a corporate airplane ensures access to cities which are under served or not serviced at all by scheduled direct commercial flights, and opens small airports that are convenient and closer to the final destination. Additionally, such travel allows the company to set its own schedules while reducing airport processing and formalities.

"We are proud that a dynamic company such as the Abalone Group has selected our TBM 850 Elite for its corporate transportation needs," stated Nicolas Chabbert, the Senior Vice President of DAHER-SOCATA's Airplane Division. "This aircraft will provide projection capability to Abalone executives throughout Europe, contributing to the company's growth."

DAHER-SOCATA's TBM 850 is the world's fastest single turboprop aircraft, with a maximum cruising speed of 320 KTAS at Flight Level 260 (in ISA conditions). It combines cruising speed and trip times of a light jet with the economic direct operating costs, range and moderate environmental signature of a turboprop engine. The maximum range and useful load which are enhanced on the current version as well as the ability to land at small airports are some of its customers' favorite features. TBM 850 Elite offer to owners the unique capability of tailoring the cabin to host 4 or 6 persons on board.

Since its launch in 2005, the TBM 850 became an international success with 305 units delivered as of May 1, 2013. At this date the overall TBM 700/850 fleet more than 629 has exceeded more than one million flight hours.

About the TBM 850

www.tbm850.com



Aircraft stops in Geneva for European Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition

Beechcraft's Special Mission King Air 350ER Demonstrator Embarks on Global Tour

Beechcraft Corporation said today that the Special Mission King Air 350ER demonstrator aircraft at its European Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition (EBACE) static exhibit this week is in the midst of a worldwide tour to showcase the King Air's unique special mission capabilities. During the yearlong tour, the aircraft is scheduled to visit more than 15 countries on six continents, and will fly an estimated 80,000 miles.

"We discovered through a similar tour last year that the best way to demonstrate the performance, versatility and low operating costs of the King Air 350ER is to take the aircraft around the world," said Dan Keady, Beechcraft senior vice president, Special Missions. "Experiencing the aircraft firsthand makes it easy for governments, military and commercial customers to see why the King Air is the ideal aircraft to address the unique challenges of most special mission operations."

The King Air 350ER demonstrator aircraft is a standard extended-range (ER) airplane, which includes additional fuel capacity and increased capability landing gear allowing for 2,500 nautical mile range and take-off weight of 16,500 lbs. The aircraft's unique interior configuration highlights the versatility and utility of the King Air family of aircraft with a fully functioning medical station complete with medical oxygen, vacuum and pressure, a medical cabinet and a side-facing, three-place couch for doctor/medical attendants. Additionally, the large cabin provides ample room for the installed airline style

seating showcasing standard King Air chairs in a commuter airline mission. In addition, a maritime patrol console has also been installed to demonstrate surveillance configurations.

The tour started in March in Mexico and has stopped at major aviation events such as the Asian Business Aviation Conference & Exhibition (ABACE) in China and Aero Friedrichshafen in Germany. Between appearances at shows and events, the aircraft is visiting military and special mission operators as it travels around the globe. After EBACE, the demonstrator will continue its tour for the remainder of 2013. Some of scheduled stops include: the Paris Airshow in June; the Latin American Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition (LABACE) in August in Brazil; the National Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (NBAA) in October in the U.S.; and the Dubai Airshow in November in the UAE.

More than 7,000 King Air turboprops are operated in 127 countries around the world and have surpassed 60 million total flight hours. The line of twin-engine turboprops began production in 1964 and is the best-selling business aircraft family in the world, with each model building on a reputation of proven performance. King Airs serve a variety of missions ranging from traditional transport of personnel and high-value cargo, to electronic and imagery surveillance, air ambulance, airway calibration, photographic mapping, training and weather modification.



Gama Aviation expands Sharjah FBO offering, with exclusive hangar and enhanced corporate aviation maintenance facilities

Gama Group, the global business aviation services provider, is delighted to announce today that its Middle East based business unit, Gama Aviation FZE is significantly expanding Gama's customer offering at Sharjah International Airport.

Gama's Sharjah FBO has established itself as the preferred gateway to Sharjah, Dubai and the Northern Emirates, posting a remarkable 75% increase in corporate aviation movements in the last twelve months alone. To meet this customer demand, Gama has added a further five team members to its Sharjah based ground handling and concierge team.

This success has been achieved due to Gama's close working partnership with Sharjah Airport Authority and the Sharjah Department of Civil Aviation and builds on Gama's award last year by the United Arab Emirates General Civil Aviation Authority of its CAR Part 145 Aircraft Maintenance Approval.

Gama's new maintenance and storage hangar at Sharjah is large enough for Boeing BBJ and Airbus ACJ aircraft, both of which are already in Gama's managed fleet. The facility also has significant space to expand Gama's regional headquarters.

"We are delighted that our customers are recognising the value of Sharjah International Airport for business aviation, which is enabling us to commit to further investment to support and grow services in the region," said Dave Edwards, Managing Director, Gama Aviation FZE. "Our Sharjah FBO has established itself as the 'stress-free' gateway for business and private visitors to Sharjah, Dubai and the Northern Emirates and is one of the first choice technical stops for business jet operators travelling from East to West. I'm confident that our current and future customers will appreciate the additional support services we are now able to provide."

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