

# Universal looks for ME help

U.S.-based charter operator Universal Jet (Stand E140) has come to MEBA looking to advance its plans to expand operations in the Middle East. According to president Michael McCauley, the company already makes frequent flights into this region but it would like to find a local partner with which to establish a more permanent presence. His long-term plan is to forge alliances with holders of air operators' certificates all over the world. The 17-year-old firm already has a partner in St. Petersburg, Russia, and next month it is starting a new joint venture in Panama.

In January, Universal Jet will take delivery of a Boeing Business Jet. It will join a fleet that consists of 14 Gulfstreams, including a G150 and a mix of GIVs and GIIs. The company's headquarters is in Boca Raton, Florida, and it also has bases in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Teterboro, New



## EVERYONE RELISHES A LITTLE ONE ON ONE

Sometimes it is just time to sit down and take a break from tramping through the exhibition halls. Now, on to the next booth.

Jersey; and Van Nuys, California.

McCauley told AIN the executive charter sector is now showing strong signs of recovery after the economic downturn and that over the past decade there has been a huge increase in the

proportion of international flying that his company is doing (that is, outside the U.S.). "We are not unfamiliar with recessions, having been through several since we started the operation," he commented. —C.A.

# Flygprestanda previews flight control system

Flygprestanda (Stand C620) is giving visitors to MEBA a preview of its new flight operation control system (FOCS), which is currently undergoing trials with an airline. It is scheduled to go live in January, after which point it will be released to market.

FOCS is a new system that provides flight scheduling, route finding, ATC filing services and other planning functions. It can be integrated with the company's widely used Performance Guru takeoff performance tool and other systems that plan weights and balances, route

performance, drift-down calculations and the like. FOCS can be tailored to match the exact requirements of the operator.

Dispatchers using FOCS can compile complete trip-kits, which are then available through the Web for collection by the pilot from any location. Trip-kits can be delivered in PDF format for printout or viewing directly on a tablet. Flygprestanda has been at the forefront of Web-based planning and analysis tools, and is developing applications that use standard iPhone/iPad, BlackBerry

and Android operating systems. These, too, can be previewed here, and include takeoff and landing performance, mass and balance calculations and an airport briefing section.

Based in Malmö, Sweden, and with an office in the U.S., Flygprestanda is celebrating its 40th anniversary next year. Its products are widely used throughout the commercial aviation world by both airlines and business operators alike. The Middle East is a rapidly growing area for the company, and now represents around 10 percent of its customer base. The airport database contains information on more than 6,000 locations and the Middle East is well represented. When no airfield obstacle chart is published in the aeronautical information publication for a certain airport, Flygprestanda has developed software to evaluate the terrain situation and design safe engine-failure procedures upon which the performance calculations are based.

Flygprestanda hopes that its reputation and experience will provide a ready-made marketplace for FOCS, which in the future could form the basis for the integration of other key task requirements for operators, such as crew planning and document handling. —D.D.



Flygprestanda is giving a preview of its flight operation control system. It has been developing applications that use iPhone/iPad, BlackBerry and Android systems.

## NEWS CLIPS

### ACJC and Sabena Agree On Support

Airbus Corporate Jet Center (ACJC) and Sabena Technics have signed an agreement designed to ensure that Airbus Corporate Jet (ACJ) operators have continuous and comprehensive spare-parts support. Airframe support for ACJs includes access to spare-part pools covering airframes, auxiliary power units, line-replaceable units (LRU), wheels and brakes, landing gear LRUs, and repair of said parts.

The new agreement offers ACJ operators the chance to opt-in for a double-exchange program to receive their original LRUs back once they've been repaired. This new ACJC/Sabena system charges customers a flat monthly fee, but offers the opportunity to tailor spares services to fit their needs.

"This cooperation agreement is a fundamental element that supports our VIP Pass, allowing customers to choose a customized package of services that suits their needs," explained Fabio Beretta, ACJC's head of customer support and services.

### Gulfstream Prepping G650 Plant

Gulfstream Aerospace is preparing an assembly plant for its new G650, and the U.S. manufacturer is also readying an adjacent building for cabin completion work. The completion facility is in a former service center currently being used for flight-test operations. Gulfstream expects all G650 assembly and outfitting to be done at its headquarters in Savannah, Georgia. Certification of the G650 is expected this year, with deliveries of finished aircraft to begin in 2012.

### First Exhibitor Signs for MEBA 2012

This year's MEBA show hasn't even closed yet, but already the organizer, F&E Aerospace (Stand E313), has signed up the first exhibitor for the next event, to be held Dec. 11 to 13, 2012. First to take up the opportunity is Executive Aircraft Services from Lebanon (Stand C510), which runs an FBO at Beirut's Rafic Hariri International Airport, as well as managing a seven-aircraft fleet. "We decided to book our exhibition space now for MEBA in 2012 because we understand the value of such shows, not only to the Middle East market but to the wider global business aviation market," commented general manager Nicolas Meszaros.

### Emteq Shows Cabin Entertainment System

Emteq's (Stand E254) new SkyPro cabin entertainment system features a non-Ethernet environment with high-definition touchscreen monitors promising an unsurpassed level of control and fidelity. The system uses an interactive, high-definition moving map with 3-D while also delivering on-demand audio and video. SkyPro systems are customizable and scalable to any size aircraft.

The New Berlin, Wisconsin-based company also has moved into intelligent lighting systems with the launch of Daylight, a variable white-light system that replicates natural light inside the aircraft. The system allows passengers to work in a natural, well-lit environment that can be quickly transformed into a warm, relaxing atmosphere with a reduced lighting intensity.

### CAE Adds Challenger 604 Sim in Dubai

Emirates-CAE Flight Training (ECFT) has announced the addition of a full-flight simulator (FFS) for the Bombardier Challenger 604 to its training center, located here in Dubai. The CAE 7000 Series level-D FFS will join a fleet of sims replicating the flight characteristics of more than a score of business jets, and is expected to be ready for training in the first half of 2012.

"Business aircraft fleets and crew needs are expected to double in the Middle East and neighboring regions over the next five years," said Camille Mariamo, ECFT managing director. "With the addition of the Challenger 604 FFS, ECFT will offer our clients training on 25 business aircraft programs for Bombardier, Dassault, Gulfstream, Hawker Beechcraft, Airbus and Boeing platforms."

Emirates-CAE Flight Training (Stand C615) is jointly operated by the Emirates Group and CAE, which provides simulation technology and products for civil and military applications around the globe.