

## Caverton signs for eight oil and gas 407GXP

Lagos, Nigeria-based Caverton Helicopters Limited, a subsidiary of Caverton Offshore Support Group, has signed a purchase agreement with Bell Helicopter for eight Bell 407GXP. The group operates in the marine and aviation logistics sectors for the oil and gas industry and employs more than 700 employees in Nigeria. Delivery of the aircraft is scheduled to begin later this year.

"We offer logistics and support services to companies located along the west African shelf," says MD Josiah Choms. "Identifying the best aircraft to carry out the mission is key and we believe the Bell 407GXP's track record, particularly speed and operating cost, make it the perfect light single helicopter for this job."

Operating out of a 10,000 sqm facility at the Murtala Muhammad International airport in Lagos and purpose-built facilities in Victoria Island, Port Harcourt, Warri and Cameroon, Caverton has signed the eight rotorcraft up to Bell's Customer Advantage Plan support solution.



Bell Helicopter MD for Middle East and Africa Arnie Easterly, MD of Caverton Helicopters Josiah Choms and Bell president and CEO Mitch Snyder.



Chief executive of Britten-Norman William Hynett with FLN's Hendrik Brunzema and Gunter Lefering.

## FLN takes on Islander for coastal missions

German operator Frisia Luftverkehr Norddeich (FLN) has taken delivery of a twin piston BN2B-20 Islander from Britten-Norman. A long-standing customer of the OEM, FLN operates scheduled and charter flights along the Frisian coast and to and from the islands of Helgoland. Based at Norden, the operator was formed in 1969 and has been flying

Islanders continuously since 1975. In common with the majority of Islander operators around the world, the services provided by FLN offer year-round support to remote communities.

The 2017 model Islander has a reduced empty weight, lightweight Skytech starters, a glass panel based on Garmin avionics and the JP

Instruments EDM 960 electronic engine display, LED external lighting, Amsafe four-point crew harnesses, enlarged baggage access and all-window seating. The aircraft will also be fitted with MT's four-bladed composite propellers. Modifications in this model will be made available as options for retrofit on selected legacy models of the aircraft.

## Surf Air catches wave of summer Phenom flying

Membership airline Surf Air has received glowing feedback for its first Phenom 300, which has been operating flights from London to Ibiza and Cannes over the summer season. CEO Simon Talling-Smith plans to add further aircraft in the third and fourth quarters of this year.

"Our next opening point will be Zurich later this month," he tells EBAN. "After that we intend to take another aircraft, although we haven't disclosed what it will be yet, in the autumn quarter. That will most likely operate to Milan."

"We have flown a few empty legs, but our business is actually a fairly high utilisation business. An obvious empty leg might be a late night return from Ibiza to London on a Friday, yet we still find that our members sometimes book on that flight. We haven't done any off-schedule operations yet, although we have got a fair amount of interest in them."

The Phenom is flying roughly 100 hours a month at the moment, but Talling-Smith believes it is capable of flying at least 180.

"We began operations this summer with a soft launch focussing on leisure markets, when traditional business is so quiet. As we go into September we are going to turn our attention towards business flying, and will be focussing on places like Milan, Zurich and Luxembourg."

### Air Hamburg leads the way for UK pet approvals

Air Hamburg has become the first charter operator to be approved to fly with pets into all 16 entry airports in the UK, after receiving London Heathrow approval last month.

Flying together with pets in the aircraft cabin is said to be an important reason why passengers choose to fly privately, which led Air Hamburg to invest two years of work into the project.

Animals are only permitted to arrive at specific airports approved by the UK government. In addition, each individual aircraft operator must seek approval from each airport to arrive with pets. The process requires careful auditing to ensure that the operator adheres to the highest standards.

Algernon Trotter, VP of sales, comments: "Our pet-loving clients flying to the UK represent a significant portion of the 60,000 passengers we fly annually. We wanted to provide maximum flexibility to these clients and we think that this unrivalled network of pet-approved UK airports is a great way to offer that."

## Norwegian Police opts for AW169 as tool against terrorism

The Norwegian Police Directorate has selected the Leonardo AW169 as a law enforcement helicopter following a tender for its helicopter service modernisation programme. The contract, expected to be signed imminently, will include three aircraft, with an option for a further three units, and a 10-year maintenance package.

The aircraft will enable the Norwegian Police to enhance its capabilities and readiness to counter threats including terrorism. The type is expected to deliver greater range than the EC135s currently in service and a rapid response over short range.

The AW169s will perform a range of tasks including observation, surveillance, special operations team transport and airborne sniping.



The AW169 is a more capable machine than the police directorate's current EC135 helicopters.



The current DCAF hangar measures 5,700 sqm and can accommodate multiple ACJs, BBJs or ultra long range business jets

## DCAF swells Dubai roster with Al Maktoum Challenger 605

Dubai-based DC Aviation Al-Futtaim (DCAF), a joint venture between DC Aviation Group based in Germany and Al-Futtaim, has expanded its managed fleet with the addition of a Challenger 605. This brings the total number of aircraft under management to six; two Globals, three Challengers and a Falcon 7X.

DCAF will provide a complete service package from its facility at Al Maktoum International airport including FBO handling, maintenance and air-conditioned hangarage parking, in addition to flight management, dispatch and continued airworthiness services.

Says MD Holger Ostheimer: "Our facility offers a short distance from limousine drop-off to aircraft steps and high levels of privacy and safety. These features are greatly appreciated by customers and operators."

"As the first and only fully

integrated business aviation facility located at Al Maktoum International airport, we've seen continued interest in our services from clients seeking our expertise to manage their aircraft commercially and under private operation. The management contract for the Challenger aircraft is further evidence of our expertise and capability to deliver the highest possible quality standards of safety and service to our VIP clients."

The company is currently expanding its parking and maintenance facilities with a new 6,800 sqm hangar. This will more than double its hangar capacity, expanding DCAF's total landside plot area to 24,000 sqm and apron area to 13,000 sqm. The hangar will facilitate two single-aisle aircraft maintenance bays and provide enough space for an additional workshop and equipment storage.

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