

# AVI TRADER WEEKLY AVIATION HEADLINES

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## WORLD NEWS

### Kenya Airways bail out

It's reported that Nairobi-based Kenya Airways is to receive a significant bailout package after suffering losses continuously over three years. The country's multi-million dollar tourism industry has suffered a fallout from a number of Islamist militant attacks. The Kenyan government (which has a 29% stake) has provided a 4.2-billion shilling (\$40-million) loan while African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has approved a \$200-million bridging loan for the airline. The airline is part-owned by Air France-KLM.

### Aeromexico extends agreement with Amadeus

Aeromexico and Amadeus have renewed a long-term Full Content Agreement (FCA) that sees Mexico's flagship airline benefit from Amadeus' global network of travel agencies. Amadeus subscribers will continue to access the full range of Aeromexico fares, availability and schedules, under the same terms as the airline's website, call centres and ticket offices. The agreement also provides for the implementation of Amadeus Airline Fare Families and Amadeus Airline Ancillary Services to deploy Aeromexico's merchandising strategy across all Amadeus retailing interfaces, travel agency segments and worldwide points of sale.

### United Airlines shake up

United Airlines announced that it has named Oscar Munoz as president and chief executive officer. Munoz will also continue to serve on United's board of directors. The board appointed Henry L. Meyer III, United's lead independent director, to serve as non-executive chairman of the board of directors. The company also announced that Jeff Smisek has stepped down from his roles as chairman, president and chief executive officer, and as a director.



A BA 777 suffered an engine fire in Las Vegas.

Photo: Jeff Gilbert

## British Airways 777 engulfed in flames

Now U.S. FAA begins investigation

A British Airways (BA) Boeing 777 caught fire as it prepared for take-off in Las Vegas on a flight bound for London Gatwick. The BA aircraft was on the runway and preparing for departure when its left engine caught fire, sending thick black smoke billowing into the sky.

In a recorded distress call the 777 captain asked for the airport's emergency services saying: "Speedbird Mayday Mayday. Speedbird 2276 request fire services."

"Speedbird 2276 heavy, we are evacuating on the runway. We have a fire, repeat, we are evacuating," he adds.

Dominic Worthington, a passenger travelling and living in London, told NBC News: "We were literally just about to take off." He confirmed that smoke was visible on both sides of the aircraft.

**"The plane's left engine caught fire and an investigation was under way."**

*Ian Gregor, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman*

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman Ian Gregor said "the plane's left engine caught fire and an investigation was under way." The National Transportation Safety Board was collecting information about the incident, said Eric Weiss, a spokesman for the agency in Washington.

Clark County Deputy Fire Chief Jon Klassen said the cause of the fire wasn't clear yet, but the fire didn't appear to breach the cabin. Certainly, if the hull was breached, the result would have been catastrophic.

Dramatic pictures and videos on social media showed flames and huge plumes of black smoke pouring

from the centre of the 777-200 as it sat on the tarmac at McCarran International Airport. The 159 passengers and 13 crew were evacuated using safety slides as several fire fighters fought to control the blaze. Some minor injuries were reported.

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**AIRCRAFT & ENGINE NEWS**

**FAA selects P&W to develop advanced core-engine technologies for its CLEEN II program**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has announced that Pratt & Whitney has been selected to participate in a program to develop and mature advanced core-engine technologies, primarily for engine compressor and turbine modules, to reduce fuel consumption and emissions, as part of the second phase of the FAA's Continuous Lower Energy, Emissions and Noise (CLEEN II) initiative. During this phase of the program, Pratt & Whitney will continue to pursue advanced technologies that are applicable to ultra-high bypass ratio PurePower Geared Turbofan (GTF) engines, particularly aimed at enhancing the thermal efficiency of the engine core. These activities are complementary to the company's CLEEN-related project announced in 2010. Pratt & Whitney is also a subcontractor on a project led by UTC Aerospace Systems that is focused on nacelle technologies and Aerostructures' eolPS to reduce fuel burn and noise. The demonstration unit will be tested on a PurePower PW1000G Geared Turbofan engine.

**Rolls-Royce trent 700 engines selected for new Airbus Beluga XL transporter**

Rolls-Royce has been selected by Airbus to provide Trent 700 engines and long-term TotalCare engine service support, worth US\$700m for five new Beluga XL air transporter aircraft. The aircraft will replace the current Airbus Beluga fleet. The Beluga XL, based on the A330 design, was launched in November 2014 to address the A350 XWB ramp up and the transport capacity requirements for other programmes. Compared to the current Beluga, the Beluga XL will provide Airbus with an additional 30% air transport capacity.

**A330-200 with increased range receives EASA certification**

Airbus' successful A330-200 has received EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency) certification for the new 242 ton Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW) version, following certification in April 2015 of the 242t A330-300. Certification from the US authorities (FAA) will follow. The range of the new A330-200 242t is increased by up to 350 nautical miles/650 kilometres compared to today's 238 ton model, allowing customers to fly missions up to 7,250 nm/ 13,400 km. Thanks to aerodynamic refinements and engine enhancements, operators will reduce their fuel consumption by up to 2%. Launched in 2012 and already in service on the larger A330-300 model, the 242 ton variant is the platform for the A330neo

**Airbus starts production of the first A330neo**



First metal cut for A330neo parts underway in Toulouse and Nantes

Photo: Airbus

Airbus' first A330neo is coming to life one year after the programme was launched, with the first 'cutting of metal' underway at its production facilities in Toulouse and Nantes. Machining of the first engine pylon started during the summer at Airbus' facility in Saint-Eloi (Toulouse), while Airbus' Plant in Nantes began production of the first A330neo centre wing box. The first A330neo Centre Wing Box rib 1 produced in Nantes uses an innovative Isogrid design with 330 triangular pockets which enables the part to meet all rigidity, strength and low weight requirements. The all-new pylon produced in Saint-Eloi is a key element in the A330neo's innovative design, attaching the latest generation, fuel-efficient Trent 7000 engines to the wings. Made out of lightweight titanium, the A330neo pylon uses cutting-edge aerodynamics, materials and design technologies derived from the A350 XWB. The A330neo pylon will be fitted with a new A350 XWB-inspired fairing made from composite materials and titanium for ensuring optimized aerodynamics. The A330-800neo and the A330-900neo are two new members of the Airbus Wide-body Family with first deliveries scheduled to start in Q4 2017.

**MRO & PRODUCTION NEWS**

**ABS Jets receives approval for base maintenance on Phenom 300**

ABS Jets has received approval from Embraer and the Czech Republic CAA to perform base maintenance on the Phenom 300. This means that ABS Jets are now approved to maintain all types of Embraer Phenom aircraft. The increased capability further underlines ABS Jets' status as an Embraer Approved Service Centre and consolidates their commitment to offer the best and closest customer support.

**JSC Donavia deploys AJW engines to manage engine shop visits**

As part of an ongoing GTA with Russian airline, JSC Donavia, AJW Engines is to provide engine shop visit management services for CFM56-5B engines. An experienced team of professional engineers from AJW will manage all aspects of the shop visit,

supported by the strong commercial acumen of the engines division as a whole. AJW Engines has also negotiated the contractual terms with the chosen MRO on behalf of JSC Donavia. "The Engine Management Service (EMS) we offer is a tailored service whereby we continuously update the customer regarding all processes on a daily basis. In addition, we challenge the MRO to justify their repair choices keeping everyone focused" explains Morgan Brown, Powerplant Engineer – AJW Engines. "This approach not only helps to safeguard the airline from unnecessary expense but also ensures they operate at maximum efficiency and safety. The AJW Group is recognised for its flexible approach across all aircraft support options and the EMS programme for JSC Donavia combines special introductory rates and volume discounts."

**Vistara signs V2500 engine V-Services agreement**

Vistara, a TATA SIA JV and India's fastest growing full service carrier, has signed a V-Services agreement to maintain its fleet of 26 V2500 engines. The V2500 engine is offered through IAE International