

## IN BRIEF

**ABU DHABI AIR EXPO IS 62% BOOKED**

Al Bateen Executive Airport, the dedicated business aviation airport of Abu Dhabi Airports Company (ADAC), has revealed that 62% of the space allocated for Abu Dhabi Air Expo is booked, five months ahead of the show. The show is due to take place at the airport on 6-8 March 2012. The Abu Dhabi Air Expo was launched by ADAC in August as the first general aviation exhibition in the Middle East.

**FLY AVIATION SERVICES EYES CARD DEALS**

Aviation services provider Fly Aviation Services (stand E380) has announced the launch of the Fly AeroCard, a prepaid card that grants customers unlimited permits on a monthly per-sector basis. Depending on their aircraft type and flight frequency, operators can choose between Silver, Gold and Platinum cards. "With the Fly AeroCard's flexible plans, aircraft operators can budget what are traditionally difficult to manage variable costs," said George Kinj, general manager for Fly Aviation Services.

**JET AVIATION'S G550 UPGRADE**

Jet Aviation Dubai (stand E452) has completed the first Certification Foxtrot Basic upgrade on a Gulfstream G550 in the Middle East. Jet Aviation Dubai is authorised to support PlaneView Certification Foxtrot Basic upgrades on Gulfstream G350, G450, G500 and G550 aircraft, and Synthetic Vision on the G550. Certification Foxtrot Basic is designed to provide pilots with improved vision, enhanced navigational ability and more comprehensive weather information.

**MRO Middle East details show focus**

The upcoming MRO Middle East (MRO ME) maintenance, repair and overhaul exhibition and conference will bring together industry experts to explore and share best practices in developing new fleets, improving returns on investment and reducing costs.

The two-day MRO ME show is running simultaneously with Aircraft Interiors Middle East (AIME) on 1-2 February 2012 at Dubai's Airport Expo.

Middle East operators accounted for 5% of the world's MRO expenditure in 2010, according to Richard Brown, senior associate at AeroStrategy.

# Stylish firm's first steps

Producing limited editions of VIP aircraft with branded interiors is the brainchild of aerospace business consultant Rashid Khan and Holger Heims, managing director of Basel, Switzerland-based investment firm Falcon Equity Advisors.

To this end, the two partners have founded a new company in Zurich, named Reach in Style, which is to bring together "top luxury brands" from around the world with the business aircraft industry.

A primary task will be to choose a "global business jet manufacturer", which can be "coupled with one of the world's foremost iconic brands for the VVIP interior" to produce an aircraft that will give its select passengers the desired "brand lifestyle experience".



## 400XT'S DIVAN INTERVENTION

**N**extant Aerospace's 400XT remanufactured business jet is making its debut in the Dubai static park, showcasing an optional interior configuration containing a 1.5m divan with four-place club seating that offers an additional 30cm of leg room compared with the standard design.

The aircraft, which received US Federal Avia-

tion Administration certification this year after a three-year development and flight testing programme, has a range of 2,000nm (3,700km) with four passengers, enabling flights originating in the Middle East to reach major destinations in Europe, Russia and Asia. Customer deliveries began last month.

Nextant also recently announced its first international service centre at Beechcraft Augsburg in Germany, accessible from many Middle Eastern departure points. The new facility brings to 10 the number of 400XT service centres.

The 400XT process uses a remanufactured Beechjet 400A/XP airframe, enhanced with new Williams FJ44-3AP turbofan engines and Rockwell Collins Pro Line 21 integrated avionics.



▲ DEBUT: The aircraft is on display in the static park