

Police Aviation News

©Police Aviation Research

Number 203 March 2013

PAR



HELI-EXPO

Las Vegas re-visited

The place to be

More predictions

Who is there

Images: South African Red Cross HEMS
Operations in the Limpopo floods

PAN—Police Aviation News is published monthly by POLICE AVIATION RESEARCH, 7 Windmill Close, Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 3BQ UK. Contacts: **Main:** +44 1992 714162 **Cell:** +44 7778 296650 **Skype:** BrynElliott **E-mail:** editor@policeaviationnews.com

SPONSORS

Broadcast Microwave
CurtissWright Controls
Enterprise Control Systems
Honeywell [Skyforce] Mapping
L3 Wescam
Excellence in avionics
Powervamp
Troll Systems Corporation

www..com
www.skyquest.com
www.enterprisecontrol.co.uk
www.skyforce.co.uk
www.wescam.com
www.phoenixavionics.com
www.powervamp.com
www.trollsystems.com

Airborne Law Enforcement Association
European Law Enforcement Association

www.alea.org
www.pacenet.info



JAPAN

NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY: Eurocopter Japan delivered a brand new EC135T2 to the NPA at the end of January. It will be the first EC135 to be deployed to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for law enforcement missions and breaks a long line of AgustaWestland and Bell deliveries in recent years.

The NPA and its police departments across Japan currently owns a fleet of 28 Eurocopter helicopters, which includes seven units of EC135 and thirteen examples of the locally produced KB117/EC145.

The newly acquired Turbomeca powered EC135T2 will be the first EC135 to be deployed to the MPD, and follows on from demonstrations of the type which date back as far as May 1997 when the 14th airframe was in Tokyo.

Tokyo has operated Eurocopter before and has an EC155B1 for a wide range of police activities. The MPD was the very first police department to begin using helicopters since 1959, and is the most frequent user of helicopters for law enforcement work amongst all police departments in Japan.

COVER IMAGE: The last time Heli-Expo was in Las Vegas Eurocopter launched the EC130 B4 [aka the AS350B4] so it is perhaps timely to use this David Dennison supplied image of a South Africa Red Cross Air Mercy Service's Eurocopter EC130 B4 helicopter ZS-RWY which distinguished itself during the recent Limpopo flood rescues and evacuations in South Africa's northern region. More images later.—page 14

FUKUI: Last year Rotorcraft Services Group – RSG - based in Fort Worth, Texas, USA completed the design, manufacture and integration of advanced mission equipment package for a Eurocopter EC135T2+ helicopter for the Fukui Prefecture Police Department, in Chuba, central Japan. The modular mission equipment design included dual, multi-spectral, Axyss electro-optical systems, a microwave digital data link system, stabilised high intensity Trakka searchlight system, and high powered external PA equipment. The Fukui PD EC135 multirole helicopter mission profile includes: ground surveillance and air patrol, search and rescue operations, data relay, environmental surveillance, and pollution detection control. The airframe is c/n 0962 delivered to the operator as JA110K in 2011.



RSG will be at the Heli-Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada this month and invites everyone to please come visit them at Booth #N4235.

A fuller report on this project will appear in the Heli-Expo Report from Las Vegas, see also the item on the Bell 429 under 'Industry' below. [RSG]

UNITED KINGDOM

NPAS: The new and replacement jobs within the organisation continue to multiply. Last month there were reports of police officers moving on and this month evidence that suggests the civilian staff are also moving on.

The latest vacancy being advertised by West Yorkshire Police for the National Police Air Service (NPAS) is for an Aviation Logistics Officer based at the maintenance base at the Wattisham military base near Ipswich, Suffolk. This Stores job attracts a modest salary £17,188 - £18,343.

The post is for someone responsible for the procurement, ordering, receipt, storage and dispatch of all aviation stores and tooling. The closing date for applications is March 3, 2013 [Flight]



21-22 May 2013

Police Aviation Conference 2013

Flugmuseum Aviatricum
Wiener Neustadt
Austria



At the time Chief Constable Alex Marshall moved from being the leader of the Hampshire Police to take up a post with the Police College at Bramshill, it was widely assumed that the mantle of ACPO lead on Air Support matters [effectively NPAS] would pass to another. Subsequent enquiries suggest that he has in fact retained the role of ACPO lead – although even the ACPO Press Department seems very unsure.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Following on from last month's comment about the advisability of the PSNI disposing of their old BN-2 Islander there were reports of a very real threat to the province from dissident units. The threat is to the G8 conference scheduled for June this year and plans are already forming for UK police forces to send officers to bolster the PSNI – greatly reduced in number by ignorant politicians seeking to make the Peace Process appear to work no matter how many it ultimately put at additional risk.

The Police Federation of England and Wales has admitted "serious concerns" about the mutual aid arrangements for the G8 summit in Northern Ireland even as plans are put in place for PSNI officers to train up mainland officers.

In a statement, the staff association's Operational Policing Sub Committee said it would support colleagues in the PSNI – but added that the planning needed to be thorough to ensure that safety was a top priority.

CC Ian Learmonth, the ACPO lead for Public Order, has also emphasised that "every effort" is being made to ensure that those involved in the op are well protected.

"I want to reassure officers with the required skill sets for deployment to Northern Ireland that every effort is being taken to maximise their safety and security," he added.

"We are still in early preparations and are engaging with the four home federations."

It is estimated that as many as 4,000 officers plus resources from across the UK mainland may be needed for a major operation in support of the G8 Summit, which is being held in County Fermanagh over three days in June. Although details are scarce the basic principle has been confirmed by PSNI Chief Constable Matt Baggott when he recently gave evidence before the Commons Northern Ireland Select Committee.

He told MPs that assets under mutual aid would be needed for the one-off operation. With previous G8 events a flashpoint for disorder, some committee members were concerned at how the 7,000-strong PSNI would cope with the situation. The very intention might raise tensions in the sensitive political and social climate of Northern Ireland, certainly the different public safety environment between the mainland and Ireland would be a threat to the temporary staff. Mainland officers are not routinely armed and policing is generally seen as safe so they would face unfamiliar dangers among the generally armed PSNI colleagues. They may not exactly be 'Lambs to the slaughter' but there is already talk about a higher rate of pay for the loan period – but no-one has actually used the term 'Danger Money' just yet.

Baggott, has asked that his force be bolstered in light of recent violence in Northern Ireland. The Patton Report – which followed the 1998 Good Friday Agreement – suggested that the PSNI would be sufficiently resourced for policing the province with significant cuts in officers. The claim that nearly 4,000 additional officers may be required to police the G8 Summit, which will see several high-profile world leaders including US President Barack Obama descend on the province, still barely meets the old levels of staffing under the RUC [8,500 plus 20% reserves].

The last time a G8 event was held in the UK was at the Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland in 2005. It required the presence of 10,000 officers and cost around £100M but again it was in an environment considered relatively safe. Since then severe cuts in overall officer numbers and remuneration have given all forces less flexibility.

One way the PSNI has got around its politically directed shortfall in capability has been to bolster air support using leased in law enforcement airframes released by Mainland police. A further new helicopter order has been expected for some time but it will not be around in time for June so an option may be to take out short term arrangements using retired NPAS assets.

Just days ago the Chairman of the Scottish Police Federation, Brian Docherty, hit out at the British government, claiming the decision to hold the G8 Summit in Northern Ireland was misinformed. He accused ministers of acting "appallingly" in their decision to hold the event in an area of high threat when officer numbers had been slashed and their terms and conditions altered for the worse. [Oracle]

Police forces, defence firms and fire services are among more than 130 organisations with current permission to fly small unmanned aerial systems (UAS) in United Kingdom airspace. The list recently published by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) indicates three police forces, Merseyside, Staffordshire and Essex, have permission to use UAS, as do three fire services, Dorset, West Midlands and Hampshire. The list is out of date as the Merseyside Police lost their small craft some years ago and never replaced it. The CAA had not previously published any list of organisations.

Including multiple or expired licenses, CAA has granted approval to fly small UAS more than 160 times. In the last two years, CAA has required anyone who wants to fly a small UAS in British airspace to apply for permission. The aircraft must weigh less than 20 kg, and operators must observe its stated rules, including not flying higher than 400 feet or further away from the operator than 500 meters (considered the pilot's line of sight). [Guardian]



© MW Power Systems

CREATE AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.



HD IR Image



EO/IR Image Blended



Operate with the most capable technologies available:

- All digital, full 1080p HD EO/IR imaging
- High-Magnification, Large-Aperture Optics – Superior range performance
- Image Blending – Uncover more detail from one image stream
- Single LRU systems, common electronics and common interfaces simplifies integration and swapping amongst the fleet

For more information on these technologies visit WESCAM.com or call +1-905-633-4000

UNITED STATES

ALEA: National Transportation Safety Board Chairman praised two organisations for their response to NTSB safety recommendations

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association took action that exceeded the NTSB's recommendations following the investigation into the August 2010 aircraft accident in Alaska. The NTSB recommended that AOPA educate pilots about the benefits of notifying passengers about the location and operation of survival and emergency communication equipment aboard the craft.

In response, AOPA produced a video to educate pilots about briefing passengers on emergency equipment such as basic VHF radio operation, the cockpit emergency locator transmitter switch and the location of emergency gear. The video also included a sample passenger safety briefing. AOPA also developed a printable checklist for use in the aircraft.

The NTSB Chairman also praised the action of the Airborne Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission in implementing multiple NTSB recommendations as a result of its investigation into the June 2009 crash of the A109E Power helicopter operated by the New Mexico State Police. The NTSB recommended rest standards to prevent pilot fatigue, training in encountering instrument meteorological conditions and encouraged the installation of flight-tracking equipment and 406-megahertz emergency locator transmitters on their aircraft.

The NTSB were impressed by the fact that the ALE Accreditation Commission implemented all of the NTSB's recommendations in just six months. [NTSB]

GEORGIA: The Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Aviation Division recently held grand opening ceremonies for two newly acquired hangars, one at the Augusta Regional Bush Field Airport and the other at the Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport in Gainesville.

The new 10,000-square-foot Augusta hangar will provide more than 2,500 square feet for administrative offices, a living, dining and kitchen area, laundry facilities, storage areas and sleeping quarters for pilots and other GSP personnel as needed. The remaining hangar space will accommodate several aircraft and allow for future growth. The ramp area covers 12,000 square feet, enough space to park numerous aircraft as needed. The city of Augusta put up \$500,000 towards the project and the state is paying for the rest.

The 5,600-square-foot Gainesville hangar includes a three-level structure, providing approximately 3,500 square feet for administrative offices, a living, dining and kitchen area, laundry facility, storage area and sleeping quarters. The hangar will also provide adequate space to house multiple aircraft and allow for future expansion.

The GSP was formed in 1974 and has a number of facilities across the state. The Aviation Unit operates Bell OH-58 and Bell 206B helicopters and a Bell 407 and Bell UH-1 Huey helicopter. Fifteen months ago the operation opened another new hangar at the Reidsville Municipal Airport, one of six hangars throughout the state to housing 14 helicopters. [GSP Aviation Division]



© Georgia State Patrol

KANSAS: The Kansas Supreme Court upheld a lower court decision that invalidated a 2008 contract in which the city of Topeka financed the purchase of a second helicopter for its police department.

The purchase was never finalised, but the city paid a \$74,000, 10% down payment that became a central issue in the court challenge. The high court upheld that the deposit should be refunded.

The helicopter dealer, Schreib-Air, appealed the original decision, saying it held a valid contract with the city.

Attempts to secure a newer helicopter for the Topeka Police Department began in June 2007 when the city council first authorised a lease-purchase agreement with Schreib-Air.

MISSISSIPPI: The DeSoto County Sheriff's Department based in Hernando, MS, is upgrading its helicopter fleet. Sheriff Bill Rasco who received approval from the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors to purchase a 1976 Bell 206 JetRanger helicopter with funds set aside from his department's budget. The Bell comes from the fleet of the Georgia State Highway Patrol, one of a fleet of seventeen helicopters and is being purchased for a discounted price of \$285,000. The Bell offers about double the fuel capacity of the existing helicopter which will allow up to nearly three hours of flight time.

One of the driving factors was a looming \$70,000 repair bill on one of the departments pair of existing MD helicopters. The helicopter has about 100 hours flight time remaining before the work is needed. Night vision equipment is transferable to the new helicopter and will temporarily give the Sheriff's Department three operational aircraft. The Aviation Unit currently operates a MH-6C, and an OH-6A, which provide air support to local municipalities, state and federal agencies.

The unit first launched in 1978, and has operated as the only full time Law Enforcement Aviation Unit in the Northern region of the State of Mississippi, and provides regional aerial support to surrounding counties, which encompass a geographical area of 4,200 square miles.



© De Soto County Sheriff



© De Soto County Sheriff

COOLSPPOOL

The latest 28.5 volt GPU range
Faster, cooler starts. Perfect for shaft or free turbines. Essential for FADEC aircraft.

NEW Mini 17 A/Hr portable GPU.
Built-in charger, digital voltmeter, protective padded jacket.

Massive performance, true portability, amazingly low weight.

Models from Mini 17 A/Hr to 260 A/Hr Ramp Cart

CALL NOW!

+44 (0)1934 643000

email: info@powervamp.com



Powervamp

Powervamp Ltd, Weston-Super-Mare, England

www.powervamp.com

NEW MEXICO: The New Mexico State Police's air wing is getting a special mission addition, courtesy of an Albuquerque based aviation management company.

CSI Aviation is donating an SB7L-360A Seeker surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft N381GC for use by the state air support operation. The company no longer needs the \$250,000 aircraft in its demonstrator fleet for the Seeker.

"The Seeker is too valuable of a resource to let it remain underutilised," Tommy Dunn, CSI vice president for marketing and business development, said in a release about the donation. "The culture of this company is to give back to the community and we saw this as an excellent opportunity to do something for public safety in New Mexico."

The Australian-designed aircraft has a high, fixed wing with a rear mounted pusher engine and high visibility helicopter like cockpit.

The State Police operates an Agusta A109E helicopter for surveillance and reconnaissance and most other missions but Dunn believes the can undertake many of the missions with the fixed wing at a fraction of the cost. The State Police also has a Cessna 421 Golden Eagle twin but the plan is to phase it out.

CSI provides a range of aviation services to corporations and government agencies, including air charters, aircraft leasing and aircraft purchases. They purchased two Seekers as demonstration planes for the aerial surveillance market in North America, but found that one was adequate for its purposes. [CSI]



© NMDoPS

COMPACT LIGHTWEIGHT HIGH PERFORMANCE
TRACKING ANTENNA



TROLL
SYSTEMS
www.TROLLSYSTEMS.com

Easy to Install
Simple to Operate
L Band to Ka Band
Antenna Gains from 8 to 23dBi
Azimuth and Elevation Steered
Multiple Antenna Options
D0-160 Tested
Rated to 300 Knots

manned and unmanned
LAND | SEA | AIR

SKYLINK
MI



LONG RANGE HIGH-GAIN COMPLETE AIR TO GROUND DATA LINK SYSTEMS

TEXAS: State troopers will no longer shoot from helicopters at fleeing suspects, the head of the Department of Public Safety has said.

The announcement by DPS Director during testimony before the state House Appropriations Committee came four months after a DPS sharpshooter in a helicopter killed two Guatemalan immigrants as he tried to disable a smuggler's speeding pickup near the Rio Grande Valley town of La Joya.

A number of bodies have been critical of the practice, saying it was unusual and ineffective, and civil rights groups called for an end to such shootings. From now onward a helicopter platform should not be used to shoot from unless the aircraft is being shot at. That option will be reserved because there have been at least 77 times police officers have been shot at from Mexico along that Rio Grande river.

A DPS spokesman claimed that the changes are not a reflection of the circumstances involving last year's shooting in Hidalgo County but the announcement came as a direct response to a question about the men's deaths.

The DPS policy may have changed now but it is held that the trooper who shot the Guatemalans did nothing wrong. His action was in line with the Texas penal code at that time.

The news of the policy change was welcomed by those who had been critical of DPS after the October shooting.

The New HD Transmitter from BMS!

Heli-Coder 4 Features...



- HD or SD video transmission
- Smallest and lightest of its kind: 5" W x 9" D x 6" H (127 x 229 x 153 mm); 6 lbs. (2.7 kg)
- H.264 or MPEG-2 compression, backward-compatible with existing receive site equipment
- Ethernet port for transmitting streaming IP data
- GPS receiver and data interface for tracking and mapping purposes
- 10 W output power
- Geo-Point, BMS' proprietary receive site software that uses metadata from the aircraft video camera to display the bearing and distance of the camera video location (requires compatible receiver)
- Operation across multiple mobile platforms and with any BMS receive solutions—including the handheld Carry-Viewer III

Transmit real-time HD video to your Response Teams! Give them a real-time picture of the tactical situation!

The Downlink Experts™ Learn more at our website or call today!

www.bms-inc.com/hc4.html • sales@bms-inc.com • 800-669-9667 (US) • 858-391-3050

BMS
A Cohu Company

WASHINGTON: The remote control drones purchased by Seattle police are to be withdrawn from service and returned to the vendor the City Mayor Mike McGinn has decreed. The small lightweight Draganfly craft were facing increasing pressures from within the city from pressure groups that saw them as means to spy on the populace. A number of public demonstrations designed to improve public perceptions of the technology failed in their primary aim. They drew complaints from the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups. Seattle police was given an \$82,000 federal grant for the programme and one of the two craft was to go to the King County Sheriff's Office.

File image of Draganfly



It is not clear whether it is in anyway an intransigent west coast America thing but further south in California the Sheriffs in both Orange and Alameda Counties are facing local pressure against law enforcement officers embracing unmanned technology.

On the face of it the negative pressure is similar to that seeing many states being accused of using pretty ordinary technology to spy through solid walls. In that case the highly suspect bit of kit with the illusory capability is the FLIR camera – we know they cannot do it but still the latter day members of the 'Flat Earth Society' are convincing themselves that FLIR equals x-ray vision.

And history is repeating itself with so called experts being wheeled out to spout utter rubbish in relation to these tiny craft with limited capabilities. I guess most sensor manufacturers would be extremely pleased if they could get a camera on one of these tiny craft to undertake just the ANPR role that the 'experts' say they have. One quote from a Trevor Timm of the Electronic Frontier Foundation categorically states that they not only see through walls but also can also be equipped with facial recognition technology and radar.

In Alameda County the media seem to be having a bad day all round as far as intelligent reporting is concerned. First they reported that there was a 'life sized model of a predator drone sat menacingly among the protesters' when the thing cannot even have been 5% of the size of the original or they would never have got it there.

Sheriff Greg Ahern wants to spend up to \$50,000 on the 'devices' he says could help locate missing people and survey the scenes of fires. That will probably be one example then.

The civil rights groups were having a field day claiming that the tiny craft that claims a maximum of a 30 minute flight time [that will be 20 minutes in reality] will be spying on protesters and dissidents, people that are against police brutality. Well said Anne Weills, of the National Lawyers' Guild. Perhaps they will just stand there and do the watching now.

Anyway I guess I had to repeat the story because the people there believe that the eyes of the world are on Alameda County. [KGO-TV]

Operational success at a fraction of the cost

The most economical aircraft in its class, coupled with big payload ability and a spacious cabin Airvan is the new choice for mission critical situations.

Our fully certified air surveillance package includes:

- Operator work stations
- Equipment racks
- Retractable sensor system
- Dedicated electrical system for special mission payloads
- Many other features.

GA8 Airvan™



A Mahindra Aerospace Company

Call us now on Ph: +61 (0) 4 6749 1295 to speak with our Special Mission representative about your specific requirements

GippsAero Pty Ltd, A Mahindra Aerospace Company | Latrobe Regional Airport, Traralgon VIC 3844, Australia
sales@gippsaero.com | +61 3 5172 1200 | www.gippsaero.com

AIR AMBULANCE

AUSTRALIA

NORTHERN TERRITORIES: A pioneer of Australian aeromedicine was honoured when Northern Territory Health Minister David Tollner officially launched CareFlight's provision of the Top End Medical Retrieval Service at Darwin International Airport last month.

Mr Tollner named one of CareFlight's Super King Air B200 twin-engine turbo-prop aircraft 'Clyde Fenton' after Dr Clyde Fenton. The aircraft named is VH-ZCN, other aircraft in the fleet will be named progressively during the year ahead.

From 1934 with official support Clyde Fenton used a Gipsy Moth bi-plane to form what became the Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service.

To some Fenton was a disaster but to people of the Top End he was a hero. Crashes and daredevil flights were his speciality as he used primitive bush strips to collect patients and fly them to Katherine for treatment.

Under the 10-year NT contract, from January 2013, CareFlight provides five King Airs and the helicopter for dedicated medical, search and rescue missions. Separately a Lear 35 medi-jet also is based in Darwin to fly patients interstate or from overseas for CareFlight International Air Ambulance.

The new fleet of King Air 200s feature the Proline 21 glass cockpit instrumentation, thanks to the fitment of Raisbeck propellers and low pressure main wheels to allow rough field performance, an Infra-Red Imaging System (IRIS), a safety feature that allows for wildlife and livestock to be seen on runways at night, engine trend monitoring for continuous recording of engine condition, wing lockers for additional storage of equipment outside of the cabin, additional radios and a satellite phone communication system, real time tracking and aircraft position system that allows co-ordination staff to know exactly where the aircraft are at any time.

The medical interior has a stretcher loading device for ease of patient loading on up to two Spectrum stretchers.

For the first time in the Territory, the new Clinical & Logistics Coordination System that tasks the King Air aircraft allows the integration of CareFlight's BK-117B2 medical-rescue helicopter into the total Top End aeromedical system.

Following the launch ceremony two aircraft from the CareFlight fleet made a low-level flight along the Darwin waterfront.

The fly-past was staged by a CareFlight Super King Air B200 twin-engine turbo-prop aeroplane and Darwin's CareFlight twin-engine BK-117B2 medical-rescue helicopter.



CareFlight chairman Dr Andrew Refshauge (left) with Territory Health Minister David Tollner unveils the tribute to outback aeromedical pioneer Dr Clyde Fenton.



HELICOPTER EXPO & CONFERENCE

24-26 SEPT 2013 EXCEL LONDON

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.HELITECHEVENTS.COM/PAN

In association with





© RFDS/RT

WEST AUSTRALIA: The Royal Flying Doctor Service has welcomed the continued commitment from Rio Tinto to continue the funding of the Rio Tinto Life Flight aero medical jet service for Western Australia for the next four years. Rio Tinto have mining operations centred in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

Since the jet's first mission in October 2009, the aircraft has flown 2115 hours, evacuating 867 patients, the majority (73.9%) from the more distant Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

The jet's original medical fit-out and operations were also supported by funding from the RFDS Flying 1000 fundraising group, RFDS Victorian Section and the State Government's Royalties for Regions programme has also underwritten operating costs for the jet to a value of A\$1M per year for its initial three years of operation. [Herald]

Pictured here is RFDS WA CEO, Grahame Marshall, with the Bevan family and Greg Lilleyman, President Pilbara Operations Rio Tinto Iron Ore. Bronwyn Bevan was famously flown by the jet from Perth to Melbourne in July 2011 for life saving heart surgery when all other aircraft were grounded due to a volcanic ash cloud. Bronwyn was three months old at the time. She is now a happy, healthy 2 year old.



© RFDS/RT

EUROPE: The DRF Luftrettung helicopters flew a total of 38,748 missions last year – some 382 missions more than the previous year (2011: 38,366).

DRF Luftrettung took off on its first air rescue mission in the Stuttgart metropolitan area 40 years ago, on March 19, 1973. To date, the non-profit air rescue organisation has flown a total of about 700,000 missions.

DRF Luftrettung operates 31 HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service) bases in Germany, Austria and Denmark with over 50 helicopters for emergency rescue and intensive care transport between hospitals, at eight bases even around the clock.

Under the name of European Air Ambulance (EAA) the DRF Luftrettung and the LAA (Luxembourg Air Ambulance) operate seven ambulance aircraft, and employ experienced pilots and medical teams for the worldwide repatriation of patients. Last year, a total of 839 patients were brought back home from 103 countries abroad. For further information, go to: www.drf-luftrettung.de

INDIA

HEMS: There is very little public air ambulance activity in India, the few moves towards supplying something resembling EMS being aimed at a limited market and certainly not all inclusive.

One small step towards a wider service was signed at the recent air show in India when Aviators Pvt Ltd signed a firm order for an initial batch of seven Eurocopter EC135 to undertake future HEMS operations.

The contract signing was in the presence of French President François Hollande, and is a precursor for a second order expected to be carried out later this year. Rapid growth is anticipated in the HEMS market – as many as 50 helicopters are expected to be deployed throughout the country in the coming years. Initial deliveries will commence later this year.

multi-facing multi-sensing multi-linking

Evenode. The multi-application solution.

Evenode is tested to DO - 160F EMC and environmental test requirements.

Enterprise Control Systems Ltd (ECS) recent acquisition of Phoenix Aerospace Ltd creates a unique partnership that offers a lot more than just equipment and software. Our combined strengths are in providing systems which are technically advanced, high quality, flexible, configurable and turn-key.

Evenode is a lightweight data terminal designed specifically to meet the demanding requirements of airborne, ground and maritime applications.

Acting as a bi-directional network repeater, Evenode provides innovative solutions for any information exchange requirement.

Our team of experienced professionals work with customers to deliver leading edge capability. Our consultative approach enables us to converge legacy and next generation technologies.

The ECS turn-key solution includes:

- An extremely flexible COFDM transceiver system
- The ability to interface with multiple sensors
- An open architecture delivering data over IP
- The ability to control the terminal and sensor remotely
- EASA Part 21 design services
- EASA Part 145 for avionics maintenance
- GCAA (Gulf CAA) design approval

ECS delivers capability ranging from interfacing simple navigation and communications through to complex and demanding police or special forces mission equipment.



To see is to believe. For a live demonstration contact ECS or Phoenix Aerospace.



Enterprise Control Systems Ltd
ECS Technology Park,
Wappenham, Northants.
NN12 8WJ United Kingdom
T: +44 (0) 1327 860050
F: +44 (0) 1327 860058
E: sales@enterprisecontrol.co.uk
www.enterprisecontrol.co.uk

Phoenix Aerospace Ltd
Phoenix House, Rutherford Way,
Manor Royal, Crawley,
RH10 9RU United Kingdom
T: +44 (0) 1327 860050
F: +44 (0) 1327 860058
E: sales@enterprisecontrol.co.uk
www.phoenixavionics.com

JAPAN

Kawasaki Heavy Industries has sold four consecutive BK117C-2 [EC145] helicopters from its domestic production line. They have been ordered by Toho Co., Ltd. Aviation Aero Asahi Corporation and Central Helicopter Service.

One aircraft is to be used for business purposes, two aircraft will operate for the Doctor Heli operation and the fourth will operate as a medical helicopter in Yamagata Prefecture. Deliveries commence in August. [Helihub]

NEPAL

KATMANDU: The Ministry of Health and Population is going to make arrangements for an air ambulance service.

There is no air ambulance in government and private sector so far in Nepal and the Minister for Health and population, Rajendra Mahato, informed a news con-

ference organised at the ministry that this is to change as part of wider health reforms in the country. [Republica]

QATAR

HEMS: Qatari EMS operator Hamad Medical Corp has announced that they will be buying three new helicopters for their Lifelight fleet. The aircraft will be operational before the end of this year and provide additional cover to the pair of MD Explorers they currently fly. Part of the driving force for the additional aircraft is an intention to expand coverage round-the-clock, and not just the 18 hours currently flown. No hint has yet been given as to the helicopter type being acquired, apart from the fact that it will be capable of taking two patients. The air ambulance service currently receives and responds to an average of 110 calls each month. [Helihub]

SOUTH AFRICA

RED CROSS: As featured on this months cover a number of helicopters, including the SA Red Cross Air Mercy Service's Eurocopter EC130 B4, gave distinguished service during the recent Limpopo flood rescues and evacuations in South Africa's northern region. Here are three additional images.



TURKEY

For the second time in three months Iraq refused to allow a Turkish plane to land on its territory. Iraq has barred all private planes from flying to the semi-autonomous Kurdish region of the country and this second occasion stopped an air ambulance mercy mission from landing in Kirkuk to pick up some of the 75 Kurdish victims of an assault by Arabs in the Iraqi city of Tuz Khurmatu in late January. The victims were to be taken to Ankara, Turkey, for treatment.

For its part officialdom in Iraq cited bad weather as a reason for denying the plane permission to land.

Relations between Iraq and Turkey have deteriorated since Turkish officials signed an oil agreement with officials of the Kurdish region without seeking the approval of the Iraqi government. [Zaman]

UNITED KINGDOM

NATIONAL: Following the Association of Air Ambulances decision to change its membership structures the Association has recruited 2 new full members and a range of associate members to its ranks.

Full members of the Association are ambulance services and air ambulance charities that are committed to ethical fundraising and collaboration in their unified vision of improving patient outcomes. The Association which currently represents 14 of the 19 Air Ambulance Charities and 9 of the 12 Ambulance Services has in the past year launched Guidance SOP's about "On Site Photography", established the "Air Ambulance Awards of Excellence", been instrumental in the formation of the "Air Ambulance All Party Parliamentary Group" and held the first collaborative "National Air Ambulance Week".

Clive Dickin, National Director commented:

"Delivery of real improvements to the sector is key and as the principal association for the air ambulance sector in the UK the growth in membership is a key indicator of the authority and cohesion of the Association. 2012 proved to be a very exciting year for the Association, its reputation grew with the delivery of a range of new initiatives and the Association has further plans for expansion in 2013."

Now an incorporated organisation, the Association is launching a membership code of conduct. To further enhance the already positive image and operational performance the code will establish a clear benchmark for reputable and ethical fundraising activities, improved air operations and sharing best clinical practice. Further, through the sub committees of the Association, additional collaboration and sharing of best practice will help to further improve effectiveness and efficiency. Key areas will be investigated further and include the sharing of clinical and operational best practice and data, benchmarking and reviewing tasking. The 2008 Frame Work Document has now been reviewed and will be published, with a brand new reference work being planned for 2014. A review of perinatal and paediatric retrieval and transfer will be completed, with the Associations vision of an established matrix, with multiple air assets delivering a rapid and broader platform of service. This service will link, established emergency medical services, MOD charitable and commercial air ambulances with hospitals and specialist centres. www.associationofairambulances.co.uk.

It was the BBCs turn to stick the knife into the relative inactivity of The Children's Air Ambulance [TCAA] last month with a short television programme that lifted the lid on the charity that takes the money but does little with it. More importantly the BBC Inside Out investigation into the Children's Air Ambulance operated by The Air Ambulance Service Ltd., was followed by a number of news programme comments that undoubtedly boosted public awareness of the programme and its slant. The effect was such that there was clear evidence that another similar children's charity, Lucy's, wished to distance itself from the damaging fallout. Lucy's has different ideals but those differences are unlikely to be easily understood by the public.

Readers of PAN will of course have read plenty about the subject – and may perhaps be a little tired of it by now – but it is clear that this peak viewing time expose by the BBC is an important step towards educating the charity supporters in the UK about which charities are worthier than others. When set up years ago the TCAA had worthy ideals but it was and remains a leech sucking funds away from the air ambulances that provide day-to-day health care to the population. And it still has to operate a meaningful service.

The programme included a number of allegations suggesting areas where money was being wasted in hiring the services of television and popular music stars.

Another long time critic of TCAA, Clive Dickin of the Association of Air Ambulances issued a statement.

“Following last night’s broadcast of BBC1’s Inside Out investigation into the Children’s Air Ambulance operated by The Air Ambulance Service Ltd. The Association on behalf of its members wishes to reassure the public that their local air ambulances provide emergency and transfer services for children and babies.

“Members of the association can be found on its Air Ambulance Coverage Map web page. Our members respond daily to emergency and transfer requests, with approximately 10% of cases involving a child or young person. Air ambulance charities fundraise to deliver a local air ambulance and ensure the best possible care is provided in close support of the regional ambulance service.”

The latest from The Ambulance Service is that they expect to be transporting children by Spring, a contrast with all the existing operations that are already transporting the relatively small number of young people on demand.

The Charity Commission, the body that is supposed to be overseeing the charity again acknowledged that concerns had been raised with them about the fundraising and charitable activities of the Children’s Air Ambulance in 2010, but they had not had any regulatory concerns since. They contacted the charity in late 2011 to ensure it was making progress to establish an air ambulance and operating in accordance with best fundraising practice but even though time had passed not investigative action had been launched by the largely of-fice bound regulatory authority.

Not for the first time one of the other charity air ambulances was at pains to ensure their local fundraisers were aware of their local young people’s air ambulance service.

Heléna Holt, Chief Executive of Devon Air Ambulance Trust said: “We would like to take the opportunity to reassure the people of Devon that their local Air Ambulances can and do provide both emergency and transfer services for children and babies.”

Nigel Hare, Operations Manager for Devon Air Ambulance Trust added: “We are currently the only Air Ambulance in the country that has a CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) approved incubator. This was purchased in 2006 and since this time we have carried out 45 paediatric and neonatal transfers from hospitals across the South West Peninsula, from Treliske to Dorchester, to locations all over the country including Manchester, Oswestry and London.”

Managing your Mission



Honeywell
OBSERVER

Observer Version 4, allowing you to manage the task not the technology. With the most intuitive operating system available today Observer makes access to sensor integration and mission information a seamless process. Contact us today and let us help you achieve your mission.

Honeywell UK Limited (Skyforce)
Enquiries: mission.systems@honeywell.com - Website: www.skyforce.co.uk

EAST ANGLIA: The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has approved one of the Bond Air Services Eurocopter EC135 aircraft for night vision goggles (NVG) operations to ground level, a significant step towards the UK's first night air ambulance operations.

At present, no air ambulance service in the UK is able to operate helicopter emergency medical service (HEMS) flights at night. If there is a serious accident or medical emergency during the night, the emergency services must rely on land-based vehicles, which is not always ideal in remote areas or those areas without major hospital facilities.

Bond received EASA Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) approval for a night vision imaging system (NVIS) modification to a Eurocopter EC135T2 helicopter. The next step will be to secure operational approval from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), a process that is ongoing.

The aircraft was delivered last summer but it was not certified for night operations. Since delivery Bond's Design & Completions department under Jeremy Liber, Director of Design and Completions, equipped the EC135 with various items of special equipment (including moving maps, engine Usage Monitoring System and a Powerline Detection System) to meet the NVIS requirements.



The Night HEMS aircraft was launched at Cambridge last year

KENT, SURREY & SUSSEX: A road haulage business has renewed its partnership with Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance by supplying the charity with bubble wrap.

For the second successive year, family-run Sussex Transport will provide a year's supply of the life-saving plastic sheeting which is used to keep each patient warm on their journey to hospital.

Air Ambulance Head of Corporate Relations Cheryl Johnson said: "It has been discovered that traumatised patients, even in very hot environments, lose their body heat rapidly.

"When this happens blood clotting takes longer and Bubble Wrap provides the most effective means of preserving body heat. It can therefore make the difference between bleeding to death and survival."

Sussex Transport specializes in the movement and storage of high value, time critical, sensitive and fragile freight.

It uses bubble wrap for packaging a variety of loads including bathroom and kitchen products, glass, electronics and machinery – but one roll will also cover 60 air ambulance patients.

Managing director Damian Pulford said: "Who would have thought that the humble sheet of plastic with air bubbles that we all love to pop and stamp on for fun, can actually save a life. "Our drivers spend a lot of their time out on the roads and more than 40 per cent of the air ambulance's call-outs are to road traffic collisions so it made perfect sense to support them in this way."



Police Aviation Conference 2013

**Flugmuseum Aviatikum
Wiener Neustadt
Austria
21-22 May**

www.pavcon.org



LONDON: The all red air ambulance has returned from its annual service with a new look - emblazoned with emergency markings and key messages. The changing message on the tail boom details the number of critical missions attended by the medical team, currently at 28,502 [including ground operations].

Graham Hodgkin, Chief Executive Officer of London's Air Ambulance, said: *"Our aircraft provides the most effective opportunity for us to deliver our key messages to London and potential donors, hence the strategic new look of our iconic asset. London's Air Ambulance is a charity relying on your support, delivering highly specialist doctors and paramedics to the scene of critical injury, and the service is an essential part of London's emergency infrastructure."*

"Despite our extraordinary life saving work and prestigious reputation for medical excellence throughout the world, our charity remains relatively unknown within the city in which we operate. A stronger, more powerful relationship with all of our supporters will be a key component of the current fundraising effort for a new, second helicopter this year."

Martin Gilbert, Chief Executive of Aberdeen Asset Management and Patron of London's Air Ambulance, said: *"This remarkable charity saves lives across the capital on a daily basis and our decision to support it was an easy one. It deserves the backing of everyone who lives, works and travels in London and I am incredibly proud to be one of its Patrons."*

Ed: The basic red scheme used by this operation dates from an earlier sponsorship deal with the Virgin Group, it retains the basic red colour scheme but removes the logo.



**BRITISH
APCO**

Knowledge Exchange for Public Safety Communications

The Annual Exhibition and Professional Development Workshops
Manchester Central, 29 - 30 April 2013

UNITED STATES

MISSOURI: Bell Helicopter have signed an agreement with LifeFlight Eagle for the supply of two Bell 407GX aircraft. LifeFlight Eagle will utilise the helicopters to transport critically ill and injured persons in the Kansas City area.

LifeFlight Eagle, established in 1978, is a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing safe, quality emergency air transport and patient care to communities surrounding Kansas City in Missouri and Kansas. The two new Bell 407GX aircraft will replace their two hard-working analogue Bell 407s now ten years old.

The 407GX is equipped with the innovative Garmin G1000H™ integrated glass flight deck, making it the most advanced light, single-engine rotorcraft on the market. The Garmin G1000H™ enhances mission awareness with HTAWS, TIS, moving map display and Garmin's Helicopter Synthetic Vision Technology (HSV™).

The Bell 407GX safety features include a rupture resistant fuel system, engine exceedance monitoring and a collective mounted throttle. The Bell 407GX is backed by Bell Helicopter's #1 ranked Customer Support and Service with more than 100 customer service facilities in 34 countries.

FIRE

CHILE

INAER: The fire fighting resources in county have been bolstered by INAER Helicopter Chile which has once again reinforced its fleet of aircraft for the 2012-2013 firefighting campaign with helicopters from the now-completed summer campaign in Spain and Portugal.

This is Forestal Mininco's fourth year with a Kamov helicopter in order to fight forest fires, as well as another support Kamov for when the emergency requires it.

For the first time INAER has brought in a Bell 412 for operations in Chile, at the Nacimiento Air Base, which is providing support to the Helicopter Brigade of Forestal Mininco. This helicopter stands out for its great transportation capacity, up to 15 people including the crew.

During the summer, INAER maintains six operative bases throughout the country for fire prevention and fighting, with a fixed fleet composed of two Bell 407s, one Bell 412, a Eurocopter AS350 B3 and two KA-32s and a team of qualified professionals with considerable firefighting experience.

This year forest fires in the country have fallen by almost 90% compared to last year and, though the provinces of Concepción, Ñuble and Biobío remain on amber alert, the burnt surface area is considerably lower.

RUSSIA

Russian Helicopters, part of state defence holding Oboronprom, has launched the Global Helicopter Firefighting Initiative (GHFI) to increase the use of fire-fighting helicopters specially equipped with the suspended fire-fighting systems (Bambi Buckets), water cannons and other fire-fighting equipment.

The GHFI will involve makers of fire-fighting systems and equipment for helicopters producing innovative technologies to qualitatively improve helicopter-based firefighting systems. Russian Helicopters plans to involve its own design bureaus in the search for new engineering solutions in the field.

One member in the GHFI will be the Russian-built Ka-32A11BC helicopter, which can be equipped with various fire-fighting systems. The helicopter is already popular in more than 30 countries, with 188 machines operating successfully in Russia, Canada, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, China, Bulgaria, Austria, South Korea, Chile, Indonesia and Japan, among others.

UNITED KINGDOM

WILTSHIRE: The much criticised planned use of an MD500E in support of fire operations has come to an untimely end after the pilot and aircraft owner Jeremy Paxton died on last month.

The millionaire businessman had volunteered to operate a "flying fire engine" in Wiltshire with his small MD helicopter and many saw it as an inappropriate type for UK operations.

Not daunted by the adverse opinions Mr Paxton had financed a number of modifications to his aircraft that would assist him in carrying equipment pods to the scene of fires and accidents for up to three days each week.

Jeremy Paxton's family said the 53-year-old, who owned the Lower Mill Estate in Gloucestershire, died following a heart attack. [Media]

SEARCH & RESCUE

TURKEY

COAST GUARD: The Turkish Coast Guard took delivery of TCSG-552 the first of three maritime surveillance aircraft from Thales Group during a ceremony in Ankara last month. This aircraft will be operated by the Turkish Coast Guard from Izmir Air Base.

The delivery is of the first maritime surveillance aircraft equipped with the Thales AMASCOS mission system, which will provide the Turkish Coast Guards with an enhanced capability to better monitor the Turkish Exclusive Economic Zone and Territorial Waters.

This maritime surveillance aircraft is designed to perform a broad spectrum of missions including surveillance and Naval control, anti-drug and other types of smuggling operations, the prevention of illegal immigration and illicit fishing, pollution surveillance and SAR.

Thales is the prime contractor for the Meltem II programme, which calls for the delivery of six maritime patrol aircraft for the Turkish Navy and three maritime surveillance aircraft for the Turkish Coast Guard, all based on modified CASA CN-235 platforms. The programme also includes the provision of additional maritime patrol systems to the Turkish Navy, to be integrated on ATR 72 aircraft. All mission systems are based on Thales's AMASCOS solution (Airborne Maritime Situation & Control System). [Thales/TurkishNavy]



The Aviation Historian®

The modern journal of classic aeroplanes and the history of flying

A new independent quarterly,
created with passion & precision, in
compact format with clean design.
Flying history for connoisseurs.

Want to know more? Visit our website:

www.theaviationhistorian.com

TEL 07572 237737

WRITE TAH, PO Box 962, Horsham RH12 9PP



It's a thoroughbred...



...with a twist

INDUSTRY

This month's top story can only be the reported Italian police arrest of **Finmeccanica's** chief executive Giuseppe Orsi for alleged bribes paid to secure the sale of twelve AW101 executive helicopters to the Indian Air Force, when he was head of AgustaWestland.

India is said to be considering the cancellation of the multimillion-dollar defence contract and taking criminal action if an investigation finds bribes were paid by the manufacturer to steer the contract their way.

In a subsequent move the Board of Directors of Finmeccanica issued a statement announcing the hopefully temporary replacement of Mr Orsi in post.

"The Board of Directors of Finmeccanica, which met today, confirms that the Company is fully operational, and has resolved to confer to Mr Alessandro Pansa, the powers and duties previously held by Mr Giuseppe Orsi, insuring comprehensive management of the Company and the Group. Mr Pansa will exercise these powers under the title of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer.



The **Avincis** Group has received the first of its record order of 16 new Sikorsky S-92 helicopters. The order, placed in December 2011, is the largest single purchase of S-92s ever made.

The new helicopters will be used by Avincis' subsidiaries around the world to provide transportation for offshore oil and gas workers and for search and rescue work.

Headquartered in the UK, the Group provides central resources, global standards and systems and expertise to its 13 local operating companies. The S-92s, which will be delivered over the next three years, will form part of Avincis' global fleet of around 350 rotary and 50 fixed-wing aircraft which fly from 295 bases in ten countries.

Avincis' subsidiaries operate under the Bond (UK, Norway, Ireland and Australia), Norsk Helikopterservice (Norway), Inaer (Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, Chile and Peru) and Australian Helicopters brands. In 2011 the group transported over 180,000 people across the North Sea, conducted more than 3,900 search and rescue missions over seas and mountains, over 36,000 air ambulance missions, rescued more than 7,000 from life-threatening situations and flew over 8,800 fire fighting missions.

The first aircraft was accepted by Bjorn Seljevold, Managing Director of Norsk Helikopterservice (NHS). The first two of Avincis' S-92s will be registered in Norway before being flown to Aberdeen, where an NHS crew will initially operate them for Bond customers in the UK North Sea sector. They are expected to return to begin operations in Norway before the end of 2013.

Soloy Aviation Solutions has engineered and received STC approval for a LED based aircraft lighting kit for the Cessna 206G and 206H model aircraft.

The kit installs a second light source on the leading edge of the right wing to complement the factory installed left wing taxi and landing lights. The kit further converts both sides to LED illumination, creating significant visibility improvement in taxi and landing environments and is compatible with the 50 gallon fuel tanks from Sierra Industries.

Additionally, Soloy's new kit includes pulse light capability pulsing the landing light between the two wings. This pulse feature will greatly enhance recognition and visibility from other aircraft in high traffic environments.

Each wing will retain its two light bulb configuration. The taxi light uses a diffused lens to cast wider light during taxi operations while the landing light projects a much narrower but far more penetrating beam than the current landing light bulb.

The Sunspot 36HX lights used are from AeroLED and deliver 1000+ lumens at 45W which is comparable to a 100W halogen but at half the required power needed. The LED bulbs are rated for 50,000 hours of operation.

Pricing for the new kit is \$6,700.00 and Soloy anticipates first deliveries in April 2013. www.soloy.com



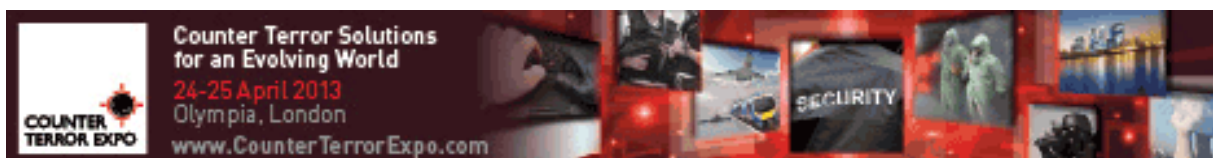
The fourth prototype of the 4.5 tonne light intermediate AW169 helicopter successfully completed its maiden flight at **AgustaWestland's** Vergiate plant in Italy last month. During its flight, the aircraft performed as expected with an assessment of the helicopter's general handling and basic systems being made. This is the last of four prototypes for the flight test programme. The AW169 programme is on schedule to achieve civil certification in 2014.

The first three AW169 prototypes, which performed their maiden flights in May 2012, July 2012 and November 2012, have completed more than 150 flight hours to date. The fourth prototype, built in just 71 days, is fully representative of the production configuration.

Fokker Aerostructures (NL), **AgustaWestland** (IT), **TenCate Advanced Composites** (NL) and **Ticona GmbH** (GE) have jointly won the prestigious JEC innovation award for the first thermoplastic composite horizontal tailplane of the AgustaWestland AW169 new-generation helicopter. The award will be officially presented to the partners at the opening ceremony of the JEC Composites Show, to be held in Paris, France, on March 12.

As the first of its kind in the aircraft industry, this main load-bearing primary structure convinced the renowned international experts of the JEC jury of its true innovative character. The value of this breakthrough innovation lies primarily in a 15% weight reduction compared with other composite solutions, resulting in lower NOx/CO₂ emissions and lower fuel consumption. The award is an excellent achievement, and proves that sustainable innovations creating added value for the aerospace industry result from this close collaboration between the OEM AgustaWestland and the specialist supply chain, consisting of Fokker Aerostructures, TenCate Advanced Composites and Ticona.

The full-scale development of the horizontal tail started in July 2011. By the end of 2012, four examples of the AW169 had been fitted with the new horizontal tail. The tailplane has a length of 3 metres and spans tip-to-tip. Weight reduction is achieved by the stiffness of the thermoplastic material. Fokker has designed and developed this integrated solution as a co-consolidated, single-piece torsion box. Production time and costs are reduced by applying simple preforms to create the part.



The FDC Vietnam project is the first large-scale **Frequentis** project in Vietnam, generating an order value of €8M. It is the worldwide biggest fire brigade project of the Vienna-based high-tech company so far and another story of success regarding the cooperation with the Oesterreichische Kontrollbank (OeKB).

After nearly 10 years of preparation, the contract covering the first construction and modernisation phase of dispatch centres for fire brigade and emergency medical services, was signed in Vietnam in February, 2012. The act was accompanied by a traditional ceremony with high-level politicians, business representatives and representatives of local fire brigades and emergency medical services.

The order comprises the refurbishment of control centres in four cities - Ho Chi Minh City/ Saigon, Da Nang, Hai Phong and Binh Duong - including all fire brigade dispatch centres, fire stations, mobile equipment and one training centre in Hanoi.

The technical solution is based on the Frequentis voice and data communication system ICCS 3020 together with an integrated DIVOS Voice and Data Recorder. Apart from the usual functions, the system will also be equipped with a Call-Taking and Dispatching Application (CAD) combined with a Geographical Information System (GIS). The implementation phase is scheduled for more than 2 years. www.frequentis.com

Avinet has launched its new corporate website at www.avinet.com.au.

The website's interface has been designed to be bold, contemporary, and feature new imagery to make the site more user-friendly and encourage user interaction. Additionally, its simple design allows customers to access the latest news, updates and crucial product information with ease.

Avinet's Managing Director, Paul Lewin, said of the launch; "the new website is part of Avinet's ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and functionality of information to customers and others in the market for a safety and operational management system across the globe".

The website's features include: webinars, demonstrations, product features, news and testimonials as well as a corporate video, photo galleries and blog.



Russian Helicopters has announced that **Ulan-Ude Aviation Plant** has introduced a Mi-171 simulator built by CSTS Dinamika.

The flight trainer is based on an actual Mi-171 cabin and features realistic on-board systems. It can be used to train on a complete range of flying and navigational skills in all weathers, and also to train crews on how to respond in the event of aircraft or equipment failure and other emergency situations.

The Ulan-Ude Aviation Plant Helicopter Training Complex (HTC) is located in a new building at the Plant's flight training school. For the convenience of flying crews and staff the complex also includes classrooms, relaxation areas and counselling facilities, as well as a canteen.

Members of the teaching staff have many thousands of hours of flying time and years of experience as flight instructors.

First feedback about training using the Mi-171 simulator has been extremely positive, with a group of Chinese helicopter operators praising its comfort and ease of use, as well as its high level of realism. The staff's professionalism was also highly rated.

The Mi-171 trainer was acquired due to high demand for and growing production volumes of the Mi-171, and as a result the need for more highly qualified personnel and engineering support staff.



Eurocopter expanded its global industrial footprint and enhanced the company's presence in Mexico with the inauguration of a new manufacturing centre of excellence at Querétaro, which is to produce high-technology aircraft structural metallic components.

Located at the Aerotech Industrial Park adjacent to Querétaro Intercontinental Airport, this 12,000-square-metre facility will be the single-source production site for structures used in jetliner doors that the company manufactures for Airbus, along with tail booms to equip Eurocopter AS350/355 helicopters. The site also is home to a recently-opened 1,000-square-metre maintenance centre specialised in the Ecureuil family of helicopters.

Construction of the facility began early 2012, followed by the hiring and training of personnel during the year. It will create approximately 200 specialised jobs, enabling the plant to generate 200,000 production hours annually during its initial phase of activity.

Eurocopter's market presence in Mexico began in 1964, when the first Alouette helicopters arrived to serve the Mexican Air Force and the country's Presidential Air Transport Unit. Based on the company's business growth and its policy of developing regional resources for marketing, maintenance, technical and support services, as well as training, the Eurocopter de México subsidiary was established in 1982.

Copyright Notice: The content of this publication includes items that are the copyright of others. The source of words and images will usually be indicated together with the source of additional information that seeks to enhance the original information.

Police Aviation News includes materials produced for it by Ian J Commin of Insight Design of North Burnham, Slough SL1 6DS. This includes the banner titles and the PAVCon logo. In addition from time to times images specifically altered by Insight Design and others but originally produced for McAlpine Helicopters [now Eurocopter UK], Oxford, will appear with permission of the original owner. In some cases it may not be possible to indicate the source of this material directly associated with the images used.

A new independent aviation consultancy with offices in San Diego and Toronto has just been launched! **The Aviation Home Office** offers a broad range of advisory services for aircraft owners and buyers along with corporate and government operators. The focus of these services is on ensuring reduced operational and management costs, full transparency, and complete supplier accountability. This will benefit aircraft owners in both the United States and Canada. The consultancy is entirely client-based and does not engage in sales or other industry activities.

The Aviation Home Office website (www.theaviationhomeoffice.com) was launched in January.

In December 2012, **RSG** received its first two Bell 429s for completion at their Fort Worth, Meacham Field location. The first 429 departed in January for a Latin American customer and the second will depart for Europe this month. Both aircraft arrived green from Bell's, Mirabel facility. Once at RSG, the cockpits were upgraded, the cabins completed in VIP configuration, and the exterior paint scheme was applied.

This marks the opening of a new series of Bell helicopters that can be upgraded, modified and completed at RSG Aviation. The RSG team is very excited to be completing this state of the art helicopter and looks forward to having many more satisfied Bell 429 customers come through our renowned completion facility.

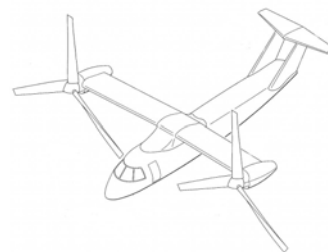
RSG provides completions for VIP, Law Enforcement, MEDEVAC, Off Shore Oil, Utility or any special configuration at competitive rates and on time performance.



The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has validated the Bell 429 for operation in Nigeria and endorsed the **Bell 429** gross weight increase to 3402 kg (7,500 lbs.). Nigeria is the fifteenth country to approve the increased maximum gross weight for the Bell 429 based on Transport Canada's certification. The additional 227 kg (500 lbs.) of fuel and/or payload allows operators to take advantage of the aircraft's full capabilities.

WIPO, the **World Intellectual Property Organization** has recently published details of an application from Bell for "An aft-loading aircraft with a twin T-tail assembly is provided. In one example embodiment, the aft-loading aircraft includes a fuselage portion having an aft opening with a cargo door, a first and second vertical stabilizer attached to the fuselage portion, and, a horizontal stabilizer transversely attached to the first and second vertical stabilizers."

The patent was filed under Application No. PCT/US2011/044937 in July 2011 and approved last month. The patent was also in the name of John Brunken a Bell Senior Staff Engineer.



A one-day conference dedicated to commercial helicopter operations will debut at and be supported by the **Barclays London Heliport, Battersea** on Wednesday, 12 June, 2013. Organised by MIU Events, the *Rotary Operations Conference (ROC)* will bring together helicopter manufacturers, operators, suppliers and industry chiefs. The event is also being supported by the UK's British Helicopter Association (BHA) which will participate in the speaker programme.

The event is deliberately timed just one week ahead of the Paris Air Show offering a preview of some of the latest developments and initiatives within this growing industry. It will look at some of the new generation of helicopters which promise greater efficiency and enhanced operating economies, the role of the helicopter as a business tool, their interlining

role to business jets, the experience of city heliports around the world and the safety and regulatory aspects of helicopters operating in metropolitan areas.

Manufacturers including Sikorsky, Bell and Eurocopter will participate in an OEM panel. *Aviation International News* Editor in Chief, Charles Alcock will also chair a panel of operators who will debate some of the more contentious issues affecting day to day operations.

ROC will be supported by an exhibition and there will be various networking opportunities throughout the day. The event will culminate in an evening reception on the veranda of the adjoining Hotel Verta where attendees can enjoy hospitality and network with industry colleagues in convivial surroundings overlooking the River Thames.



The **Thales' I-Master** radar system has successfully completed flight trials on-board a Schiebel Camcopter® S-100 UAS (Unmanned Air System). The flight trials took place early last month at the Schiebel test facility in Wiener Neustadt, Austria. The flights, each lasting several hours, successfully proved both sensor performance and the stability of data transfer between radar operator and the airborne I-Master.

I-Master is a high-performance radar, providing Ground Moving Target Indication (GMTI) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) capability for all-weather surveillance, detection and recognition of targets over large areas at long stand-off ranges and readers may have seen it on a Diamond DA-42 at the last Helitech Show in the UK.



As many in the law enforcement surveillance industry strive to downsize but upgrade the capability of their sensors there remains a, mainly military, need for even larger sensors and last month **L-3 WESCAM** announced the successful on-time delivery and in-flight demonstrations of its first MX™-25 electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) imaging system. The MX-25 was delivered to the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona, where it was evaluated by the Persistent Threat and Detection System (PTDS) Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) team as a plug-and-play upgrade path for the MX-20 systems currently deployed on PTDS aerostats.

The MX-25 was evaluated over a course of nine consecutive days. During this time, a side-by-side resolution test was conducted between the MX-20 and MX-25, whereby the MX-25 provided similarly detailed thermal imagery at fifty percent greater standoff distances.

The superior range capability and enhanced situational awareness that the system executed during testing is a result of a significantly larger IR lens aperture, a high-definition IR imager and improved stabilization. The MX-25 has the ability to house up to seven imaging and laser sensors and can be further equipped with a laser designator option.

www.wescam.com



A banner for the Aerial Fire Fighting (AFF) event. It features the AFF logo (an orange circle with 'AFF' in white) and the text 'Aerial Fire Fighting' in orange. Below this, it says 'Aix-en-Provence, France | 10th - 11th April 2013'. On the right, there is a logo for 'tangent LINK' with the tagline 'Connecting Business' below it. The background of the banner shows a stylized world map.

ACCIDENTS & INCIDENTS

23 January 2013 Bombardier Learjet 35A XA-UKF. Air ambulance. Operating a mission from Guadalajara, Mexico damaged landing in poor weather at Grand Prairie Airport, Alberta, Canada. No injuries.

29 January 2013 Eurocopter AS350 N. Air ambulance of Native Air made a precautionary landing about 3:09 p.m. after experiencing technical difficulties in the area of SARA Park. Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Indications are that it was in response to an oil light. The helicopter had launched from Havasu Regional Medical Center a few minutes prior to the landing and was en route to an medical facility in Phoenix. [Herald]

30 January 2013 Bell 206 JetRanger N153P. Pennsylvania State Police. Helicopter landed on a mobile landing pad at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, USA in strong winds preparing for refuelling. A strong gust tipped the helicopter onto its port side severely damaging the rotor system. The helicopter belongs to troopers in Altoona and was being used by local troopers while theirs was being serviced and inspected. [WTAE]
This airframe c/n 51296 has been in service for around 23 years but the damage does not look terminal.

7 February 2013 Eurocopter AS350B2 VH-EWM. Fire fighting helicopter operating for the Tasmania Fire Service near Molesworth in the south of Tasmania collided with terrain causing slight injury but substantial damage. A Tasmanian police rescue helicopter evacuated the pilot. [Media]

8 February 2013 Eurocopter EC135 N911HR[?]. Air ambulance operated by First Flight and based at Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Brevard County, Florida operated by Metro Aviation. Suffered a bird strike and made a precautionary landing at Viera Hospital [Media]

12 February 2013 Eurocopter EC135 D-**** ADAC unit Christoph 70 based at Schongleina east of Jena landed on the roof pad at Posnek for a patient transfer to Bad Berka. The pilot broke his leg whilst on the ground and the airframe was stranded. [Helihub]

15 February 2013 Eurocopter BK117 VH-*.** Undertook an emergency landing at Port Pirie, South Australia after mechanical issues. [Helihub]

15 February 2013 Eurocopter BK117 OE-*** Air ambulance of Air Rescue Austria based at the RK1 base in Stützpunktes in Mitterberg was parked on the pad when a gas bottle truck reversed into the area and struck a main rotor blade of the helicopter. Causing damage valued between 300,000 to 800,000 Euro. [media]

23 February 2013 Eurocopter AS350B2 N916EM. Air ambulance of Eagle Med. Two people died and a third was critically injured, after the helicopter crashed between two buildings near NW Expressway and Council on the northwest side of Oklahoma City. The helicopter was leaving Baptist Hospital and returning to its home base in Watonga when it crashed between St. Ann's Retirement Center and St. Ann's Nursing Home. The copter did not hit any buildings, and no one on the ground was hurt.
Pilot Mark Montgomery and nurse Chris Denning were killed. Medic Billy Wynne was injured and is hospitalised in critical condition. [Media]

PEOPLE

Group Captain Sara Mackmin has taken over as the **RAF Search and Rescue** Force Commander from **Group Captain Frazer Nicholson**

The RAF SAR Force is now being commanded by the most senior female aviator within the UK's Armed Forces. Group Captain Sara Mackmin's recent appointment as the RAF SAR Force Commander marks the first time that a woman has held such a command appointment at Group Captain rank. Group Captain Mackmin has set a steady trail of notable 'firsts' in her career so far. After her posting to the Puma on completion of flying training in 1994, she deployed on operations in the Balkans in 1995 and Northern Ireland in 1997; she went on to become the first female Qualified Helicopter Instructor in 1998 and was the first female to command operational flying units at both squadron leader and wing commander ranks in 2000 and 2008 respectively.

Group Captain Mackmin will shortly complete her Sea King refresher training, and, despite the many demands that accompany her new role, she is looking forward to flying with her operational crews when she visits the RAF's search and rescue detached units, located at strategic locations around the UK and overseas' - when not otherwise engaged in climbing mountains with the RAF's 4 mountain rescue teams or visiting the UK Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre! [MoD]

Helicopter Association International (HAI) President Matt Zuccaro announced a significant change in the organization's staffing, designed to keep up with members' changing needs. Last years HAI award winner **Paul Schaaf**, currently Chief Pilot for the Fairfax, Va., County Police Department, will join HAI in mid-March as Vice President of Operations; J. Heffernan, formerly vice president of aviation and product safety for Sikorsky Helicopters, returns to HAI as the director of safety; and current Director of Safety Stan Rose moves into the newly created position of director of safety outreach programmes.

Brad Pedersen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Breeze-Eastern Corporation has announced a series of changes designed to strengthen key areas of the organization.

Steve Chisarik has joined the company as Vice President of Development Programs; **Rodger Hahneman** has been promoted to General Manager of Production Operations and Customer Support; and **Benjamin (Ben) Weiser** is the company's Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

MOVE ALONG THERE PLEASE *an occasional column*

And here comes Heli-Expo at Las Vegas

It is good to know that the US is taking the reduction of their habit of shooting each other to bits seriously!

At a time when President Barrack Obama regularly tells the world at large that 'something' is to be done on gun control one Las Vegas shooting range is selling "take a shot at love" packages that include 50 submachine gun rounds. Another is offering wedding packages in which the bride and groom can pose with Uzis and ammunition belts. And a third invites lovebirds to renew their vows and shoot a paper cut-out zombie in the face.

So when you roll into town for the revival of Heli-Expo in the desert sin town do not forget to pack in a shooting range or two.

In a state with relaxed gun laws, shooting ranges offer an armoury of military-grade weapons that aren't accessible in other countries let alone other states. And because this is Las Vegas, they also allow customers to destroy photographs of exes, make souvenir T-shirts full of holes and shoot fully-automatic weapons whilst wearing tacky man-kinis.

When you arrive at McCarran International Airport, look out for ads for the Gun Store, said to be Las Vegas' most venerable shooting range. Another is the recently opened Machine Gun Las Vegas which adds a bit of sex to the mix by having former go-go dancers as host-

esses and tells its customers that there's nothing like the scent of Cordite in a woman's hair.
[The Sun]

Ed: And to add to the impending fun just last week here was a major shoot out between the occupants of a Range Rover and a Maserati where the driver of the sports car was killed and ploughed into a passing taxi— that erupted in flames killing two more. All good stuff for promoting the joys of 'Vegas.

Over in Greece they may still be short of money but a group has just staged what appears to be the 36th helicopter prison escape attempt. In late February a helicopter swooped down on a prison courtyard as armed men on board fired on guards and lowered a rope to help a convicted killer make his fourth attempt to escape from a Greek prison in a spot that is 200 miles [328km] from Athens.

Unfortunately for those making the attempt return fire resulted in the prisoner being shot and the blue Eurocopter AS355N helicopter undertaking a forced landing in the car park of the prison.

The escape attempt was one of a handful involving helicopters in Greece, and the first time such plans have failed.

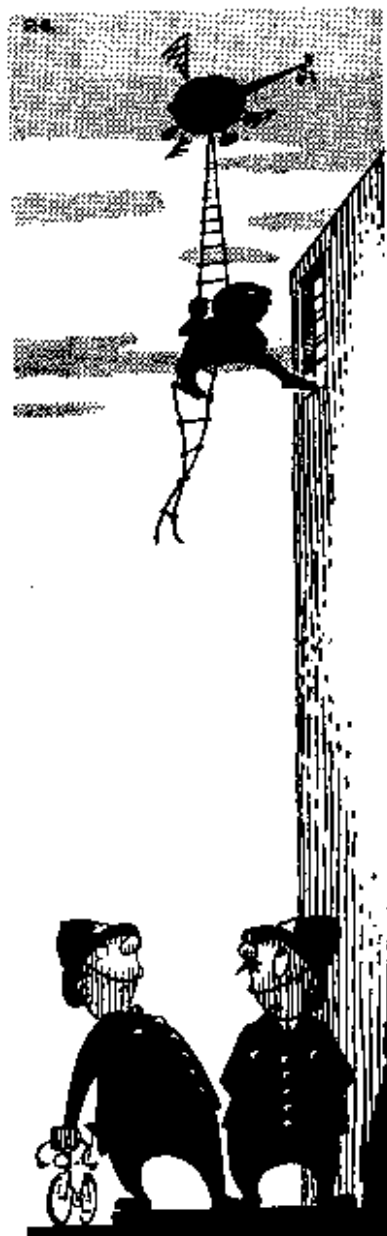
The chartered helicopter carrying four first tried to breach the chicken-wire fence surrounding Trikala prison with a hook dangling from a rope. That didn't work, so a rope was lowered down to whisk away a multiple escapee called Panagiotis Vlastos.

In an exchange of automatic gunfire one guard was slightly injured and the escapee – who had managed to get aboard the helicopter – was hit and fell back into the prison yard. One of those already on the helicopter was also hit.

Vlastos, 43, a convicted murderer and racketeer serving a life term had tried and failed three times before to escape from prison using other means. He was not badly injured despite gun wounds in his legs and a fall of a few metres. It is unclear whether all of the occupants of the helicopter were willing participants.

Vlastos was first arrested in 1994 in the murder of two members of a rival criminal gang. He continued to mastermind further crimes from behind bars and while awaiting trial for a later case tried to escape in December 2011 from Korydallos prison. He had also tried to escape, unsuccessfully, in 1994 and 1998. [Ekathimerini/Fox]

Ed: Thirty-six helicopter assisted prison escapes, and attempts, have been recorded since 1973. The majority, around 24, have been successful.





The last time the HAI Heli-Expo was in that City it was 2004 and Eurocopter was launching their AS350 development the EC130 B4. That type development launch was a sensation but it remains to be seen whether this year's launch from Eurocopter – predicted to be the latest 'e' development of the EC135 light twin – has the same effect.

Spectrum Aeromed announced that they will be exhibiting at HAI HELI-EXPO in Las Vegas March 4-7, 2013 at booth number C807. In addition to their booth, Lloyd Helicopters will also have a Helicopter featuring one of Spectrum Aeromed's medical interiors at Static Booth number C35

The Lloyd Helicopter Sikorsky S76 features Spectrum Aeromed's 2200 "short box" life support system. Also installed in the S76 are a 1461 Med Wall, SLA Locks and a 1203 stretcher.

NAASCO Northeast Corporation will be exhibiting at Heli-Expo for the 27th straight year and 2013 will mark the 18th anniversary of the Patented "Mercury Mod" starter generator improvement programme. Team NAASCO will be on hand showcasing the new "Mercury Mod-Phase Two" along with the latest FAA approvals and OEM sponsored programs. This next generation Mercury Mod achieves superior brush life and cooler operating temperatures than the original configuration. NAASCO invites all Heli-Expo attendees to stop by booth C3924 for a cold beer and some snacks and get the latest scoop on the "Mercury Mod-Phase Two".

A GPS Navigator will also be awarded to a lucky winner Thursday afternoon before close of show.

Able Aerospace Services will be showcasing their cost-effective dynamic component repair, overhaul, exchange, and PMA solutions for Bell models 206 and 407 as well as line maintenance item repairs for Eurocopter AS350/355 at Heli-Expo. In addition, Able has thousands of value driven solutions for all helicopter makes and models.

Visit Able at Booth #C1223 to learn more.

For more than 50 years, the Helicopter Association International (HAI) has recognized the outstanding achievements and exceptional merits of individuals and organizations through the Salute to Excellence Awards program. The **Airborne Law Enforcement Association** has been chosen to receive the 2013 MD Helicopters Law Enforcement Award. The award recognises an individual or organization that has contributed to the promotion and advancement of helicopters in support of law enforcement activities. HAI will formally recognise all winners of its 2013 Salute to Excellence Awards at a dinner on March 6, 2013 in Las Vegas.



Bell is waiting until Heli-Expo at the start of March to release detailed figures on its 2012 production, but **Heli-Hub.com** has already released its own take on the numbers. Output from its civil helicopter lines was up just over 50%, rising from 125 helicopters in 2011 to 188 in 2012. These high-level figures have been put together from press releases issues by parent company Textron.

No analysis is currently available model-by-model, but Helihub thinks that the majority of the increase comes from the new Bell 407GX model and the ramping up of the Bell 429 production rate. Other lines including the 206L4 and 412 are likely to have been quite flat in comparison.

Meanwhile the company has belatedly issued a press announcement about delivering two 429 helicopters in police and EMS roles. As a result of a Helihub story PAN carried the story last month.



PAvCon – POLICE AVIATION CONFERENCE 2013

The 2013 edition of this conference and exhibition organised by Police Aviation Research, publishers of PAN, is to be held on 21-22 May 2013 at Wiener Neustadt, Austria. Booking is going well and the latest situation can be viewed at www.PAvCon.org

	21-22 May 2013	<p>Police Aviation Conference 2013 Flugmuseum Aviatikum Wiener Neustadt Austria www.pavcon.org</p>
--	-----------------------	---

Aviation Maintenance Magazine has announced the details of the inaugural AVM Summit USA to take place in the United States for the global aviation maintenance community. The Royal Plaza Hotel located at Disney World in Orlando, Florida will be the site of the 1st AVM Summit on November 21-22, 2013, an event designed to help those running maintenance operations hone their focus on continual improvement.

Following the success of the AVM Summit Europe, Aviation Maintenance Magazine, organizers of the AVM Summits, have recognized the need for an MRO conference in the U. S. that will target developments in MRO products, systems, technologies and software and will look at how organizations can harness the power of aviation maintenance developments to help users grow revenues, reduce costs and improve regulatory compliance.

The event will address the current issues, topics and regulatory framework facing the aviation maintenance industry.

The AVM Summit USA is being organised in collaboration with PAMA (Professional Aviation Maintenance Association) who are relaunching their Annual Symposium.



 <p>SAR Search & Rescue</p> <p>Bournemouth, UK 4th-5th June 2013</p>	
--	--

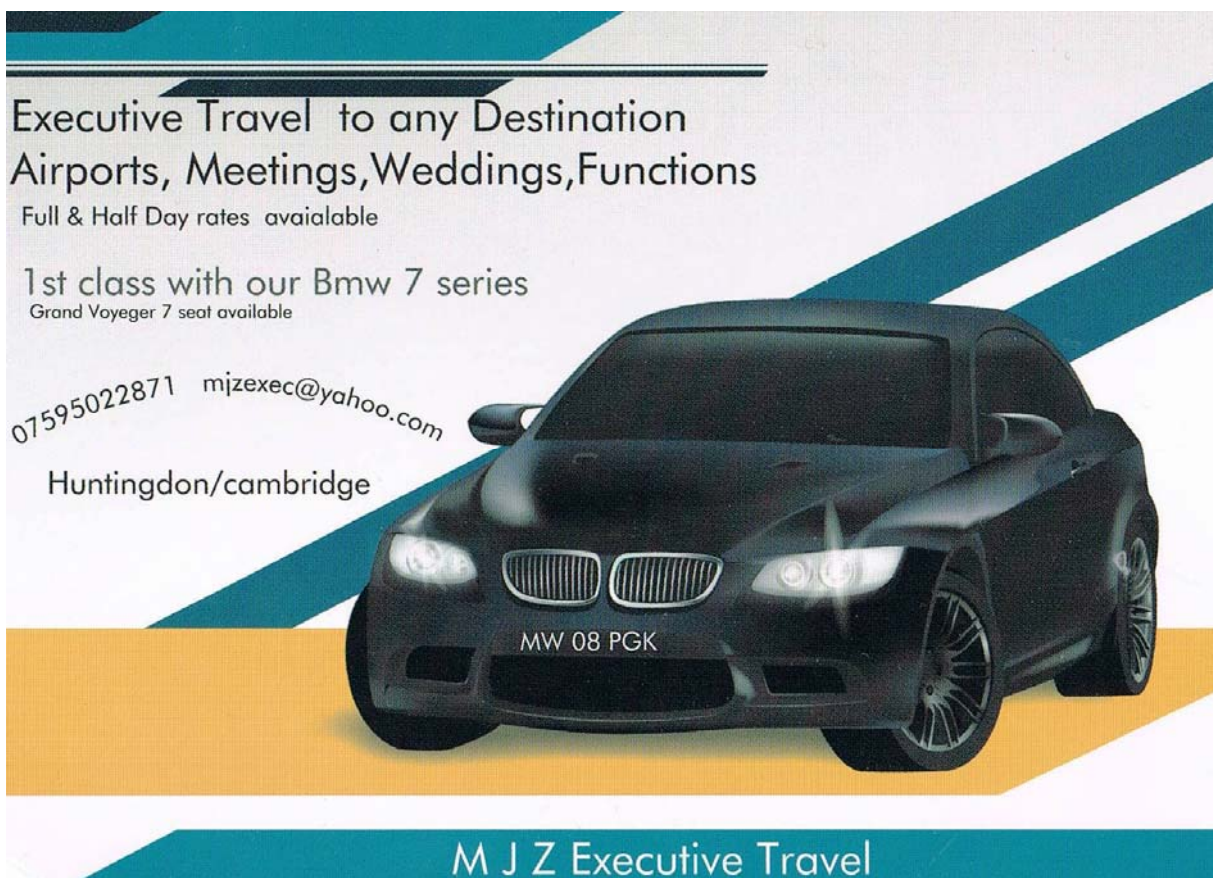
DIARY

12-14 March 2013 Home Office Security & Policing Security Exhibition, Farnborough, Hampshire, UK. www.securityandpolicing.co.uk +44 207 0917835

19-21 March 2013 Search & Rescue Europe, Action Stations, Portsmouth, UK A programme drawing upon the experience of 27 speakers from a diverse range of SAR resources. IQPC Ltd: 129 Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1JZ, United Kingdom www.sar-europe.com

26-30 March 2013 LIMA 2013 ASEAN Regional commercial aviation, naval and coastguard meeting event. Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) brings together the latest technology and products from the aerospace industries. LIMA is now established as one of the major airshows in the world. The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition is the premier destination for aerospace and maritime manufacturers targeting the Asia Pacific growth markets from the defence, enforcement, civil and commercial sectors. For nearly 25 years. LIMA has been serving exhibitor needs by assembling key decision makers and specifiers from across the region for this biennial 5 day event. Held at the purpose-built Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre, the exhibition combines the adjacent Langkawi International Airport and a neighbouring cruise jetty as part of its overall facilities. The half-day ASEAN Coastguard Forum will attract a community of Directors of Coastguards from the ASEAN region, along with selected out-of-region coastguards requested by the MMEA to encourage deeper ties in the regional community. Three separate forums in Malaysia. Contact the Organisers, Tangent Link +44 1628 660400 www.tangentlink.com

12-14 March 2013 Caribbean Basin Coastal Surveillance and Maritime Security Summit, Hyatt Regency Curacao Golf Resort, Spas & Marina, Porta Blancu, Nieuwpoort, Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean. Defence IQ's inaugural Caribbean Basin Coastal Surveillance and Maritime Security Summit includes a mix of military and civil air and surface input and billed as a crucial gathering of influential local Chiefs of Defence, international diplomats and experts. www.cabsecevent.com



Executive Travel to any Destination
Airports, Meetings, Weddings, Functions

Full & Half Day rates available

1st class with our Bmw 7 series
Grand Voyager 7 seat available

07595022871 mjzexec@yahoo.com

Huntingdon/cambridge

MW 08 PGK

M J Z Executive Travel