

Fly Direct, Reduce Fuel Consumption

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has determined that all four Gulfstream large-cabin aircraft models (the G550, G500, G450 and G350) are capable of flying routes that are up to 180 minutes from an emergency or diversion airport. The approval adds 60 minutes to the possible flight time which translates into an additional 380 nautical miles an aircraft can fly from the nearest airport. It confirms that the aircraft are capable of flying Extended Twin-engine Operational Performance Standard (ETOPS) routes.

"The EASA finding paves the way for Gulfstream charter operators registered in European Union countries to fly more direct intercontinental routes, thereby reducing travel time and fuel consumption," said Pres Henne, Senior Vice President, Programmes, Engineering and Test for Gulfstream. (Photo: G450)



Real nice

nice, the digital, Ethernet-based cabin management (CMS) and in-flight entertainment (IFE) system by Lufthansa Technik, has successfully made its move into the business jet market. Since August 2007, all Bombardier Challenger 300 aircraft have been delivered from the manufacturing plant in Montreal with nice (networked integrated cabin equipment) installed. The basic nice installation aboard the Challenger 300 supports a wide range of passenger entertainment and cabin environment management functions.

"The nice system helps strengthen the Challenger 300 jet's position as the benchmark aircraft in the super-mid-size class, featuring the latest IFE and CMS, including the world's first iPod docking station for a purpose-designed business jet," said Eric Martel, Vice President and General Manager, Challenger and Global Aircraft, Bombardier Business Aircraft.

The iPod is remotely controlled at the seat through the nice graphical user interface, neatly integrated into the arm ledge at elbow height. In 2008, Lufthansa Technik will add the ability to watch video from the iPod on wall or seat-mounted LCDs.

Two More Legacy Jets For LEA

London Executive Aviation (LEA), a UK-based private jet charter operator, has responded to increasing demand for super midsize executive jets by adding a further two Embraer Legacy 600s to its charter fleet. This brings its total Legacy fleet to four. LEA is providing full management services for the aircraft, which are now available for charter. The new Legacy jets have been purchased directly from Embraer by an existing and a new LEA aircraft owner. They are to be based at Luton and Farnborough airports and will also be able to fly from London City. Configured for up to 13 passengers, the Legacy aircraft have a maximum range of 5,150 km (3,200 miles), making them ideal for non-stop flights across Europe and into the Middle East.

The new Legacys arrive a month before LEA takes delivery of the first of ten Cessna Citation Mustangs, demonstrating strong growth at both the top and bottom end of the company's charter fleet. In 2009, LEA will become the first UK charter operator to offer the Gulfstream G450.

In Brief

Universal Opens in Delhi

Universal Weather and Aviation has expanded its presence and full range of ground-handling services in India through the opening of Universal Aviation in downtown Delhi.

According to Lex den Herder, Universal's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific: "The employees at this location have been professionally trained and adhere to Universal's quality and safety standards. The staff is English-speaking and well versed on the intricacies of both the local and regional needs of operators travelling within the region."

The staff in Delhi coordinates landing and overflight clearances, slots, ground-handling, transportation, catering, hotels, and local sightseeing tours among other services for both India and Nepal.