
Brèves de l'industrie aérospatiale – 23 mai 2022

Farnborough International Airshow (19 mai)

Organizers of Farnborough International Airshow (July 18 to 22) said bookings suggest that the 2022 event will be on a comparable scale to the one held in 2018, with more than 1,500 exhibiting companies and 80,000 industry visitors expected.

Industrie Aérospatiale

Bell Textron/ Ingersoll Machine Tools (20 mai)

Ingersoll Machine Tools and Bell Textron have revealed the details of a collaborative effort utilizing the MasterPrint 3D large-format 3D printer to successfully manufacture a 22-foot-long vacuum trim tool for the production of main rotor blade components.

Thales (20 mai)

Once certified, the Thales PureFlyt flight management system (FMS) will become an equipment option for Airbus A320, A330, and A350 operators. Thales expects to achieve entry into service for PureFlyt across all three of the targeted Airbus commercial aircraft models by the end of 2026. Airbus will also offer the new Honeywell flight-management system in 2026.

Pratt & Whitney Canada (19 mai)

Pratt & Whitney Canada has chosen Swiss company H55 to supply battery systems for its regional hybrid-electric flight demonstrator program. Development of the battery components and electrical control systems will receive support from the NRC and Quebec's Innovative Vehicle Institute (IVI). A spinoff from Solar Impulse, H55 develops modular, lightweight propulsion and energy storage systems for electric aircraft such as the eBeaver, now under development by Western Canadian seaplane operator Harbour Air.

ATR (18 mai)

ATR will analyze the feasibility of a next-generation turboprop that targets a 20 percent fuel and CO2 emissions reduction and lower operating and maintenance costs than the current generation ATRs. The new variant, dubbed ATR 'Evo' will span the entire ATR family. ATR expects to launch the program next year with an entry into service target of 2030.

Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) (18 mai)

China's AVIC Avicopter AC313A civil heavy-lift helicopter has made its first flight. Also, the AVIC AC352 super-medium twin-engine helicopter has completed its certification test flights. Certification is expected later this year from the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

Vita Inclinata (Vita) (18 mai)

Vita Inclinata (Vita), developer and producer of precision aerospace and industrial stabilization devices, has quadrupled its manufacturing capacity and added extra shifts to meet the global demand for its rescue and load stabilization technologies. Vita's aggressive expansion is in response to demand from all branches of the U.S. Military as well as global interest from Chile, Japan, Portugal, and Ukraine.

Boeing (16 mai)

Ryanair's CEO has criticized Boeing's leadership, saying the company needs a shakeup as production snags afflict its three main jetliner models. The Chairman of Air Lease Corp. said last week that issues with Boeing widebodies, including stalled production of the B787, have become a major annoyance and that management changes could happen. The CEO of Avolon Holdings Ltd. said that Boeing has lost its way and needs fresh vision and leaders.

Rafaut Group (16 mai)

Après avoir acquis plusieurs entreprises : Secapem & Lun'tech (5M€ de chiffre d'affaires), Lacle (10M€) et Alkan & Seca Automatismes (54M€), Rafaut Group change d'identité et devient Aresia. Le groupe, détenu par HLD Europe, se positionne sur le marché pour les systèmes d'emport, de délestage, les équipements électroniques embarqués, les systèmes d'entraînement et les équipements de missions pour l'aéronautique civile.

Embraer (14 mai)

Embraer is looking for around 1,000 new employees to fill positions at its facilities in Brazil. The new employees will support its recovering production rate, growth in services and support businesses, product development and new businesses.

Boeing (13 mai)

The FAA has told Boeing that the documentation it submitted for approval to resume B787 deliveries to airlines is incomplete. Deliveries have now been on hold for over one year.

Aviation Commerciale

International Consolidated Airlines Group (IAG) (19 mai)

IAG (British Airways, Iberia, Aer Lingus, and Vueling) will buy 25 737-8200 and 25 737-10 jets, plus 100 options. They will be delivered between 2023 and 2027 and will be available to any airline in the group for fleet replacement.

Turkish Airlines/ Airbus A350 (18 mai)

Turkish Airlines will purchase six additional Airbus A350-900s, to be delivered in 2022 and 2023. Turkish Airlines had already previously ordered 25 Airbus A350s.

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China Southern Airlines / Boeing 737 MAX (18 mai)

China Southern Airlines has significantly changed its plans for deliveries of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, removing 100 aircraft from its near-term delivery plan, arguing that the delivery timetable was uncertain. China Southern Airlines will now take a total of only 78 MAX aircraft (30 in 2022, 36 in 2023, and 12 in 2024).

Air Canada (17 mai)

Air Canada has operated its final cabin-loaded cargo-only flight using its fleet of temporarily converted passenger aircraft (a mix of Boeing 777s and A330s). The A330-300s will be reconverted into passenger configuration to meet the return of global passenger travel demand.

Ryanair (17 mai)

Ryanair (Ryanair UK, Malta Air, Lauda et Buzz) pour l'exercice 2021-2022 présente une perte annuelle nette de 335 M€, contre 1,01 Md€ sur l'exercice précédent et un chiffre d'affaires triplé en un an, passant de 1,64 Md€ à 4,8 Md€. Le nombre de passagers a également triplé, passant de 27,5 à 97,1 millions.

JetBlue Airways / Spirit Airlines (16 mai)

JetBlue Airways launched a hostile takeover bid for Spirit Airlines. JetBlue has said acquiring Spirit would give it access to a large fleet of Airbus aircraft, trained pilots and the ability to better compete against the "Big Four" U.S. airlines. Spirit rejected the offer, preferring the planned \$2.9 billion-cash-and-stock deal to merge with fellow low-cost airline Frontier Airlines.

Icelandair (16 mai)

Aviation Capital Group LLC has delivered one new Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft on long-term lease to Icelandair. This aircraft, powered by CFM International's LEAP-1B engines, is part of a multi-aircraft transaction between ACG and the airline.

Qantas /projet Sunrise (15 mai)

Qantas et Airbus relance le projet Sunrise. Douze Airbus A350-1000 vont relier par des vols directs de très longue durée, l'Australie et l'Europe à l'horizon 2025. Ces 12 Airbus A350-1000 font partie de la commande de 52 avions incluant 20 Airbus A321 XLR et 20 Airbus A220, avec 94 options d'achats supplémentaires courant jusqu'à la fin 2034.

China Eastern Airlines/C919 Comac (14 mai)

Le C919 de Comac avait débuté fin 2020 sa campagne formelle de certification, trois ans et demi après son premier vol. Le 14 mai 2022, le premier exemplaire du C919 destiné à un client commercial (China Eastern Airlines) a effectué son premier vol. China Eastern Airlines espère mettre en service son premier C919 d'ici la fin de l'année chez sa nouvelle filiale OTT Airlines.

United Airlines (13 mai)

United Airlines is expecting that its 52 Boeing 777s powered by PW4000 engines will gradually resume service from May 26th but this is still to be confirmed by the FAA.

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Aviation d'affaires

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) (19 mai)

GAMA has published the First Quarter 2022 shipments and billings. Turboprop deliveries increased by 31.0% (110 aircraft), piston aircraft by 13.9% (263 aircraft) and business jets by 4.4% (118 aircraft). Turbine helicopter deliveries increased 6.5% (98 units) and piston helicopters 8.3% (39 units).

Gulfstream Aerospace (18 mai)

Gulfstream Aerospace is expanding cabinetry and exterior paint production for its large-cabin twinjets at its St. Louis Downtown Airport facility. The company will hire 140 additional cabinetmakers and finishers, upholsterers, aircraft painters, manufacturing and operations engineers, and certification inspectors, as well as additional support positions.

Enstrom Helicopter/ Surack Enterprises (15 mai)

Surack Enterprises has acquired Enstrom Helicopter, which filed for Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy and closed operations in January. Enstrom was in near-continuous operation for 64 years, manufacturing more than 1,300 light turbine and piston-powered helicopters.

Défense

Lockheed Martin /Airbus (19 mai)

Lockheed Martin has confirmed that its LMXT strategic tanker aircraft's aerial boom refuelling system will be manufactured by Airbus in Arkansas. Based on the Airbus A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT), the LMXT is customised to the needs of the United States Air Force (USAF).

AERALIS (19 mai)

The Rapid Capabilities Office of Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) has provided additional three-year R&D funding to the AERALIS advanced jet trainer, a potential replacement for its aging BAE Systems Hawk aircraft.

Airbus Helicopter (18 mai)

Airbus will begin assembly of the first of two flying prototypes of the H160M Guépard (Cheetah) helicopters for the French Armed Forces in the third quarter of 2022, ahead of the first flight in the first half of 2024. The second prototype will be built and flown in 2024.

Thales (18 mai)

Thales achète deux sociétés espagnole et luxembourgeoise, S21sec et Excellium, afin de renforcer son activité dans les services de cybersécurité, dédiés aux États et aux opérateurs d'importance vitale (OIV) telles que les banques, les infrastructures de transport et d'énergie, et aux administrations.

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Bell / South Korea (17 mai)

The Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) and Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) have jointly placed an order (\$132.8 million) for up to 40 Bell 505 with deliveries from next year through 2025.

Inde / Russie Ka-31 (17 mai)

Le ministère de la Défense indien a arrêté les négociations avec la Russie en vue d'acheter des hélicoptères d'alerte avancée aéroportée (AEW) Ka-31 suite aux incertitudes concernant la construction des hélicoptères mais aussi les problèmes liés au paiement.

Japan / BAE Systems (15 mai)

The Japanese government is in discussions concerning the involvement of BAE Systems in joint development of a next generation fighter that it intends to deploy in 2035. Japan and the U.K. have already agreed to collaborate on engine parts and aim to finalize the specifics of expanded cooperation by the end of the year.

MRO**StandardAero / EB Airfoils (18 mai)**

StandardAero will acquire EB Airfoils, an engine blade and vane MRO provider. Operating from two facilities in FL and with 50 employees, EB Airfoils's portfolio of source approvals spans Pratt & Whitney, GE Aviation, CFM International, and International Aero Engines products.

Surf Air Mobility (SAM) (18 mai)

SAM plans to retrofit Cessna Grand Caravans with a hybrid-electric propulsion system being developed by MagniX in partnership with AeroTec. SAM will now support efforts to commercialize this modification under its own STC. SAM will acquire U.S. regional airline Southern Airways, which operates a fleet of Grand Caravans, to expand its network.

Aero-Dienst (18 mai)

Aero-Dienst has opened a maintenance station at Oberpfaffenhöfen Airport in southern Germany focused on Bombardier and Dassault Falcon jets. The airfield is also the headquarters of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and home to several other aerospace companies and research institutes, including Lilium and General Atomics.

Drones - Advanced Air Mobility**AiRMOUR (20 mai)**

The AiRMOUR project is a large-scale Urban Air Mobility (UAM) training program. The purpose is to give different stakeholders insights into the use of drones in Emergency Medical Services. The training is coordinated by LuxMobility in collaboration with EUROCONTROL.

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Joby Aviation (19 mai)

Joby Aviation has acquired Avionyx, an aerospace software engineering firm, to help support the type certification program for its five-seat eVTOL aircraft.

VoltAero (19 mai)

VoltAero will start selling fractional ownership shares in its five-seat Cassio 330 hybrid-electric aircraft to European customers next week. The Cassio 330 is the first of three aircraft that VoltAero is working to bring to market, with first deliveries now anticipated in 2024, subject to completion of EASA CS-23 type certification.

Lilium (18 mai)

Lilium has submitted 37 new patent applications with the European Patent Office (EPO). They apply to engineering inventions for the core technology around the Lilium Jet, spanning several domains (energy, propulsion, structures and interior, avionics, and custom electrics).

Overair (17 mai)

eVTOL developer Overair has partnered with Urban Movement Labs (UML) to help expedite urban air mobility (UAM) in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The partnership is one of several UML collaborations with the city of Los Angeles to eventually implement eVTOL technology.

Spatial

Boeing (20 mai)

Boeing's Starliner spaceship is orbiting Earth on its way to the International Space Station after launch from Cape Canaveral, Florida, by a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.

UK / USA (13 mai)

The UK and US have signed a declaration to work together on future commercial spaceflight missions and to help cut red tape and boost opportunities in the UK. The UK aims to be a European hub of space activity, and is laying the foundation for rockets, high-altitude balloons and spaceplanes to lift off from spaceports across the UK very soon.

Innovation

L3Harris (17 mai)

L3Harris began investing in augmented reality for manufacturing processes in the fall of 2020. Its Amityville and Rochester, New York, locations were the first to incorporate the LightGuide augmented reality software platform into their processes. LightGuide provides process instructions and visual cues and alerts via images and video projected onto the workstation and will notify the operator if they skip a step or reach for the wrong component.

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