

SECTORUPDATE

RVLNEWS

MARCH | ISSUE 13



EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT CONSORTIUM GAINS UK FREEPORT STATUS

A consortium including East Midland Airport – home base to RVL Group – and led by the two local enterprise partnerships was one of the eight companies selected by the UK Government for Freeport status.

The proposition is based around the East Midlands Airport Gateway Industrial Cluster as well as two other industrial sites in the region. The consortium said it will now work with the government to develop the proposals into an outline business case providing further information on how the Freeport will be delivered.

Clare James, East Midlands Airport managing director, said: “I’m delighted that the Government has recognised enormous potential in the East Midlands and how it will be enhanced by a Freeport in the region. Today’s news will shine a spotlight on a part of the country which has so much to offer investors, existing businesses that wish to grow, and the supply chains that are linked to them.

“The global connectivity that East Midlands Airport brings to the bid is more important than ever as the UK looks to strike trade deals around the world. Furthermore, as the region’s international gateway for people and products, it will continue to play a significant role in the Government’s ambition for a ‘global Britain’.”

Companies using Freeports will be able to import goods without paying tariffs, process them into a final product and then either pay a tariff on goods sold into the domestic market, or export the final goods without paying UK tariffs.

(Link: Air Cargo News)

NETJETS BACKS AS2 SUPERSONIC BUSINESS JET



Ohio-based shared ownership specialist Netjets has given the AS2 Supersonic Business Jet a boost by securing the purchase rights for 20 aircraft.

The deal means that Aerion has orders worth more than USD\$10 billion ahead of production, planned to begin in 2023 with entry into service expected in 2025.

The Aerion AS2 will be capable of flying in excess of 1000mph, 50 per cent faster than current business jets. *(Link: UK Aviation News)*

FEDEX COMMITS TO CARBON-NEUTRAL OPERATIONS BY 2040

FedEx Corporation, which operates the world’s largest cargo airline, has announced an ambitious goal to achieve carbon-neutral operations globally by 2040.

To help reach this goal, FedEx is designating more than \$2 billion of initial investment in three key areas – vehicle electrification, sustainable energy and carbon sequestration.

This includes a pledge of \$100 million to Yale University to help establish the Yale Center for Natural Carbon Capture, accelerating research into methods of carbon sequestration at scale.

“We have a responsibility to take bold action in addressing climate challenges,” said Frederick W. Smith, Chairman and CEO, FedEx Corp. *(Link: World Airline News)*

AIRBORNE LIDAR SURVEY TO HELP FIND LOST VILLAGE



The National Trust has commissioned aerial mapping company and RVL Group client Bluesky to produce a highly detailed 3D map of its Wallington Estate in Northumberland. The Lidar survey will bring to life the hidden archaeology of the site, revealing more of the area's medieval past including, it is hoped, a lost village. The data will also be used to help manage important environmental restoration projects.

At 13,500 acres, Wallington is the largest estate in the care of the National Trust and until now no large-scale archaeological investigations have been carried out. "There is currently no base-line archaeological survey of Wallington as the estate was simply too big to undertake one," commented Paul Hewitt, countryside manager for the National Trust at Wallington. "As a result of recent funding we are now in a position to work with Bluesky to complete a detailed survey which will be the biggest Lidar survey the National Trust has ever commissioned."

Wallington is located 20km to the west of Morpeth. Donated to the National Trust by Sir Charles Philips Trevelyan in 1942, complete with estate and 15 farms, it was the first donation of its kind. ([Link: GIM International](#))

AIR CARGO DEMAND RETURNS TO PRE-COVID LEVELS

Global traffic figures for January showed that air cargo demand surpassed levels registered in January 2019, marking a complete recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 crisis, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has reported. January figures also showed strong month-to-month growth over December 2020 levels, increasing more than 3 per cent on robust manufacturing output, said IATA.

Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs), finished 1.1 per cent ahead of January 2019, led by particularly strong gains in North America

and Africa. Meanwhile, the recovery in global capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometres (ACTKs), reversed due to further capacity cuts among passenger flights. Capacity shrank 19.5 per cent compared with January 2019 and 5 per cent compared with December 2020, the first monthly decline since last April.

"Air cargo traffic is back to pre-crisis levels and that is some much-needed good news for the global economy," said IATA director general Alexandre de Juniac.

([Link: AIN](#))

NORWEGIAN START-UP AIRLINE FLYR PREPARES FOR COMPETITION: RAISES \$70 MILLION

Norwegian start-up airline Flyr, which is set to launch operations this summer, raised \$70 million in its initial public offering (IPO) in Oslo.

The new air carrier is betting on recovery demand following the pandemic and its share price has grown by 20 per cent on Oslo Euronext Growth stock market. It plans to have a fleet of 28-30 aircraft in the next four years. ([Link: AeroTime Hub](#))

UK FIRM SEEKS TO TURN WASTE PLASTIC INTO JET-A

London-based renewable fuel start-up Clean Planet Energy (CPE) has launched a new sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) produced from non-recyclable plastics. According to the company, its new kerosene/jet-A can be used as a direct drop-in fuel "fully miscible with conventional jet fuels and is fully compatible with existing aircraft and fuel infrastructure," including equipment, pipelines, and tanks. Over its lifecycle, the fuel promises to reduce CO₂ emissions by 75 per cent compared to conventional fuel.

CPE has two production plants already under construction in the UK, the first of which is expected to begin production this year, and four others under development, each of which would be able to process up to 60 tonnes of plastic a day. Through a proprietary process, the plastic hydrocarbons are broken down into small chains, which are then upgraded into new products such as SAF and petrochemical feedstocks from which new recyclable plastics can be manufactured.

([Link: AIN](#))

SHIPPERS URGED TO GET CREATIVE TO COMBAT SPACE SHORTAGES



Shippers have been urged to get creative as capacity shortages and high rates in air cargo and other modes are expected to continue.

In the latest Baltic Exchange airfreight rate newsletter, Bruce Chan, vice president of global logistics at investment bank Stifel, said that over the next few months capacity could become tighter as demand continues to recover.

He said that shippers would need to find new and creative ways to offset the costs. This could include a surgical analysis of modal planning and selection, greater use of buffer stock, tactical procurement and sourcing, reliance on new, bigger, or more nimble logistics providers to supply capacity, and better use of technology for supply chain planning and execution. [\(Link: Air Cargo News\)](#)

TEXTRON LEADS AVIATION AIRCRAFT DELIVERIES IN 2020

Textron Aviation delivered nearly 560 aircraft to customers worldwide in 2020, leading the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) annual shipments and billings report just published. In total the company delivered more than a quarter of all general aviation aircraft last year.

The report also reveals Textron Aviation as the world's third largest jet manufacturer after Boeing and Airbus, surpassing Boeing's turbine fixed-wing deliveries 251 to 210.

Textron Aviation delivered 132 Cessna Citation business jets and 113 Cessna and Beechcraft turboprops, led by its Caravan and King Air series aircraft. Deliveries



of piston aircraft totalled 314, with the Cessna Skyhawk continuing its reign as the world's best-selling single-engine piston aircraft. [\(Link: BlueSky\)](#)

VIRGIN ATLANTIC HONOURS TWO ICONIC WOMEN



Virgin Atlantic celebrated two iconic women on International Women's Day by naming two of its aircraft in their honour. 'Lady Emmeline' will pay homage to the founder of the suffragette movement and women's rights activist Emmeline Pankhurst.

All charitable donations received on-board Lady Emmeline will be distributed to women's groups when the plane enters service next year. G-VLIB, an Airbus A350, is due to commence service in April 2022.

A second A350 will be named 'Fearless Lady' and registered as G-VEVE in celebration of Eve Branson, mother of airline founder Richard Branson, who died in January. [\(Link: Breaking Travel News\)](#)

HONEYWELL DEVELOPS NEW TURBOGENERATOR TO POWER HYBRID-ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT

Honeywell is developing a power source for hybrid-electric aircraft, planned for demonstration later this year.

At 280 pounds, the Honeywell 1-Megawatt generator weighs about the same as a motor scooter but delivers enough energy to power an entire neighbourhood block. This generator will be combined with the Honeywell HGT1700 auxiliary power unit, currently flown on every Airbus A350 XWB, to form a turbogenerator 2.5 times more powerful than the version the company unveiled in 2019.

[\(Link: AviTrader\)](#)

EASYJET AIMS TO INSPIRE FEMALE PILOTS



easyJet has launched a virtual pilot school visits programme as part of its Amy Johnson Initiative to encourage more women to become airline pilots.

Teachers, schools and parents can request a virtual visit from an easyJet pilot, who will join classrooms and assemblies via video link, providing young people

across the UK with the opportunity to find out what the job of a pilot is really like.

The airline has launched its virtual school visits on International Women's Day, with this year's theme #ChoosetoChallenge highlighting the importance of calling out gender bias. [\(Link: Breaking Travel News\)](#)

FIRST EVER 3D MAP OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S COASTLINE

Bluesky International will use aircraft mounted LiDAR sensors laser scanners to create a highly detailed 3D map of the whole of the Northern Ireland coastline.

Working on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), the LiDAR survey will be used to create the first ever complete baseline, which, it is hoped, will underpin recording of coastal change and help identify the rate at which the coastline is changing as a result of climate change.

BRITISH AIRWAYS OWNER IAG SUFFERS BIGGEST LOSS IN ITS HISTORY

International Airlines Group, the owner of British Airways, plunged to the biggest loss in its history as a result of continued negative impacts to passenger demand due to the COVID-19 crisis.

IAG reported a net loss of €6.9 billion after tax in 2020 compared to a net profit of €1.7 billion after tax in 2019. The airline's financial results also disclosed the operating loss of €7.4 billion in

2020 compared with a profit of €2.6 billion in 2019.

"Our results reflect the serious impact that COVID-19 has had on our business. We have taken effective action to preserve cash, boost liquidity and reduce our cost base. Despite this crisis, our liquidity remains strong," said Chief Executive Luis Gallego. [\(Link: AeroTime Hub\)](#)

END OF THE LINE FOR THE LEARJET



Bombardier has announced that it will be ceasing production of its iconic Learjet at the end of the year, citing increasingly challenging market dynamics.

The decision comes just months after the company announced the first delivery of the plane's latest model, the Learjet 75 Liberty. Bombardier will now focus on its larger, faster and more lucrative Challenger and Global business jets.

The Learjet, which is made in Wichita, Kansas, was among the first private luxury planes. Designed by engineer Bill Lear, the aircraft entered service in 1963 and went on to become synonymous with private jet travel. Frank Sinatra reportedly bought his in 1965, using it for trips to and from Las Vegas and making it a symbol of ultimate luxury for the rich and powerful. [\(Link: BlueSky\)](#)

FEDEX EXPRESS TAKES DELIVERY OF FIRST ATR 72-600F

FedEx Express has taken delivery of the first ATR 72-600F. The aircraft will be operated by ASL Airlines Ireland, a FedEx ATR operator since 2000, as part of the FedEx Express Feeder fleet.

The ATR 72-600F regional freighter has a range of 900 nautical miles. Its 75m³ cargo hold can embark up to nine tons of freight. Having completed its maiden flights in September 2020, the freighter received EASA certification in December. [\(Link: AeroTime Hub\)](#)