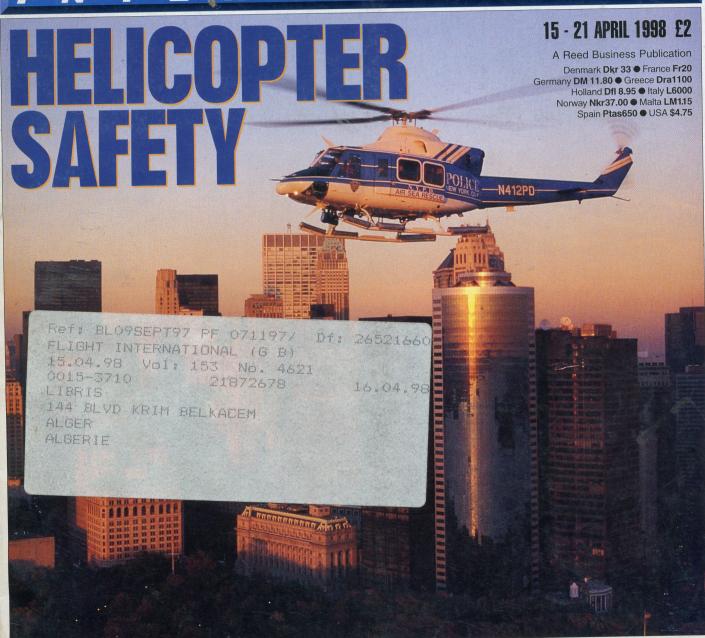
RAF OFFERS TORNADO SACRIFICE • FRANCE/USA SIGN AIR PACT

INTERNATIONAL



GPS IN TUNE AT LAST? FRENCH LAUNCH IS SPOT ON TOP CLASS FLIGHTCREW WHERE ARE THEY? THE WORLD'S TOP MARKETPLACE FOR AEROSPACE JOBS



### **HEAD OFFICE**

Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS, UK Telephone +44 (181) 652 3842; Fax +44 (181) 652 3840

e-mail flight.international@rbi.co.uk	
Editorial Enquiries	+44 (181) 652 3842
FE O ID I	44 (101) CE2 400

Eultorial Eliquiries	+44 (101) 002 3042
Editor Carol Reed	+44 (181) 652 4989
Editor's PA Lisa Jenkins	+44 (181) 652 3882
News Editor Andrew Chuter	+44 (181) 652 3843
Operations/Safety Editor	
David Learmount	+44 (181) 652 3845
Business Editor Kevin O'Toole	+44 (181) 652 3835
Commercial Aviation Editor	
Max Kingsley-Jones	+44 (181) 652 3825
<b>Defence Aviation Editor</b> Douglas Barrie	+44 (181) 652 3834
Technical Reporter lan Sheppard .	+44 (181) 652 3990
Corporate & General Aviation Reporte	er
Kate Sarsfield	+44 (181) 652 3885

Spaceflight Correspondent Tim Furniss	+44 (1237) 471960
Editorial Assistant	+44 (181) 652 3842
Art & Production Editor Alexis Rendell	+44 (181) 652 3828
Design Editor Stephanie Fenner	+44 (181) 652 4994
Chief Sub-Editor Chris Thornton	+44 (181) 652 3850
Layout Sub-Editor Annabel Wells	+44 (181) 652 3848
Senior Technical Artist Tim Hall	+44 (181) 652 8047
Technical Artist Giuseppe Picarella	+44 (181) 652 8054
Editorial Artist Gareth Burgess	+44 (181) 652 8043
Photographer Mark Wagner	+44 (181) 944 5225
Picture Librarian Kim Hearn	+44 (181) 652 3427
Newsletters Editor Emma Kelly	+44 (181) 652 3096
Air Transport Intelligence	+44 (181) 652 8724

Newsletters Editor Emma Kelly	+44 (
Air Transport Intelligence	+44 (
EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST	
Furanean Editor (Paris) Julian Moyon	1331

APPENDING TO SERVICE STREET, S	Fax +33 (1) 47 55 95 61
Munich Correspondent Andrzej	Jeziorski +49 (89) 910 76 780
	Fax +49 (89) 910 76 217
	000 (0) 000 1100

	Fax +49 (89) 910 /6 21/
Israel Correspondent Arie Egozi	+972 (3) 967 1155
Moscow Correspondent	+7 (095) 393 4717
Alexander Velovich	Fax +7 (095) 393 4717

AMERICAS	
Washington Office	
American Editor Graham War	ν

Vashington Office	Fax +1 (703) 836 8344
American Editor Graham Warwick	+1 (703) 836 3448
Vashington Correspondent Ramon Lope:	z +1 (703) 836 7443

1) 47 55 95 60 33 (1) 47 55 95 61

Fax +61 (7) 4053 3003

Fav ±44 (1707) 660330

West Coast Correspondent Guy Norris	+1 (714) 252 897 Fax +1 (714) 252 897
-------------------------------------	--

A	1	A	C	ш	L
A -:	EJ		. 10		

Asian Editor (Singapore) Paul Lewis	+65 434 3309
	Fax +65 338 617
Australian Correspondent Paul Phelan	+61 (7) 4053 2792

### READER SERVICES

Subscriptions Karen Parker, Flight International Subscriptions,

Reed Business Information, PO Box 302	, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex. RH16 3DH. UK.	
Telephone/credit card orders	+44 (1444) 445454
	Fax +44 (1444) 440619
US subscriptions PO Box 7542,	+1-800 (637) 6073
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126-7542	Fax +1-800 (327) 9021
from Canada	+303 (470) 4426
	Fax +303 (470) 4691
Far East subscriptions Crawford Road,	+65 843 2233
P O Box 698, Singapore 911907	Fax +65 747 6550
Newstrade enquiries	+44 (171) 261 7704
US Newstrade Enquiries	+1 (718) 392 7477
Flight International Directories	+44 (1707) 665151

Back issues ESCO Business Services	+44 (1371) 810433
Recent copies only	Fax +44 (1371) 811065
Faxback service (touch-tone telephones only)	+44 (181) 652 4019
For a full listing of RRI magazines http	://www.reedhusiness.com

For a full listing of RBI magazines	htt	p://www.ree	dbusiness.com
<b>Qualified Subscription Rates:</b>	1 year	2 year	3 year
Europe	£70	£124	£158
North America	\$184	\$315	\$402
All Other Countries	£79	£139	£180
Only paid subscriptions available. Che	ques made	payable to Flial	ht International.

### Distributed by Marketforce

Flight International is a weekly news magazine for professionals working in all sectors of the aerospace industry worldwide, serving all branches of airframe systems, support equipment and component manufacture and all sectors of opera-tion, including air transport, general aviation, defence, spaceflight and regulatory and other authorities.





# Comment .....

NYCLU DU PRI

3

5

6

# Headlines Alenia chief blasts Airbus delays....

Do I acts on low fare competition
RAF prepares trade to save Jaguar
France and USA sign bilateral agreement
Airbus/Boeing eye China orders
Alliance talk sweep US airline sector

<b>Air Transport</b> Qantas counters -400IGW delay	8
Boeing fails to meet delivery target	
Reverser fault found in PAL probe	9
Much delayed UK ATC centre progresses	
Manx studies growth choices	10
Air Niugini stands on brink of collapse	
SIA takes its time on 777-200X	11
Parcel carriers face noise protests in Europ	e
FAA fears Year 2000 bug	12
Embraer converts RJ-145 to -135 prototyp	ne e



Air New Zealand brightens fleet with 737-300

### **Defence**

S African helicopter battle hots up 1	13
UK looks at Harrier upgrade demonstrator	
Rising costs handicap JSF 1	4
US Navy tests T-45 engine surge solution	
Russia tries fifth generation again 1	6
Varyag deal again raises China carrier worries	S
Bell sounds out Latin America 1	7

<b>Business</b>	
Dassault rings pre-merger changes	20
Asiana and Korean Air results plunge	
JAS loss prompts cost cutting	22
but strong dollar helps ST Aero to profit	

C-27J seen as potential AEW vehicle

### General Aviation

Light aircraft may miss new rules.	23
Sales of Eagle sports trainer climb	
Business association in ICAO plea	23
Partenavia P.68 gets new lease of life in Ita	ly

### Spaceflight

More Iridiums go into orbit	25
Nissan makes plans for small launcher	

## **Industry**

Fastener catch snares US industry	26
Europeans tap into Chinese expertise	

News Analysis	
inding its way?	27
eality beckons for global positioning syst	em

### **Features**



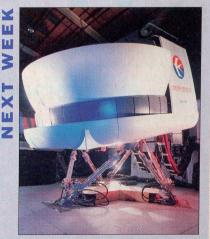
**Flight** International documents and analyses the issues for helicopter safety in 1997. Reliability is spotlighted 28

People 4	2
France sends Spot 4 satellite into orbit	
Spot on4	1
Hughes' new site is speeding up production	
Spaced out	0
Finding – and keeping – crew is now tougher	
Flightcrew: where are they? 3	8

People	42
Letters	43

Straight and Level	44
Classified	4

The top international marketplace for aircraft, equipment, tuition and jobs.



Flight International next week surveys the world of civil simulators with a look at some of the latest products and a listing of who operates what and where