

PBN UP FOR SALE ● QANTAS WINS EUROPEAN CHARTER WORK

FLIGHT

INTERNATIONAL

1-7 JULY 1998 £2

A Reed Business Publication

Denmark Dkr 33 ● France Fr20
Germany DM 11.80 ● Greece Dra1100
Holland Dfl 8.95 ● Italy L6000
Norway Nkr37.00 ● Malta LM115
Spain Ptas650 ● USA \$4.75

Ref: BLOUSEPT77 PE 0711977 DF: 26521660
FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL (O B)
01.07.98 Vol: 153 No. 4632
0015-3710 21872678 06.07.98
LIBRIS
174 BLVD KRIM BELKACEM
ALGER
ALGERIE

the top 50 airlines
world rankings

**328JET
FLIGHT
TEST**

**CHECKING IN AT
CHEK LAP KOK**

**THE WORLD'S TOP
MARKETPLACE
FOR AEROSPACE JOBS**



9 770015 371129

277



NUMBER 4632 VOLUME 154

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

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
Defence Aviation Editor Douglas Barrie	+44 (181) 652 3834
Technical Reporter Ian Sheppard	+44 (181) 652 3990
Corporate & General Aviation Reporter	
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

EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST

European Editor (Paris) Julian Moxon	+33 (1) 47 55 95 60
	Fax +33 (1) 47 55 95 61
Munich Correspondent Andrzej Jeziorski	+49 (89) 910 76 780
	Fax +49 (89) 910 76 217
Israel Correspondent Arie Egozi	+972 (3) 967 1155
Moscow Correspondent	+7 (095) 393 4717
Alexander Velovich	Fax +7 (095) 393 4717

AMERICAS

Washington Office	Fax +1 (703) 836 8344
American Editor Graham Warwick	+1 (703) 836 3448
Washington Correspondent Ramon Lopez	+1 (703) 836 7443
West Coast Correspondent	+1 (949) 252 8971
Guy Norris	Fax +1 (949) 252 8972

ASIA PACIFIC

Asian Editor (Singapore) Paul Lewis	+65 434 3309
	Fax +65 338 6171
Australian Correspondent Paul Phelan	+61 (7) 4053 2791
	Fax +61 (7) 4053 3003

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
	e-mail rbi.subscriptions@rbi.co.uk
US subscriptions PO Box 7542, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126-7542	+1-800 (637) 6073
from Canada	Fax +1-800 (327) 9021
	+303 (470) 4426
	Fax +303 (470) 4691
Far East subscriptions	+65 338 3398
Reed Asian Publishing (Pte) Ltd	Fax +65 338 3213
No.1 Temasek Avenue, #17-01	
Millenia Tower, Singapore 039192	
Newstrade enquiries	+44 (171) 261 7704
US Newstrade Enquiries	+1 (718) 392 7477
Flight International Directories	+44 (1707) 665151
	Fax +44 (1707) 660330
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 RBI magazines <http://www.reedbusiness.com>

Qualified Subscription Rates:	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. Cheques made payable to Flight 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 operation, including air transport, general aviation, defence, spaceflight and regulatory and other authorities.



ISSN 0015-3710

■ Comment 3

■ Headlines

Super Puma gets bigger bite 4

F-16 will get \$1 billion update

American Eagle opts for ERJ-135 5

US sanctions begin to hit Indian industry

Partners gear up for X-31 successor 6

Russia/Ukraine offer Tupolev re-engineing

■ Air Transport

American to decide on DC-10s 10

UK Government orders ATC safety probe

American/BA seek compromise 11

HeavyLift will acquire third A300B4-200



HeavyLift to expand A300 fleet over two years

Tax exemption delays irk ARIA 12

Israel focuses on Jordanian maintenance deal

Qantas to start European charters 14

Air Canada will dispose of Air Alliance regional

757-300 first flight is put back 16

Fiji unveils structure details for new launch

■ Defence

'Python 5' definition is completed 20

US Cobras must have immediate inspections

Partners rethink NH90 purchases 21

JSF requirements are 'not a problem'

B-2 'needs more time and money' 22

Kelowna/Embraer study Tucano upgrade

■ Business

Emirates rejects Star offer 25

Thomson-CSF chief promises independence

■ General Aviation

Pilatus to sell Britten Norman 26

Mooney Eagle's wings may be clipped

New Middle East fractional planned 27

Bombardier fights for CL-415 funding

Sikorsky positive on offshore market 28

■ Spaceflight

CD Radio ditches Arianespace 29

■ Industry

BAe Regional tries out TAPO 30

FAA approves innovative aircraft scales

■ Features

COVER STORY

Flight International studies the top 50 airlines worldwide and asks whether the industry has passed the peak of the cycle. 33

Checking in to success 46

Chek Lap Kok must keep costs down

Enduring future 49

Kuala Lumpur's new airport opens its doors

Definitive goals 50

Joint Strike Fighter designs firm up

Tailoring the options 53

Myasishchev counts on M101 for its future

Reliable methods 56

HUDs benefit unreliable European climate

Jetsetting 58

Fairchild Dornier 328JET flight test

Partnership priorities 63

Arianespace chief promotes common aims

■ People 64

■ Letters 65

■ Straight and Level 66

■ Classified 67

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



Whether to launch development of a new mid-size business jet is just one of the product decisions facing Bombardier. Flight International takes a closer look.