REGIONAL AIRLINER DIRECTORY

cargo-pack version of the F406 was certificated in 1989/90. The aircraft is also suitable for military and paramilitary use (as the Vigilant) and is in service with the French army and customs service. The Caravan II received French certifica-tion in December 1984, US Federal Aviation Authority certification following in mid-1986, and Chinese approval in 1991.

SAAB (Sweden)
Saab 340 The 300th Saab 340 was delivered to US carrier Express Airlines I on 20 May. The aircraft flies with 32 customers, including four corporate operators. Total firm sales for the type now stand at 367 aircraft. The backlog at the end of 1991 comprised 92 Saab 340s. Orders for 38 were received in 1991 and 60 were delivered. The first of the new-generation pressurised 30- to 40-seaters to go into service, the 340 is intended specilically for the short-haul commuter market and is designed with the emphasis on simplicity of systems, operation and maintenance. Saab and Fairchild Industries announced in January 1980 plans to develop, build and market the 340, Saab undertaking to build a new factory at Linkoping for final assembly. The prototype first flew in January 1983 and the type entered revenue service with Crossair of Switzerland in June 1984. In November 1985, the Saab/Fairchild part-nership was dissolved, the latter withdrawing with financial problems. Saab bought out Fairchild's share, although the latter remained a subcontractor until the end of 1987. Since aircraft

The Saab 340 is one of the world's most popular mid-size regional aircraft

No 109, Saab has been the sole builder. Since
May 1988, all 340s have been delivered with a
new interior, incorporating larger overhead bins
and an improved toilet area.

Saab 340B In November 1989, the "hot-and-
high" version of the 340, designated 340B, became the production model. The model first flew in April 1989, was certificated in July and the first customer delivery was made in Septem-ber. The new model differs from the earlier 340A in having l,393kW (l,870hp) General Electric C.T7-9B engines, an extended-span tailplane and

improved landing gear. AMR Eagle placed the largest order for 340Bs, taking 50 and placing options on a further 50 aircraft, before "firming" 20 of the options and taking a further 20.

2000 Designed to carry 50 passengers over short to medium ranges at high speed, the Saab 2000 will cruise at 365kt (675km/h), achieving block times comparable to those of jet airliners over short-haul routes. Saab launched development of the 2000 model in December 1988, and it first flew on 26 March, 1992. Saab plans to certificate the design by mid-1993. Keeping commonality

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