

## Lear Locker

**RAISBECK** Engineering has delivered the first of its Lear Lockers for the Learjet 35/36 series to dealer Jet America. The Seattle-based modifier says that the 2.4m unit can carry 135kg of baggage, including items such as skis and hunting or golfing equipment which are difficult to fit in the Learjet. The kit has been priced at \$62,850. Raisbeck plans kits for the models 31, 55, 60, 45 and, if demand justifies, the 20-series.



## Schweizer hands on Ag-Cat

**SCHWEIZER AIRCRAFT** is selling its successful Ag-Cat agricultural-aircraft programme after concluding that its changing product line had left it unable to produce the type economically.

The new owner is Ag-Cat overhaul and modification specialist Jim Krepps of Malden, Missouri, owner of Malden Ag-Craft. The manufacturing company will be called Ag-Cat Corporation.

Schweizer president Les Schweizer says: "After 37 years with the Ag-Cat programme, the decision to sell this product line was very difficult...our products and capabilities have changed significantly during the past 11 years and we are no longer able to produce the Ag-Cat at a competitive price."

Schweizer will give Ag-Cat "a

broad range of support" through the transition and will continue to provide spares.

Krepps says: "I've built and rebuilt many Ag-Cats over the years, so I know this aircraft — every nut and bolt. I am confident in this company's ability to produce the high-quality that Ag-Cat customers have come to expect."

Krepps' vice-president of sales and marketing will be former Gulfstream and Schweizer sales manager Joe Kosier.

Schweizer manufactured more than 2,600 Ag-Cats between 1958 and 1981 under licence to Grumman, and latterly as a proprietary product. The type is now powered by Pratt & Whitney radial engines or Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6 variants.



A new dawn is breaking for the Ag-Cat

# JetCo looks again at fleet proposal

KIERAN DALY/LONDON

**EUROPEAN** fractional-jet-ownership company JetCo has dropped Raytheon Aircraft's Beechjet and KingAir from its fleet plan and is negotiating with other manufacturers.

The company may still use Raytheon Hawker 800XPs, but that aircraft is in competition with the Cessna Citation VII.

UK-based JetCo, which planned to start operations with an all-Raytheon fleet, has found little interest in turboprop aircraft. Below the Hawker/Citation VII choice, it is now looking primarily at a new-aircraft option

with Cessna CitationJets or Learjet 31As, and, less enthusiastically, at a used-aircraft option of Citation IIs or Learjet 35As. The company is keen on the Citation Excel but could not secure delivery to its time scale.

Its move away from Raytheon is driven largely by aircraft preferences, but it also professes unhappiness with "...the changes that went on at Raytheon in the latter stages of last year".

JetCo managing director Mike Riegel expects to place orders very soon and indicates that the bullish customer interest which the company has previously claimed still holds good.

## Gulfstream opens London City option

**GULFSTREAM** Aerospace has won approval to operate the Gulfstream IV-SP into London City Airport (LCY).

The certification allows the business-jet to serve the airport which is the closest to London's financial district. Aircraft require special approval to use LCY because of its steep glide-slope.

The GIV-SP can now be operated into the airport following a transatlantic crossing, but take-off weight restrictions at LCY mean that it could be used for the west-bound trip only with a stop *en route*.

Two other schemes promising improved general-aviation access to London have met difficulties. Plans to develop a "civil enclave" at RAF Northolt have been dropped because of physical and operating restrictions and the proposed Gatwick-feeder airport at Redhill was refused planning permission on environmental grounds.

At Farnborough, meanwhile, several companies are understood to have bid to take over the running of the fixed-base operation. British Aerospace was unable to confirm that it is a contender.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

■ **HAWKER 800 FOR RUSSIA**  
Raytheon has delivered its first Hawker 800 to a Russian operator. The pre-owned business jet has gone to Moscow-based transport and property-development company the Master Group.

■ **SATCOM APPROVED**  
Rockwell International Collins Air Transport division's SATCOM-906 six-channel satellite-communications system has been certificated on a Gulfstream IV business-jet owned by International Lease Finance.

■ **HELICOPTERS TO DUBAI**  
Agusta is to supply three A.109K2s and two licence-built AB412EPs to the Dubai Police Air Wing.

■ **CHC WIN**  
CHC Helicopter has won two three-year contracts worth over £125 million for subsidiary British International Helicopters to provide helicopter services to Shell in the North Sea.