

# CHOICE CUTS

Despite flight-test pressures, there will be no shortage of manufacturers displaying their latest products at this year's show

GRAHAM WARWICK / WASHINGTON DC

**W**ith an increasing number of focused and regional shows competing for their patronage, manufacturers have a difficult task deciding at which events to showcase their latest products. The decision is harder when an aircraft must be pulled out of flight testing to make a public appearance, even at an event as prestigious as Farnborough International.

The mix of aircraft confirmed and rumoured for display at this year's show

reflects the different choices companies have made when faced with that decision. For Aero Vodochody of the Czech Republic and Brazil's Embraer, the global audience offered by Farnborough makes it worthwhile to interrupt flight testing and bring their latest aircraft to the show. Aero's L-159B two-seat lead-in fighter trainer flew for the first time on 1 June and will make its first public appearance at Farnborough. The Embraer 170 regional jet will make its European debut at the show.

Confirmed as making their first appear-

ances will be AgustaWestland's improved Super Lynx 300 helicopter, ATR and Aeronavali's converted ATR 72 freighter and BAE Systems' ATP cargo conversion, and Connexion by Boeing's 737-400 demonstrator. Airbus may spring a surprise by bringing its 100-seat A318 and ultra-long-range A340-500, both of which entered flight testing earlier this year, but the large-capacity A340-600 is almost certain to make its Farnborough debut in the colours of launch customer and show sponsor Virgin Atlantic Airways.

## Black Typhoon

Eurofighter plans to display the black-painted second development Typhoon, but Farnborough may see the public debut of at least one of the three instrumented production aircraft that have been in flight testing since April. BAE Systems will display a mock-up of the aircraft equipped with conformal tanks. Other aircraft new to Farnborough audiences will include the Su-25KM Scorpion upgrade of the Sukhoi attack aircraft by Israel's Elbit Systems and Georgia's Tbilisi Aircraft Manufacturing.

Another newcomer to the show will be Antonov An-74TK-300 convertible passenger/cargo transport, which will be displayed by the Ukraine's Kharkov State Manufacturing. In addition to its 70-seat 170, Embraer will bring the ERJ-135-based Legacy business jet, which had its

**Antonov's An-74TK-300 convertible passenger/cargo transport will be a Farnborough newcomer**

