

# This week

## NEWS

### Headlines

- 4 EADS and L-3 in MPA bid alliance. Rebranded Alliance linked with SIA
- 5 Rockwell in US Army display deal. WTO director general calls for airline trade rules
- 6 US101 programme seeks local subcontractor bids. Brazil leases Kfirs until F-X decision is made

### Air Transport

- 8 Fiji moves to cope with travel boom. EasyJet merges with Go
- 9 Troubled Varig makes more cuts. Fatigue studied in CAL crash
- 10 Blue Line gets temporary Q400. Japanese independent starts flying
- 11 First metal cut for An-148 prototype. Air China to offload freighter division
- 12 Boeing focuses on European ATC. Tel Aviv security saves time for some

### Defence

- 13 NATO chases surveillance deadline. Boeing and IAI eye Arrow exports
- 14 R-R considers TP400 turboprop as basis for Adour successor. Su-27 death toll blamed on lax rules
- 15 BAE offers active radar upgrades. EADS considers UAV options
- 16 Boeing chases USAF and Navy electronic attack requirements. Northrop Grumman shows Watchkeeper UAV hand

### Business

- 17 South African beats rising costs. Vanguard joins grounded Midway

- 18 Aer Lingus suffers but Iberia soars. Dinar battles as crisis bites deeper
- 19 Europe sets out goals for pollution and punctuality. France begins sell-off programme

### Business & General Aviation

- 21 Cessna and Cirrus Design buck downward trend. FAA issues S-76 safety directive
- 22 FAA approves SMA diesel engine. Court hears Symphony discord
- 23 Diamond clinches trainer contract. Socata to deliver improved TB700

### Technology

- 24 DLR tunes wireless architecture project team. Scramjet test hailed as success

### Spaceflight

- 25 Surrey Satellite signs Russian deal. Beagle 2 construction starts



Beagle 2 takes shape at UK's Open University - P25

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# FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL

## The Xfactor

Experimental vehicles advance aerospace



Farnborough: Showcase for an industry in turmoil

### COVER STORY

## X-planes advance 30

The USA's X-series of experimental vehicles has made significant contributions to aerospace developments. The pace of the programmes has picked up and US industry would like to see this quicken even further, arguing that flight demonstrators help to attract new talent as well as develop the skills of experienced engineers – and keep them happy. But of the programmes currently active and about to emerge, which are likely to attract the next generation of engineers? Will it be the first international X programme, the X-31, a demonstration of extremely short take-off and landing capability; the X-50 Dragonfly Canard/Rotor Wing concept that aims to combine the hover efficiency of helicopters with the cruise speed of fixed-wing aircraft; or hypersonic trailblazers such as the X-43? Our review reveals a vibrant X culture.

### FARNBOROUGH REVIEW

## After the show 26

One of our Letters page contributors this week (P37) describes this year's Farnborough air show as "disappointing". Is he right? Our review discovers some challenging questions for the aerospace industry were being posed after the show, particularly concerning long-term prospects for the commercial airliner industry, the volatility of the regional jet industry and the outlook for European/US defence co-operation. And, most challenging of all, is a pan-industry event such as Farnborough relevant to narrowly focused sectors like business aviation?

## Next week

### Aerospace Top 100

Where has a year of mergers, takeovers and consolidation, and the aftermath of 11 September, left the biggest 100 aerospace manufacturers? Our Aerospace Top 100 – prepared with analysts Roland Berger – reveals the movers and shakers, winners and losers.



PA PHOTOS