Air France is big hard currency earner
PARIS
Air France made a net hard currency contribution of Ffr 5,500 million (£445 million) to the French economy in 1984, after deduction of its currency expenditure and outlay for financial transactions, reports Gilbert Sedbon.

The French flag carrier operates a network covering 435,698 miles with flights to 155 cities in 75 countries. Its fleet consists of 102 aircraft.

As an active participant in foreign trade, Air France is among the top French exporting businesses. Fourth-ranking overall, according to Le Moniteur du Commerce International, and top in the service industry sector, with a total export revenue figure of Ffr 15,500 million (£1,283 million) in 1984 (56.1 per cent of its total revenue).

In a major sales drive, Air France is offering nearly 230,000 extra summer vacation seats on 1,000 additional flights from late June to mid-September, to supplement its normal flight programme.

Throughout the summer the French flag carrier is offering more than 15,000 seats on 32 additional flights to and from North America; 14 between Paris and New York, 12 between Paris and Mexico City, and six between Paris and Los Angeles.

Some 3,000 seats are being added to Air France's European network by using larger-capacity aircraft, and 35,000 extra seats will be offered on domestic services during the summer. Services to North Africa and the French West Indies are also being stepped up.

Air France's Special General Assembly meeting increased the Company's capital from Ffrl,737 million (£143 million) to Ffrl,974 million (£163 million) by setting aside Ffr237 million (£20 million) from funds carried forward. The nominal value of each share was raised from Ffr22 to Ffr25.

The French state-owned airline made a 1984 profit of Ffr 460-4 million for fleet replacement, notably for the purchase of Airbus A320s.

Guinane's Ace service

GATWICK

A new “one-stop” consultancy and advisory service for airlines, aircraft owners and operators is launched this week by Ace—the Aviation Consultancy Executive—with offices near Gatwick and in the City. The company is headed by former British Caledonian managing director Guy Guinane.

Ace services include locating finance and insurance, the evaluation of aircraft, appraisal of projects, and the preparation of support material for licensing and finance applications.

Ace provides advice “on every aspect of aviation management” through an affiliate system of experts, including specialists in insurance cover for aircraft unserviceability and in the comparative economics of competing aircraft types (Guy Guinane, Ace, Worthing Corner, Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 4SL, England; tel 0293 884470).

MARKET PLACE

Thai International Airways is negotiating with Airbus Industrie for the purchase of between four and six A300-600s, according to Thai vice-president Chatrachai Bunya Anata. The carrier already has four A300-600s on order, for delivery in the autumn. The new aircraft will operate on routes from Bangkok to Tokyo and the Middle East. Japan's All Nippon Airways is also having talks with AI for the delivery of six A300-600s on eight options, although AI says that reports that the deal will soon be clinched are “premature”.

Swedish domestic carrier Linjeflyg has signed for its 18th Fokker F.28. The 85-seat F.28-4000 will be delivered in August 1986. Linjeflyg, which has been operating F.28s for 12 years, is awaiting delivery of another F.28 next spring. The aircraft will cater for increased capacity demand on Swedish domestic routes.

British Airways is considering taking up its options on two more Boeing 757s for delivery next spring. BA currently has three other 757s on firm order.

US Air has sold a seventh Bae One-Eleven to Orlando-based Florida Express Airlines. The aircraft was delivered on June 29.

Air Luton flies DC-3s

Air Luton is flying three ex-Air Atlantique DC-3s. It was a contract with the Post Office for six nightly mail flights to East Midlands, Liverpool, Newcastle, Edinburgh, and Glasgow and ad hoc freight flights are also undertaken. Managing director Ali Mohabaty says that passenger charters could begin with G-AMPO in the next two months after cabin refurbishment.

Air UK has retired its last Handley Page Herald (G-APWJ) from service. The aircraft has been presented to the Duxford Aviation Society.

PEOPLE

Britannia Airways, Boeing 737 Captain Ted Barff, 61, has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air. Barff learnt to fly with the Royal Air Force (1944-1953), and flew for Kuwait Airlines and BWIA before joining Britannia in 1972. He served as captain with both BWIA and Britannia, and in 1979 was appointed fleet captain of the UK airline's 737 fleet.

Chief executive of Guinness Peat Aviation Tony Ryan has been appointed chairman of the board. He succeeds Geoffrey Knight, who has served as non-executive chairman since 1977. Knight will continue to have a seat on the GPA Board. Ryan has been a shareholder and chief executive of the Shannon-based international aircraft leasing and trading group since its formation in 1975.

Rolf Künzi has been elected President of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC). Künzi, director of the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Aviation, will hold the post for three years. He succeeds Noel McMahon.