

This week

NEWS

Headlines

- 4 US Navy courts MMA investors. Global Express XRS wing mated
- 5 Virgin Blue close to Embraer order. Eurofighter deal to be signed
- 6 China aims to rival AB139. Sagem merger fails to impress

Air Transport

- 8 Pilots recount Baghdad attack. Xi'an launches MA60 variant
- 9 Airbus to roll out EFB system. Convention could save lease costs
- 10 Iberia A340 clipped tower. EC considers emissions trading
- 11 R-R gets ready for Trent 900 tests. Flybe plans to ramp up its fleet
- 12 Airbus wins Air Berlin mega-deal. Europeans link for A380 MRO

The Flight Interview

- 13 Cessna's Jack Pelton

Zuhai Air Show

- 14 Airbus reveals engineering site plan. Diamond sells to new Beijing school
- 15 Chinese jet trainer pair square up. AgustaWestland seals A109E deal

Defence

- 16 Boeing to develop massive bomb. Upgrade for C-130J
- 17 China's FC-1 fighter advances. US army seals Sapphire purchase
- 18 Israel completes Longbow trials. DARPA earmarks UCAR funds
- 19 Thales team scoops UK contract. Yemen takes export MiG-29SMTs
- 20 Israel to test urban warfare UAVs. South Korea forced to delay SAM-X

Business Aviation

- 21 Raytheon rise confirms upswing. Solyo resurrects Caravan plan
- 22 Asian advocate back in business. BBA adds Heathrow to FBO list

General Aviation

- 23 WAAS to guide approaches. Mitsubishi to halt sales of MH2000

Business

- 24 Ukraine's 'Big three' await merger. CAE to sell marine unit to L-3
- 25 Bullish EADS raises profit target

Technology

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Spaceflight

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G350 revamp complete - P21



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Aircraft Performance Engineer, Rolls-Royce, Derby, UK

Next week

World Air Forces

Next week sees publication of our annual update on the air forces of the world, from Albania to Zimbabwe. We also look in detail at developments in electronic flight bags and how aircraft manufacturers and airlines are implementing the technology.



PETERLA FRANCHI

About the cover

Pictured as it will look in action performing a rough field landing in a desert, the Airbus Military A400M is closer than ever to reality. Helicopter safety - P28; Zhuhai - P14; Flight bags - P9

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FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL

A400M special

Euro vision

How Europe's airlifter pipedream got off the ground



Fighter trainer breaks cover at Zhuhai air show

Airbus plots innovative e-flight bag position

Plus: Helicopter safety review

AIRBUS MILITARY

COVER STORY: A400M

Lifting hopes 31

Conceived 22 years ago, the Airbus Military A400M airlifter has undergone a prolonged gestation. But the delay may have brought benefits as conclusion of the definition phase approaches, as it can now share technologies, components and production practices pioneered by the manufacturer for its civil airliners. Our 25-page special, complete with a micro-cutaway drawing, charts the history of the airlifter, explains the assembly schedule that will see parts shipped from all over Europe to Seville, explores its commonalities with the A380 and looks at its EuroProp powerplant, the most powerful ever to be seen on a Western production aircraft. We also assess how it is likely to reward its air force customers.

HELICOPTER SAFETY

On the hover 28

The drive to improve helicopter safety appears to have plateaued. Many in the industry are looking to research and technology for a solution: can new systems like HOMP make a difference? We consider the latest developments and their likely impact in lowering accident figures.