

The monthly newsletter of RegisterAnAircraft.com – the Aviation Division of The Sovereign Group

The World Economic Forum – an Isle of Man success story!

The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), which brings together top business and political leaders, selected intellectuals and journalists from around the world, took place at the end of January in Davos, Switzerland, the highest town in Europe. Davos is also just 30 minutes by helicopter from Zurich Airport, which becomes a Mecca for aviation photographers from around the world as corporate aircraft arrive in their droves.

As a result, the number and nature of the corporate aircraft bringing delegates to the meeting provides a pretty accurate snapshot of the strength of the executive market and of the popularity of individual registries. This year, aircraft registered in the Isle of Man were more in evidence than ever before. Over the course of the WEF and the day prior to its commencement, close to 20 Manx aircraft were noted on the ground in Zurich.

Manx aircraft using Zurich airport ranged from large jets such as the Bombardier Global Express, Challenger 300 and 604, Dassault Falcon 900 and Hawker 900XP right through to the Pilatus PC12 single engine turboprop. RANA's senior consultant and aviation photographer Brian T Richards, a veteran WEF watcher, said "the number of Manx registered aircraft was a talking point among the regular photographers and is clear evidence of the registry's success."



The limited parking at Zurich Airport also means that many of these aircraft land, deposit their passengers and then relocate to other airports before returning once the business has been completed. Favoured spots this year included Dubendorf, Geneva, Basel, Friedrichshafen, Altenrhein and Munich, as well as airports further afield such as Nice, Milan, Turin and even Barcelona.

Any readers who would like to view some of this year's photographs, please follow the link to <http://www.briantrichards.com/Davos%202011.html>.

Al Bateen Airport Update

Abu Dhabi's Al Bateen Executive Airport handled nearly 8,000 corporate aircraft movements in 2010. The former military base, which has been transformed into the region's first facility designed specifically to cater for corporate and VIP aircraft, has witnessed unprecedented traffic and an increasing number of aircraft are now based there. As further evidence of this development, the airport's operators have signed an agreement with gategroup, the Swiss-based global provider of onboard services, to establish a high end catering facility to serve the airport's high profile clients. Under the agreement, using the Gate Gourmet brand, gategroup will open a fully staffed kitchen at the airport.

UAE Aircraft Registration

At the end of January 2011 there were just under 80 corporate aircraft registered in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This represents a substantial increase on previous years and is clear evidence of the relative strength of the corporate aviation market in the Middle East. Although a substantial number of owners register their aircraft elsewhere, for entities with a physical presence in the UAE, local registration is a viable choice. The Sovereign Group has offices in both Dubai and Abu Dhabi and in collaboration with RANA's specialist aviation team can advise on registration options in the Emirates. Contact info@RegisterAnAircraft.com for further details.

Indian Business Aviation

The second annual Indian Business Aviation Expo (IBAE) is to be held in New Delhi from 23 - 25 February 2011. The conference and exhibition will bring together major players in the corporate aviation market including owners, operators, legislators, manufacturers, FBOs and other service providers. Along with China, the Middle East and South America, the Indian corporate aviation market is currently enjoying substantial growth.

After a difficult period, much complicated by draconian import duties and restrictions, the executive aircraft market in India is set for rapid expansion. According to India's Ministry of Civil Aviation, the current tally of just under 130 registered aircraft is expected to double as aircraft worth over \$1 billion are delivered. The Indian market provides rich pickings for manufacturers because the bulk of



aircraft registered are newly built airframes. The Sovereign Group's Dubai office has strong links with India and makes regular visits to the country. Contact John Hanafin at jhanafin@SovereignGroup.com for further information.

Corporate Aircraft News

The **Gulfstream G650** looks set to achieve FAA and EASA certification later this year following a successful flight test programme. On 25 January, the fifth test aircraft flew for the first time from the manufacturer's plant at Savannah, Georgia, and reached a speed of Mach 0.94 and an altitude of 15,545m (51,000ft).

During 2010 **Gulfstream** delivered 99 corporate aircraft, of which 75 were large size jets with a further 24 midsize aircraft. This was up from 94 in the previous year. In 2011, the company expects an increase of 15-16% on these figures and plans to produce 10 to 12 of the new flagship large cabin G650 model.

Brazilian manufacturer **Embraer** also reported a successful year. The manufacturer delivered 144 aircraft covering its full range from the Lineage to the Phenom 100, an increase of 25% on the previous 12 months. In a further landmark, the company's first Legacy 650 was delivered to a customer in November 2010.

COMING EVENTS...

RegisterAnAircraft.com will be represented at the following event:

Geneva, 17-19 May 2011

EBACE 2011, European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition

AIRCRAFT FACT FILE:

Boeing Business Jet BBJ



CATEGORY:

Heavy Jet

MANUFACTURER:

Boeing, USA

ENGINES:

2 × CFM Int'l CFM56-7 turbofans

LENGTH:

33.63 m

WINGSPAN:

35.79 m

RANGE:

11,480 km
(with 8 passengers)

MAX. SPEED:

890 kmh

SEATING CAPACITY:

8 - 63

NO. OF CREW:

4

MAXIMUM TAKE-OFF WEIGHT (MTOW):

77,560 kg

DESCRIPTION:

The Boeing Business Jet (BBJ or BBJ1) is the corporate version of the baseline Boeing 737-700 commercial airliner. The BBJ offers additional fuel tanks for increased range, along with integral air stairs allowing operation to poorly equipped airfields. Boeing markets the BBJ as 'the most spacious business jet in the market'.

The first production example was delivered to a customer in November 1998. The range of BBJ 737 aircraft now includes the BBJ2, based on the -800 series and the BBJ3 modelled on the -900. To date, a total of 113 BBJ1 aircraft have been delivered to private customers and governments worldwide.