

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

## MEBA 2010 Review, Dubai

The headline statistics from MEBA 2010 (Middle East Business Aviation) are impressive: 338 exhibitors from 30 countries; 6,200 visitors over the three days (a 13% increase on 2008); and 53 aircraft in the static park.

RANA's specialist aviation team, based on the Sovereign Group stand, was well placed to assess the success of the show and to answer the question 'how was it for you?' We were delighted with MEBA 2010 – in fact, we now regard it as a 'must attend' event. RANA's Brian T. Richards noted: "The increasingly high profile of the show and the resources committed to it are testament to an industry pulling itself out of the worst of the recession."

The exhibition halls were easily laid out with excellent facilities for exhibitors. The popularity of certain stands and individuals provided a useful barometer to single out some of the current darlings of the industry. The stand of Al Bateen Executive Airport with its dynamic general manager Stephen Jones was never short of visitors, while the Isle of Man's Director of Civil Aviation Brian E. Johnson, was constantly in

demand with the island's Registry on course to break records for new registrations in December. All the major manufacturers were represented in the static park, with **Embraer** stealing the show with the Lineage 1000, Legacy 650



RANA's Brian T. Richards on the Sovereign stand at MEBA 2010

and Phenom 300 readily accessible to the crowds. From a purist point of view, the absence of the Gulfstream G650 and G250, recently exhibited at the NBAA was the only disappointment.

Summing up, John Hanafin, MD of Sovereign's Dubai operation commented: "MEBA 2010 was an excellent show which attracted a host of knowledgeable and enthusiastic visitors. Sovereign was delighted to support MEBA and looks forward to 2012."

## The Abu Dhabi Solution

The high profile conversion of a former military base into the Al Bateen Executive Airport has turned the capital of the UAE into one of the most exciting places in the world for business aviation.

The use of the airport by just short of 100 corporate aircraft during the recent F1 Grand Prix is a glowing testament to Al Bateen's world class facilities and FBOs. The clear expansion of corporate aviation activities in the Gulf is being driven in no small measure by the commitment of the government of the UAE.



With an office located in the commercial heart of Abu Dhabi, The Sovereign Group is conveniently placed to offer a full range of 'turn key' aviation solutions to clients based in the area or using the Emirate's state of the art facilities. Through RANA, Sovereign can provide aircraft registration and general consultancy services, ownership solutions for aviation assets, coupled with aviation insurance and access to specialist aviation financing.

To find out how Sovereign can work for you, contact RANA at [info@RegisterAnAircraft.com](mailto:info@RegisterAnAircraft.com) or Vikram Pangam at Sovereign's Abu Dhabi office, [VPangam@SovereignGroup.com](mailto:VPangam@SovereignGroup.com).

## Corporate Aircraft News

The **Honda Aircraft Company** (HAC) achieved its target for 2010 when the first conforming HA-420 HondaJet made its maiden flight on 20 December. The goal was reached with the aircraft's departure from the company's facility at Triad International Airport, Greensboro, North Carolina.

The HondaJet (N420HJ) was powered by the new HF120 engine and the flight lasted 51 minutes. Deliveries of the Very Light Jet are set to begin in the third quarter of 2012. According to Michimasa Fujino, HAC president and CEO: "This is a very important milestone for the HondaJet programme. This aircraft was assembled and tested under strict

FAA certification processes, and we are very pleased to have achieved this successful first flight."

Further to our report last month, **Hawker Beechcraft** has begun the work in advance of the major upgrade package for the Hawker 400XP. The company has commenced initial design engineering and has acquired the first test airframe.

## FAA Mandatory Re-Registration

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has ordered all owners to re-register their aircraft. Of the 357,000 aircraft wearing US marks, it is understood that 119,000 have 'questionable registration', including missing ownership details. The US authorities are concerned that such gaps represent a significant security threat. It has also been announced that it will now be a mandatory requirement to carry out this exercise every three years.

## ABACE

Although still widely included in various internet event diaries, it has been confirmed that ABACE 2011 has been cancelled. The Asian business aviation exhibition was scheduled to be held at the AsiaWorld Expo in Hong Kong on 18 – 19 January. What is being branded by the organisers as the 'reintroduction of ABACE' will now take place at the Hawker Pacific Business Aviation Centre in Shanghai from 28 February – 01 March 2012. It has also been announced that the previously biennial show will now take place annually from next year.

## COMING EVENTS...

[RegisterAnAircraft.com](http://RegisterAnAircraft.com) will be represented at the following event:

Geneva, 17-19 May 2011

[EBACE 2011, European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition](#)

### AIRCRAFT FACT FILE:

## Bombardier Learjet 40XR



### CATEGORY:

Light Jet

### MANUFACTURER:

Bombardier, Canada

### ENGINES:

2 x Honeywell TFE731-20BR turboprops

### LENGTH:

16.93 m

### WINGSPAN:

14.56 m

### RANGE:

3,156 km

### MAX. SPEED:

865 kmh

### SEATING CAPACITY:

7

### NO. OF CREW:

2

### MAXIMUM TAKE-OFF WEIGHT (MTOW):

9,545 kg

### DESCRIPTION:

The Learjet 40XR is one of the latest models in a long line of corporate jet aircraft dating back to the LJ23 which first flew in 1963. The 40XR and the slightly larger, nine-seat 45XR are Bombardier's players in the very popular Light Jet market. The 40XR, an upgraded version of the LJ40, entered service in 2006.

The 40XR offers swifter climb rates, higher cruising speeds, a greater MTOW and up rated powerplant. In addition, Bombardier makes much of the aircraft's ability to cruise at a maximum of 51,000ft (15,545m) and that it can operate from 5,000ft (1,524m) runways with a full payload.