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Ten Twin Otters set to join RN-Aircraft ranks

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touch&go



Heavy jets dominant in Emirates as DWC lays foundations

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checklist



Ultimate interiors: Handling high expense and exacting requests

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Pan and Erickson join forces to fight fire in Turkey

Turkey's Pan Aviation is working with Erickson Incorporated, using a specialised S-64E Airplane for firefighting and emergency response operations across the Istanbul municipality for two years. Pilot Frank Swisher, engineer Anna Royce, maintenance manager Allen Wanamaker, warehouse manager Nick Smart and crew chief Rylan Macallister are looking forward to improving fire safety provision around the economic capital. Turn to page 6 for more.

Take Flight courts commercial AOC and Meridian after fractional Malibu success

Warwickshire, UK-based Take Flight Aviation has taken delivery of a Piper Malibu Matrix for fractional ownership, and the operator reveals that it will be using the aircraft to pave the way for an AOC and turboprop operations in the future.

Sales and marketing manager Hana Smiddy says that the response to the fractional scheme on the Malibu has been great so far: "The existing owners are mostly local business people and very experienced PPLs who fly themselves. We operate a members club for aircraft hire and pilot training. Our business model gives our membership the ability to fly a dozen or more aircraft, which includes taking the aircraft away for a week or so and only paying for the hours flown.

"We already operate a few aircraft on



Hana Smiddy reveals that Take Flight is toying with the idea of turbine ops, with either a Piper Meridian or a King Air.

behalf of owners or have shared ownership in the aircraft, so the new business model is an extension of that scheme into more exotic aircraft."

The Matrix is one of 15 aircraft currently managed by Take Flight,

whose members number more than 200. It now has full-time reception cover and employs operations staff seven days a week.

Smiddy says that fractional schemes have future growth potential. "The Piper Malibu works for us on the fractional ownership scheme so we will be looking at expanding that side of our business in addition to our core PPL training and hire," she continues. "We are also exploring a full AOC business and can see a market for this between the self-hire SEP market and jet business."

Mike Roberts purchased the company in 2006 with just one aircraft. He describes the progress towards an AOC as 'tentative' and says that he has been looking into carrying out scenic flights after other operators used the

Bushveld takes factory-new MD 500ER for conservation

Bushveld Game Capture in Vryburg, South Africa, has received an MD 500ER single engine helicopter, which it will deploy in order to dart and count game. Founded in 2006, the company is responsible for the capture, sale, transportation and care of wildlife, and it is expanding its helicopter fleet to more effectively protect the species of the South African savannah.

The right-hand command aircraft is the second MD Helicopter purchased by Bushveld and features air conditioning, upgraded leather seating and cabin panels, extended heavy-duty landing gear, a Fargo auxiliary fuel tank and cargo hook to support external loads up to 910 kgs. The cockpit configuration includes the Garmin 500H EFIS all-glass avionics flight display with touchscreen and GPS navigation.

"The decision to add this MD 500ER to our Bushveld fleet was an easy one for me," says chief pilot and owner Tina de Jager. "We fly in some pretty difficult conditions on a daily basis, so safety is of paramount importance. Not only are MDs one of the safest helicopters in the world, they have power to spare, high cruising speed and are very economical to run.

"Additionally, and just as important as the helicopter itself, is the after-sale service. I've always found this to be excellent with MD, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing it will always be there is invaluable."

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