**Korean Air finalises order for 33 A350s**

Korean Air has become a new customer for the A350 Family following the signature of a firm order with Airbus for 33 aircraft. The order covers 27 A350-1000s and six A350-900s.

Offering the longest range of any aircraft, the A350 will be able to operate any of the airline's current intercontinental routes with a 25% reduction in fuel consumption and carbon emissions compared to previous generation aircraft. The additional range of the A350 will also enable the carrier to evaluate new long haul destinations.

"The A350's exceptional range, fuel efficiency and passenger comfort make it a great fit for our global network," said Jason Yoo, Chief Safety and Operating Officer and EVP at Korean Air. "We are confident that the introduction of the A350 to our fleet will drive operational efficiencies and elevate the overall travel experience for our passengers."

Benoit de Saint Exupéry, EVP Sales, Commercial Aircraft, Airbus said: "This order from Korean Air is another major endorsement for the A350 as the world's long range leader. The airline will benefit from new levels of efficiency across its operations, with significantly reduced fuel consumption and carbon emissions. The A350 will also be the perfect platform for the carrier to take its in-flight product and world class service to new heights. We thank Korean Air for its ongoing confidence in Airbus and its products, and look forward to seeing the A350 flying in the carrier's iconic livery."

The A350 Family is the world's most modern widebody product line and is firmly established as the world's long range leader, with passenger versions able to fly up to 9,700 nm / 18,000 km non-stop. Powered by latest generation Rolls-Royce engines, the airframe uses 70% advanced materials such as composites, titanium, and modern aluminium alloys to create a lighter and more cost-efficient aircraft. All of which results in an average reduction in fuel consumption and carbon emissions of around 25% compared with similar sized previous generation aircraft.

At the end of February, the A350 Family had won 1,240 orders from 59 customers worldwide.

Quelle:
Airbus Press Release 02 April 2024

**Boeing Awarded Contract to Continue Extreme Environmental Testing for Critical Defense Platforms**

- *Team's work will ensure readiness of defense and deterrence capabilities*

The U.S. Air Force has awarded Boeing [NYSE: BA] a contract worth up to $559 million over five years to operate, maintain and perform testing at the Little Mountain Test Facility at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The state-of-the-art site is designed to test functionality of the nation's current and future intercontinental ballistic missile force, nuclear modernization programs and other critical defense and deterrence capabilities in the most extreme environments.

Boeing has operated and maintained the Little Mountain Test Facility and site operations — including radiation effects, electromagnetic effects, shock and vibration, and other environmental testing — for 50 years.

“From strategic deterrents to other priority defense and aerospace systems, it’s imperative that we rigorously test and verify their ability to carry out their missions no matter the circumstances,” said Ted Kerzie, acting vice president of Boeing Strategic Missile & Defense Systems. “Our world-class Boeing test engineers are the very best at what they do, and we’re honored to continue to support the nation in this capacity.”

Since 1974, Boeing has conducted test operations and provided technical support on nuclear and non-nuclear platforms at the site for the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Energy.

Boeing continues to enhance capabilities and capacity at Little Mountain Test Facility in support to the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, ensuring that test capabilities and facilities meet sustainment, modernization and mission requirements.

Quelle:
Boeing Press Release 02 April 2024

**Greece Moves Forward in Procurement of UH-60M Black Hawk**

*Letter of Offer and Acceptance Signed for 35 helicopters*

he Government of Greece signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) today making official its intent to procure 35 UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters built by Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company (NYSE: LMT), via U.S. government Foreign Military Sale.

“The latest generation UH-60M Black Hawk will support the Hellenic Ministry of Defense’s ongoing modernization and will serve as a dependable helicopter for vital national and allied security missions,” said Paul Lemmo, president of Sikorsky. "Trusted and operated by more than 35 nations, including a growing number of NATO allies, the multi-role Black Hawk helicopter provides unmatched global interoperability, significantly increasing Greece’s deterrent capability and that of all NATO member countries."

In addition to the aircraft, the procurement also includes personnel training and training equipment to ensure the helicopters’ smooth integration into the Hellenic Army.

"We are honored to expand our existing partnership with the Hellenic Armed Forces with the addition of the UH-60M Black Hawk to their growing fleet," said Costas Papadopoulos, international business development director for Greece at Lockheed Martin. "The Black Hawk is the best solution for Greece’s multi-mission requirements with capabilities enhancing the nation's effectiveness in the 21st Century Security battlespace."

With its existing S-70B fleet and newly acquired MH-60R maritime helicopters for the Hellenic Navy, Greece will operate several variants of the Hawk family and benefit from the operational and sustainment advantages of fleet commonality.

As the world’s premier multi-role utility helicopter with 5 million combat hours, the Black Hawk will offer Greece a range of operational capabilities and a global ecosystem of more than 5,000 Hawk aircraft.

The UH-60M/S-70M Black Hawk is the aircraft of choice for replacing legacy medium-lift utility helicopter fleets, with flexibility to conduct variety of missions at greater ranges and in the most challenging environments, and with increased survivability over other aircraft.

Quelle:
Lockheed Martin Press Release 05 April 2024

**IAI and the Security of Israel**

Established in 1953 as Bedek Aviation Company - a governmental institute for aviation - Israel Aerospace Industries started out as an all-purpose service and supplies provider, specializing in air defense solutions. In the decades since, the company has grown to become a world leader in both the defense and commercial markets, developing, producing and delivering state-of-the-art technologies and systems across a range of domains, including air, land, sea, space, cyber, homeland security and ISR.

Remember the past, live the present and trust the future (Aba Kovner)

Quelle:
IAI

**RAFAEL ANNOUNCES 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR WITH RECORD HIGH**

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. publishes today (Wednesday) its financial results for 2023, as approved by the company's board of directors:

- A 21% increase in the volume of the company's sales, which amounted to NIS 14,043 million, compared to NIS 11,586 million in 2022.
- An 85% increase in the volume of orders received by the company in 2023 – NIS 29,864 million compared to NIS 16,104 million in 2022.
- An unprecedented backlog of orders amounting to 52,416 million NIS, a 47% increase compared to the backlog of 2022 (35,636 billion NIS) which is 3.6 years of sales.
- Net profit of 588 million NIS, an increase of 17% compared to the net profit in 2022.
- Gross profit of 2,928 million NIS, an increase of 19% compared to the corresponding year.

As mentioned above, Rafael's order backlog reached an all-time high, with a 47% increase over 2022 – 52.416 million NIS – driven by orders from both domestic and international markets. The volume of orders in 2023 increased by approximately 85%, totaling 29.864 million NIS, with 57% of the orders coming from international customers (17.072 million NIS) and the remaining 43% from Israel (12.792 million NIS).

The fourth quarter of 2023 was exceptional in terms of activity, with Rafael receiving orders totaling 14.514 million NIS, with over 61% of these orders being international, following the completion of large export deals. Sales volume in the fourth quarter stood at 4.594 million NIS, a 19% increase compared to the corresponding quarter last year. Rafael notes a slight decrease in the gross profit margin compared to 2022 due to fluctuations during the "Swords of Iron War."

Quelle:
Rafael Press Release 27 March 2024

**Global Aviation Hub**

Singapore is strategically located at the heart of the region. The Changi Air Hub serves as a gateway to the region. Building on Singapore's strategic geographical location and excellent connectivity to the rest of the world, our air hub has distinguished itself with world-class infrastructure and service standards, and a conducive regulatory environment. This allows Singapore to attract and anchor key international players to spur growth of the aviation ecosystem.

The Changi Air Hub is one of the busiest airports in the world. In 2019, Changi Airport served 68.3 million passengers and processed 2.01 million tonnes of cargo, connecting Singapore to more than 170 cities through more than 125 airlines.

Singapore and the world have learnt to live with COVID-19, and Changi Airport is once again a hub for global aviation. We expect passenger traffic to return to pre-pandemic levels by 2024 or earlier. Singapore is committed to growing aviation as a strategic pillar of our economy. Our air hub contributes about 5% of GDP and about 200,000 jobs. The air hub also supports other economic sectors such as aerospace, tourism, manufacturing and logistics.

Quelle:

Ministry of Transport of Singapore

**First pilot trial for electric harbour craft charging point launched at Marina South Pier**

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has launched the first pilot trial for electric harbour craft (e-HC) charging point at the Marina South Pier (MSP) today following an earlier call for proposals (CFP)[1] to develop and operate e-HC charging points at various locations under a two-year pilot scheme.

2. The charging point at MSP was awarded to the Pyxis Energy Pte Ltd, Pyxis Maritime Pte Ltd, and SP Mobility Pte Ltd partnership. Pyxis's fleet of e-HCs operating at MSP will serve as the base offtake to ensure optimisation of the charging infrastructure and enable comprehensive data to be gathered. Insights from the data collected will contribute towards the development of a national e-HC charging infrastructure masterplan, implementation plan, and national standards for e-HC charging infrastructure.

3. Under this pilot, the Pyxis and SP Mobility partnership has deployed a 150-kilowatt (kW) land-based Direct Current fast charger with a Combined Charging System 2 connector at MSP. This charger can charge an e-HC with an approximate battery capacity of 500 kWh in around 3 hours and enable an operating range of about 50 nautical miles, or about 90 km. Users of the e-HC charger will need to scan a QR code using the SP app and make the payment via the app, similar to users of electric vehicles.

4. MPA is working with Enterprise Singapore, industry stakeholders and academia to develop a Technical Reference (TR) for e-HC charging and battery swap system. The draft TR will be ready for public consultation by mid-April 2024.

5. Capt M Segar, MPA Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), said, “Public-private partnership is key to promote wider adoption of e-HC in Singapore, including working together to improve the e-HC vessel and battery designs, support development of the technical standard, lower financing barriers, and building the charging infrastructure to give confidence to users and encourage wider adoption.”

6. Mr Tommy Phun, Founder of Pyxis, said, “We are delighted to announce the commencement of charging operations at Marina South Pier for the X Tron, the inaugural vessel from Pyxis’ flagship product line, the Pyxis One series of electric vessels. Tailored specifically for the dynamic Singapore port market, the Pyxis One seamlessly shuttles passengers between mainland Singapore and ships stationed at the anchorage. With a purpose-built aluminium catamaran hull, an efficient electric propulsion chain, and an IoT-enabled digital ecosystem platform, the Pyxis One pushes the boundaries of innovation and brings significant productivity gains compared to traditional diesel vessels. In addition to our electric harbour craft meeting Singapore’s 2030 and 2050 targets early, there is also expected total ownership cost savings compared to our traditional vessels.”

7. Mr Dean Cher, Head (Mobility), Sustainable Energy Solutions, SP Group, said, “We are committed to leading the decarbonisation of the transport sector, from land to sea, cars to harbour craft. This very first public marine charging point at Marina South Pier is a small but important step in providing the marine industry with decarbonisation options and our partnership with Pyxis will lead the way to wider e-HC adoption in Singapore.”

8. In addition to the Pyxis and SP Mobility partnership, MPA has also awarded an innovative mobile charging concept proposed by Seatrium O&G (International) Pte Ltd, and a high power (350-450 kW) DC Charger proposed by Yinson Electric Pte Ltd. MPA will continue to work with the two companies to further develop their proposals for applications in Singapore.

9. From 2030, all new harbour craft operating in the Port of Singapore will have to be fully electric, be capable of using B100 biofuel, or be compatible with net zero fuels such as hydrogen. For biofuels, blends of up to B50 are already commercially available. MPA is working with industry to develop the standards for up to B100.

10. MPA recently shortlisted 11 passenger launch and cargo lighter vessel designs following an expression of interest launched for e-HC designs. These designs will be further enhanced and progressively marketed to aggregate demand from the industry to help lower production cost for companies.

11. The expanded Enterprise Financing Scheme-Green (EFS-Green) was recently announced at the Committee of Supply Debate 2024. From April 2024, harbour craft owners and operators may apply for loans with risk-share of 70% by participating Financial Institutions. Maritime companies can also tap the Energy Efficiency Grant by end-2024, which will provide two tiers of support for energy-efficient equipment. Under the base tier, they can receive up to 70% co-funding for pre-approved energy efficient domestic port and

harbour craft equipment until March 2026. Across both tiers, they can receive up to $350,000 per company support.

[1]: MPA issued a call for proposal on 29 August 2023 to develop, operate and maintain electric harbour craft points at selected locations in Singapore. At the close of the CFP on 19 October 2023, MPA received a total of 12 proposals from four consortia.

Quelle:
MPA Press Release 08 April 2024

**Preparing for the Future**

The Asia-Pacific is one of the fastest-growing regions of the world. We expect demand for air travel to grow with the growing middle class in the region. The Changi Air Hub can help Singapore and the region grow by connecting the world to Asia, especially Southeast Asia.

Terminal 5 (T5) is a critical investment to ensure that Changi has the handling capacity to meet this demand. This will secure Singapore's capacity to ride on the long-term growth of aviation, and strengthen Singapore's position as a premier air hub for the region and beyond. When completed in the mid-2030s, T5 will be able to serve 50 million passengers per year. T5 will not only be designed to be green and sustainable, but also resilient to handle future pandemics more nimbly.

We are also investing in futureproofing Singapore's Air Navigation Services (ANS) capabilities, including through research and development. These advanced capabilities will enable Singapore to continue providing ANS in the Singapore Flight Information Region (FIR) at the highest levels of safety and efficiency, while supporting air traffic growth in the region and international aviation sustainability efforts.

Quelle:

Ministry of Transport of Singapore

**Mr. Luo Xingping appointed as Member of Standing Committee of the Party Committee of COMAC, Secretary of Commission for Discipline Inspection of COMAC, and Supervisory Attache of the State Committee of Supervisory of the People's Republic of China in COMAC.**

Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, Ltd. (COMAC) held the 180th Meeting of Standing Committee of the Party Committee on April 2nd, 2024, and informed the decision of higher authorities on the appointment of leaders of COMAC: Comrade Luo Xingping would serve as a Member of Standing Committee of the Party Committee of COMAC, Secretary of Commission for Discipline Inspection of COMAC, and Supervisory Attache of the State Committee of Supervisory of the People's Republic of China in COMAC. The appointment and removal of relevant posts were subject to relevant laws and regulations.

Quelle:
COMAC Press Release 02 April 2024

**Talent Strategy**

The Party Committee of COMAC will thoroughly implement the organizational line of the Party in the a new era and the strategy on developing a quality workforce in the new era; insist on the principle of the Party supervising the performance of officials and the principle of the Party exercising leadership over personnel; focus on achieving a high level of scientific and technological self-reliance; fully implement the core strategy of strengthening the enterprise by talents and the "COMAC Elite Project"; and build a die-hard core team which is unbeatable and unbreakable, advances despite difficulties, faces the difficulties, and is loyal to the trunk liner career.

*** insist on being steered by strategies and implement the "COMAC Elite Project"**

Based on the features of commercial aircraft talents such as scarcity, competitiveness, globalization and long growth cycle, we plan that by 2035, COMAC will own 30,000-40,000 employees, cultivate 10,000 elites, and build "4+2" core teams respectively concerning management, program, technology and skill plus urgently needed and overseas talents for the trunk liner. We will prominently promote several special talent programs; accelerate the development of strategic talents for the trunk liner, with the total number of staffs growing to more than 16,000; preliminarily establish a team of strategic scientists and technologists ranging from academicians, chief scientists of the company and experts at all levels, to general engineers and chief engineers; form an innovation team with model program, key core and basic frontier technologies as the main body; and build a team of program managers with young talents as the main body, and with technical and skilled staffs accounting for more than 70%.

*** continue to deepen reform and stimulate the innovation vitality of our talent team**

We will focus on material motivation, policy motivation and spiritual motivation; take a combination of measures for attracting talent, stabilizing team and stimulating vitality; construct a talent motivation matrix for tip-top, backbone and young talents; explore a motivation guarantee mechanism for scientific and technological innovation talents; establish a pilot area for trunk liner innovation; continually carry out COMAC talent competitiveness evaluation to inspire the spirit of serving the country, the spirit of struggle and the vitality of creation; and build a community for trunk liner career with shared benefits, shared achievements and shared glory based on the common ideal.

*** adhere to opening-up cooperation and build a platform for the high-quality development of talents**

We will construct a talent cultivation matrix according to the level and type of talents, focus on cultivating tip-top talents, and exercise a core force for leading the elites to overcome difficulties. We will accelerate the promotion, organize the rotation training and strengthen the practical experience of mature backbones. We will provide job opportunities, strengthen job

qualifications and optimize mentoring for young talents. We will establish an " COMAC Alliance of Enterprices and Education", deepen the "COMAC step in campus", strengthen the integration with civil aviation system, establish school enterprise cooperative mechanism, and cultivate outstanding engineers through the integration of industry, education, research and application.

Quelle:
COMAC