



e-news

Publisher

Journal of Aerospace Sciences and Technologies
Aeronautical Society of India
Bangalore Branch Building
New Thippasandra Post
Bangalore 560 075
Karnataka, INDIA
Telefax: +91 80 25273851
e-mail: editoraesi@dataone.in

Advertisement - Tariff

A4 - 1/8 Page Single Column : Rs. 200

A4 - 1/4 Page Single Column : Rs. 400

A4 - 1/2 Page Single Column : Rs. 500

Draft Drawn in Favour of
"Journal Office, The Aeronautical Society
of India" Payable at Bangalore

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READER'S RESPONSE

The editorial team invites your views, suggestions, to the News about Members Column and contributions to the e-news.

AAI looks at central unit to control flow of air traffic

Fog in Chennai disrupted around 80 percent flights in Delhi. On Christmas, a Kingfisher flight, which could not land in Delhi due to poor visibility, was diverted by the Delhi ATC to Jaipur, but the flight could not land, as there were no vacant parking bays. The flight finally landed at Udaipur. To avoid such incidents in future, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposed to establish a Central Air Traffic Flow Management Unit which in simpler terms means that flight data, airport capacity and runway capacity of every airport in India will be available at this one unit. The AAI is also planning to put up a web link to this unit. All airlines, ATCs and airport operators will be able to view the weather at all airports as well as alerts about bottlenecks.

Source: Indian Express

Chandrayaan II launch likely in 2011: ISRO official

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to follow up the first mission to the moon with a second one, which will be around year 2011, said V. Jayaraman, Director, Earth Observation System, ISRO, Bangalore. Talking to journalists on the sidelines of 'INCRUIS-2008,' an international conference organized by the Kongu Engineering College, Dr. Jayaraman said for the second mission, ISRO was collaborating with the Russians. "Chandrayaan II," according to him, "will aim at landing a rover or lander on the moon's surface." In the first mission, there would be no landing a satellite would orbit the moon and do surface mapping. Almost all the components in the satellite were indigenously built.

Source: The Hindu

Mars is the limit for Shriya

Shriya Dinakar, a 13-year-old Bangalore girl claiming to be the youngest pilot in the world, is eyeing outer space to become the youngest girl to land on Mars. Shriya, an eighth standard student of National Centre for Excellence, Bangalore, has flown Microlite and Cessna aircraft. The NASA Director was so impressed by her performance that he invited her to the US and promised to guide her to become an astronaut, said her father Giriraju Dinakar, an IIT alumnus. Even former President A P J Abdul Kalam lauded Shriya during his 20-

minute interaction with her. Speaking to the Express during her visit to Belgaum, she said: "I learnt to navigate a submarine in France. I experienced near zero-gravity condition and also went parasailing at Hong Kong. I did all these because an astronaut should overcome the fear of space, air, water and isolation."

Source: Indian Express

India to launch 2 more Israeli spy satellites

India and Israel are working together to launch two more spy satellites with the schedule requiring at least one of these to be placed in orbit within this year. The successful launch of the 300-kg TecSar has been generated considerable enthusiasm in both India and Israel with the satellite expected to start sending the first images in early February. The decision to launch the TecSar spy satellite, which is also referred to as Polaris, was taken shortly after the UPA government came to power. The deal was finalised during the visit of Israeli defence ministry director-general Amos Yaron to New Delhi three years ago.

Source: Asian Age

Virgin Atlantic Plans a Biofuel Flight

Virgin Atlantic said that it would conduct a demonstration flight next month of one of its Boeing 747 jets using biofuel — the first airborne test of a renewable fuel by a commercial jet. The airline, founded by the British billionaire Richard Branson, said a 747-400 plane would make the one hour and 20 minute journey from London Heathrow Airport to Amsterdam in late February using 20 percent biofuel and 80 percent conventional jet fuel. The test, without passengers, is part of a joint research project announced by Virgin, Boeing and the aircraft engine maker GE Aviation.

Source: New York Times

Airlines busy drawing new links to Hyderabad, Bangalore

With new airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore slated to start operations within the next two months a host of domestic and international airlines have already planned additional flights and new

connections to make use of the new facilities coming up there. The Executive Chairman, SpiceJet, Mr Siddhanta Sharma, told Business Line that his airline would be stationing a 189 seater Boeing 737-800 aircraft in Hyderabad when the new airport opens. 'We will operate six additional daily flights from Hyderabad including a second daily flight to Delhi and offer a twice-a-day connection between Hyderabad and Vizag,' Mr Sharma said.

Source: Business Line

Aviation sector to seek fuel tax rationalisation

The wish list of the domestic aviation sector from the Union Budget 2008-09 would be communicated to the Ministry of Finance on January 16 at a meeting the Minister for Civil Aviation, Mr Praful Patel, would have with the Finance Minister, Mr P. Chidambaram. Official sources said that the issue of rationalising taxes and duties on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and providing income tax relief by extending the benefits of carry-forward and set off accumulated losses and unabsorbed depreciation to private sector airlines going in for merger or acquisition would be the key issues to be raised.

Source: Business Line

ANTRIX Corp and Euromap GmbH Further Expand Cooperation with New Agreement for CARTOSAT-1 Satellite

Euromap GmbH, a wholly owned subsidiary of GAF AG, and ANTRIX Corporation Limited of India announced today their new agreement to expand Euromap's

participation in the Indian Remote Sensing satellite program with the reception and distribution of high-resolution stereo imagery from the Cartosat-1 (IRS-P5) satellite. The Indian constellation of Earth Observation satellites is marketed through ANTRIX, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), and Earth Observation Technologies LLC (EOTec) as agents for ANTRIX. Under the terms of the new three year agreement with ANTRIX and EOTec, Euromap will have the exclusive distribution rights in Europe to receive and distribute Cartosat-1 data collected over Europe and North Africa.

Source: GISuser.com

Defence technologies: Challenges before the DRDO

A plane that can fly six times faster than sound; an underwater vehicle that negotiates complicated trenches and ridges without human assistance; an electronic bomb that clogs a hostile nation's entire electronics within minutes. Sounds futuristic! Ideas lifted straight from science fiction titles! These are some of the cutting edge technologies, which the defence research development agencies want to develop in the next decade. But challenges are daunting. First, the budget is too meagre to carry out high-end strategic research. Officially, the DRDO got more than Rs 5,000 crore in the last two budgets. But only one third of the money was available for research.

Source: Deccan Herald

Air Force unhappy with TEC's decision

India's efforts to develop a combat aircraft engine have hit yet another air pocket. Both the Russians and the Indian Air Force are unhappy for different reasons with the Technical Evaluation Committee's (TEC's) decision to choose the French engine house Snecma as the Gas Turbine Research Establishment's (GTRE's) partner to co-develop the long-delayed Kaveri engine. The Kaveri is expected to power the indigenously developed light combat aircraft Tejas. The K.V.L Rao-headed TEC after deliberating over

the proposals sent by Snecma and the Russian engine giant NPO Saturn for more than two years, recently declared that Snecma, better met the GTRE's requirements, thereby eliminating the Russians from the race.

Source: The Hindu

Bangalore to have new aviation MRO facility

Bangalore-based Varman Aviation is planning to set up a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility here to cater

to the requirements of Rolls-Royce 250 series engines, Bell Helicopters and the Islanders of Indian Navy by mid-2009. This facility would cater to the requirements by Pratt & Whitney 100 series turbo prop engines for atr 42/72 aircraft in operation in India with major airlines from next. year, the company's president & CEO, Mr M M Varman, told reporters. The first overhauled Pratt & Whitney PTGA engine was handed over to Bihar government at a ceremony.

Source: Indian Express

Flight test of BrahMos cruise missile next year: Pillai

Flight test of the air version of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile will be conducted in 2009, Chief Executive and Managing Director of BrahMos Aerospace, New Delhi, and Chief Controller (Research and Development), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Dr A. Sivathanu Pillai said. Induction of the BrahMos missile in the Army and Navy is under progress and the production capability would be enhanced to beyond 100 units a year if the need arises owing to the interest evinced by about 10 countries including developed nations, Dr. Pillai said responding to queries from mediapersons.

Source: The Hindu

'DRDO has taken the country to elite club'

Tactical systems such as main battle tank Arjun, light combat aircraft Tejas, a family of radars, electronic warfare systems, sonars, torpedoes, armaments and missiles have been successfully developed in the country and many of them are being delivered to the armed forces. The recent success of the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) in the launch of interceptor missile and Agni-III has taken our country into the elite club of a few developed nations. DRDO has achieved an appreciable level of self-reliance in nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) defence technologies and a large quantity of these products are already being delivered to the defence forces. Life support technologies and products developed by the DRDO have significantly enhanced health and operational efficiency

of our soldiers operating in extremes of environmental and operational conditions.

Source: Business Standard

Agni-III-plus missile test likely next year

India hopes to test a long-range missile with near ICBM (inter-continental ballistic missile) capabilities - largely the preserve of countries like US, Russia, China, France and UK till now - by early next year. Defence Research and Development Organization chief controller for missiles, Mr V K Saraswat, said that the Agni-III-plus missile, with a strike range in excess of 5,000 km, was in the design stage at present. "We are looking for trial in early 2009," he said on the sidelines of the 95th Indian Science Congress at Vishakapatnam.

Source: Times of India

Akash missile flight-tested; ready for production

The public sector companies Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) and Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) have formed a consortia, with active participation from private sector to manufacture medium range Akash missiles. The country's first, fully indigenous, surface-to-air missile (SAM), has been flight-tested for defence services and is ready for production, said Dr Prahlada, Chief Controller (R&D), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). There is an estimated Rs 5,000-crore opportunity in the next 10 years for the public and private sector companies to meet the projected demands of Akash, he told newsmen here today.

Source: Business Line

Aerospace Industries Association raises pitch for park near Hyderabad

The recent decision by Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) to allot 250 acres is expected to give a momentum to the Aerospace Park project. In the past few years, the defence labs, private and public sector companies and the Aeronautical society of India, Hyderabad chapter have been making consistent attempts for the project to turn the city into an aviation hub. The Aerospace Industries Association (ASIA) has come up with a concrete proposal, which they have submitted to the Andhra Pradesh Government, to establish an Aerospace Park to exploit the growing market opportunities.

Source: Business Line

AI to set up hub at Munich: Patel

National carrier Air India will set up a hub at Munich within a year to provide integrated connectivity in the European region and neighbouring countries, according to the Civil Aviation Minister, Mr Praful Patel. "Air India is likely to open its major hub in Munich. They have taken a decision and it (Air India) is already and it (Air India) is already invited to join Star Alliance to provide integrated connected flights within Europe and elsewhere," Mr Patel said, adding that it may take about one year to begin the operations.

Source: Business Line

New defence purchase policy soon

The government is set to revise the defence purchase policy unveiled two years ago, according to sources in the Defence Ministry. The policy governs purchases worth over Rs. 40,000 crores being made by the armed forces every year. The altered policy is likely to be announced within the next couple of months after a few issues are sorted out. Bowing to demands from Western arms suppliers, particularly aviation companies bidding for a \$10 billion contract, the biggest change will be in the offset clause of the 2006 Defence Purchase Policy. The clause makes it

mandatory for all foreign companies winning defence contracts to source 30 percent of the value of the contract from India.

Source: The Hindu

India, Dubai Duke It Out For MRO Work

The United Arab Emirates and India have combined for hundreds upon hundreds of commercial aircraft orders over the past few years, with more on the way... and now, the race is on to build facilities to maintain and repair all those jets. Dubai — which rivals the state of Texas for bragging rights to the "bigger is better" philosophy — plans a 56-square-mile aerospace complex dubbed "Aviation City," complete with mega-airport and a \$1.5 billion maintenance facility capable of handling up to 400 planes at once. A similar boom is also underway in India... where no fewer than nine brand-new, and massive, complexes are in the works, for such companies as Boeing, EADS, and Lufthansa Technik AG.

Source: Aero-News Network

IAF to get 40 more Hawk AJTs

The Air Force, which is acquiring 66 Hawk advanced jet trainers (AJTs) designed and developed by BAE Systems, has prevailed upon the government to allow it to procure another 40 out of the 57 additional Hawks that are to be bought. The Navy will get 17. Under a contract worth around \$1.75 billion signed in March 2004, India is already buying 66 Hawk AJTs, with 24 of these aircraft being built in the United Kingdom by BAE Systems, and the remaining 42 manufactured under 'licence build' in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Source: The Hindu

National Aviation Services and Jet Airways of India sign strategic ground handling agreement

National Aviation Services (NAS), the region's fastest growing private airline ground handling company today announced the signing of a service agreement with India's leading private airline Jet Airways of India. According to this agreement, NAS will provide Jet Airways with Passenger Services, Cargo Services and Ramp Handling at the Kuwait International Airport.

Jet Airways will initially be operating 2 flights a day on the Kuwait - Delhi and Kuwait - Cochin sectors respectively using their Boeing 737-800s. The airline plans on increasing its capacity to possibly 4 flights a day to include the Kuwait - Mumbai sector as well in the near future.

Source: AME Info

Commercial MRO Services (AWACS). As per the agreement, Taneja would be licensing seven acres of land and upto five-hanger space on a long term basis. The company intends to develop its private airfield as an MRO and aviation park and says this agreement would facilitate the plan. The company expects this to result in cash inflow of around Rs 7.50 crore per annum.

Source: Business Standard

Taneja Aerospace in MRO deal with AWACS

Taneja Aerospace and Aviation has entered into maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility agreement with Air Works

International Conference on Aerospace Science and Technology June 26-28, 2008

Venue:

National Science Seminar Complex
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

Organised by :

National Aerospace Laboratories
(Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)
Bangalore, India

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ISRO, IIT-B team up for tele-education

A major initiative towards providing satellite-based tele-education facilities to engineering colleges across the country was launched, jointly by Indian Space Research Organisation in association with Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. The teaching end is set up at IIT-Bombay by ISRO which will provide satellite band-width and install ground equipment at various recipient institutes across the country, while IIT-Bombay will arrange for delivering full-fledged courses on various engineering topics. An MoU in this regard was signed between ISRO and IIT-Bombay.

Source: Times of India

Road shows by DAE University in India

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise University (DAE University), the education and training arm of Dubai Aerospace Enterprise, has launched a series of road shows in all important Indian metropolises to target Indian students interested in equipping themselves with a global qualification. DAE University is known worldwide for its quality programmes that offer opportunity to study engineering and management focused primarily on aviation and aerospace arena in a world-class environment. Dubai-based university's various customized study programs can give a boost for bright career opportunities in the county for both undergraduates and post-graduate students.

Source: Indiaedunews.net

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