



MRO Show Points To Pool Of Skilled Personnel As Future Success For Aviation Maintenance Industry In Middle East

Conference & exhibition venue for new service agreements & partnerships

Dubai, UAE. 1 March 2010 - The future success of aviation maintenance in the Middle East lies in the region's high availability of skilled engineers and technicians, according to remarks at the close of the MRO Middle East conference and exhibition at Dubai's Airport Expo.

Yassine Sabbagh, Executive Director of MASCO, Middle East Airlines, said: "Over the past year, the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul industry worldwide took a big hit. The reduction of spend by four per cent by airlines translates into a reduction of some 12 per cent in MRO. In commercial aviation, MRO spend globally was reduced to just US\$41.8 billion in 2009, compared to \$44 billion in 2008, and \$45 billion in the peak year of 2007.

"However, the Middle East will be the gateway to Europe, the US and Asia for the MRO industry in the future, due to its strong infrastructure and a strong network of MRO service providers," he said, adding: "The main advantage is its high availability of skilled workers and the competitive labour cost, which is halfway between that of Europe and Asia.

This advantage will pay good dividends in the next few years when the Middle East carriers take delivery of their aircraft orders and when we start seeing the expected increase in low-cost airlines. The future is bright for this region."

The MRO Middle East show is one of three running all this week as part of 'Aerospace Week', which was inaugurated at Airport Expo, Dubai, by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai's Department of Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline & Group.

Produced by Dubai Airshow organiser F&E Aerospace and AVIATION WEEK, MRO ME has been the venue for a number of announcements by companies exhibiting, including the announcement by Trax USA Corp. of a new partnership with Gulf Air to supply Trax Maintenance, its top-selling MRO software, to manage their MRO operations, plus the signing of a three-year service agreement between US-based Chromalloy and Jordan Airmotive Ltd.Co. (JAL Co.).

Alison Weller, Managing Director of F&E Aerospace, commented: "MRO Middle East comes at a time when the region's aerospace industry is posting its biggest air passenger growth rate of over 11 per cent for 2009 and we can expect to see the maintenance sector enjoying comparable growth which translates into substantial revenue.

"Not only is the show providing a stage for companies to launch new products and announce new partnerships, it is addressing issues of relevance to this region, enabling industry players to discuss them among their peers. For anyone in the MRO business, this show is the only place to be."

The second part of Aerospace Week features the inaugural Aerospace & Defence Training Show (ADTS), from 3 to 4 March 2010, in association with Halldale Media, which comprises an exhibition featuring simulation training companies, training providers, colleges and manufacturers, and a conference covering topics such as how to engage youth in aviation and pilot training programmes.