

Bombardier Signs Five LOIs for Challenger 800s

Morris Shirazi, founder and owner of Fort Lauderdale-based Aero Toy Store, an unnamed Ukrainian firm and an anonymous European firm signed letters of intent, secured by deposits, for five Challenger 800-series corporate shuttles fresh on the heels of Bombardier's program launch at EBACE in Geneva. Shirazi signed for two Challenger 850s, and the two European firms bought one 850 and two 870s.

If the three firms convert the LOIs into sales, the total value of the contracts will be worth \$145 million, according to Leo Knaapen, public relations chief for Bombardier business aircraft.

The \$29 million Challenger 850 started life as the Corporate RJ several years ago. It's based on the CRJ200 and it's capable of flying 27 passengers up to 2,200 nmi when fitted with aux belly tanks. The Challenger 870, the aircraft featured in the June 2005 issue of Business &



Bombardier Business Aircraft president Peter Edwards (left) with Morris Shirazi of Aero Toy Store (center).

Commercial Aviation, is a new aircraft based upon the CRJ 700. Bombardier also offers the Challenger 890, based upon the CRJ900, but the Montreal firm has

yet to announce any LOIs or sales for the largest member of the family.

Bombardier also announced a \$16 million, 97,000-square-foot expansion of its factory-owned

service center at Dallas-Love, a large addition to its DFW training center, and Transport Canada certification of its EVS aboard the Global 5000. —Fred George



Mike Creed, center, is group aircraft sales director at Harrods Aviation.

First UK Legacy Delivered

Embraer yesterday announced delivery of the first UK-registered Legacy Executive Jet. Destined for operator Air Yianis, it was delivered through Harrods Aviation, Embraer's UK and Ireland authorized sales agent. "Since becoming a factory-authorized sales representative for Embraer in the UK in October 2004, Harrods Aviation and Embraer have built up a very special relationship and look forward to a mutually successful future," commented Mike Creed, aircraft sales director at Harrods.

The Legacy has the largest cabin of any business jet certified to operate at London City Airport (LCY), from which its range will permit operations to destinations such as Moscow, Cairo and the Azores while carrying eight passengers at normal cruising speed.

MEADS Is a Very Big Deal Indeed, If 3.5 Billion Dollars Impresses

The four leaders of the the trans-Atlantic MEADS (Medium-range Extended Air Defense) consortium came together at Le Bourget to shake on the \$3.4 billion system design and development deal, signed last month after long years of work.

MBDA boss Marwan Lahoud said that MEADS will be the backbone of all future air defense systems, and the deal was particu-

larly significant in recognizing that Germany and Italy were key high-tech contributors. He also pointed out that global security could not be established without true trans-Atlantic co-operation.

MEADS will now move forward to complete a 110 month program that will see the first test launches occur in 2011-13 and a system deployment in 2013-14.—Robert Hewson



EADS/LFK CEO Werner Kaltenecker, MEADS President Jim Cravens, MBDA CEO Marwan Lahoud, and MBDA MD Fabrizio Giulianini.