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### **EASA issues AD over A380 cracking problem**




The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has, as expected, issued an Airworthiness Directive (AD) following the recent discovery of cracks in the wing brackets on a number of A380s.

The Agency said that after unscheduled internal inspection some rib feet had been found with cracks originating from the rib to skin panel attachment holes. "Further to this finding, inspections were carried out on a number of other aeroplanes where further cracks have been found. During one of those inspections, a new form of rib foot cracking originating from the forward and aft edges of the vertical web of the rib feet has been identified (Type 2 cracks according to Airbus AOT terminology). The new form of cracking is more significant than the original rib foot hole cracking. It has been determined that the Type 2 cracks may develop on other aeroplanes after a period of time in service". It added that "This condition, if not detected and corrected, could potentially affect the structural integrity of the aeroplane".

The Directive, which is effective as from the 24<sup>th</sup> January, applies to those A380s that have accumulated 1,800 flight cycles or more since first flight, these must be inspected within 4 days or 14 flight cycles, whichever occurs first. For A380s that have accumulated between 1,300 and 1,799 flight cycles since their first flight, inspections must take place within six weeks or 84 flight cycles, whichever occurs first.

### **Jet Airways posts fourth consecutive quarterly loss, excises option on B737s**

**JET AIRWAYS**  Jet Airways has posted its fourth consecutive quarterly loss blaming high fuel prices and the continued depreciation of the rupee.

The Indian airline reported a loss of INR1.01 billion for the three months ended December, a year ago Jet announced a profit of INR1.18 billion. However the carrier posted an operating profit of INR2.5 billion on the back of a 13 per cent rise in revenues.

Jet's CEO, Nikos Kardassis, commented "High fuel prices together with depreciating Indian

Rupee versus US Dollar have pulled down the operating results to an extent; however yield improvements due to seasonality and narrowing gap between demand supply imbalances have helped the airlines to post operating profits”.

The airline also announced that it has exercised options on 10 B737-800s originally included in an order for 20 of the aircraft placed in 2007. It has also converted an order for two B777-300ERs to seven B737-800s with options on another five.

### THY to acquire LOT?



Turkish Airlines (THY) could be considering a bid for LOT Polish Airlines. Today’s Zaman, the English language Turkish daily quoted a television interview by THY’s Chairman Hamdi Topçu on Saturday, in which he said that he had recently met with the Polish Economy Minister who asked whether he would be interested in buying Poland’s flag carrier. THY has revealed that it has commenced research to evaluate the sale process of LOT and is planning to meet with Polish officials in the near future.

### Cathay signs for A350s



Cathay Pacific has revealed in a stock exchange filing that it agreed a deal with Airbus for the supply of six A350-900s, worth approximately \$1.628 billion at list prices. Delivery is expected to commence in 2016.

The filing said that the airline will pay for the aircraft in eight instalments and be funded by bank loans together with “other debt instruments of the Company and/or cash generated from the Company’s business operations”.

### Piece of Aviation History for January 23



**1909** - The Blériot Type XI, one of the most successful monoplanes designed and built during the early days of aviation, makes its first flight. Designed primarily by Raymond Saulnier, it was a natural evolution from earlier Blériot aircraft, and one to which Louis Blériot himself made substantial contributions. The original XI was designed and built the previous year and powered by an R.E.P. engine turning a four blade metal paddle type propeller however this proved to be unsatisfactory. Blériot then decided to use a 25 horsepower Anzani 3 cylinder radial engine driving a two blade Chauviere wooden propeller with much better results. The Blériot XI introduced some new ideas such as castoring landing gear which permitted landings in crosswinds and wing warping (instead of ailerons) which controlled roll. The tail section of the Blériot XI included a horizontal stabilizer with an elevator, and a rudder. The aircraft achieved fame later in the year when Blériot made his successful crossing of the English Channel.

### Quote of the Day

Man is the only animal that blushes....or needs to. Mark Twain, (1835 - 1910)

### A Bit of Light Relief

John, who had been injured in an accident went looking for a lawyer to represent him without cost. One lawyer told him that he would take the case on contingency.

When John asked what "contingency" was, the lawyer replied, "If I don't win your lawsuit, I don't get anything. If I do win your lawsuit, you don't get anything."