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Volume 1, Issue 1

Precision Turbines welcomes you to the first volume of our company's newsletter. We hope you find this information relevant and educational, we have worked hard to create a newsletter that will appeal to the broad spectrum of clients we serve. We will select articles that touch on a variety of topics, such as safety, air transport, flight instrumentation, and corporations. We are always open to suggestions, if there are topics you would like to read about, please let us know.

At Precision Turbines we purchase, sell and lease turbofan and turboprop engines, with special focus on the JT15D and its upgrades. We are totally devoted to serving our customers in an honest and professional fashion. Our employees stand ready to meet your needs in these markets, and we look forward to putting our experience to work for you. We hope to hear from you.

[www.precisionturbines.net](http://www.precisionturbines.net)

#### CRASH MAY STEM FROM SUSTAINED EXPOSURE TO EXTREME COLD WEATHER

Vulnerability of digital engine control can be a common mode failure. The crash of a British Airways B777 on 17 January 2008 ended approximately 13 accident-free years since the high-technology fly-by-wire airplane first entered revenue service in 1995. From what can be surmised at this point, the crash could potentially be a black eye for automation. Details remain sketchy, but the flight BA038 accident occurred in the last moments before landing at London's Heathrow Airport after a trans-polar flight from Beijing. Up until that point, the flight had been like thousands the B777 has made routinely over intercontinental distances... [Read More](#)

#### CESSNA TO BUILD LARGEST-EVER CITATION JET

Cessna Aircraft has unveiled plans to develop the Citation 850 Columbus, an eight-seat twin jet slated to fly 4,000 nautical miles at Mach 0.80, or from Munich to New York nonstop against the worst winter winds. The largest and longest-range Citation ever, the Columbus will debut two new component technologies: The Pratt & Whitney Canada PW810—first of a family of "green" turbofans—and the Rockwell Collins Pro Line Fusion integrated avionics system.

#### AIRLINE FLIES BOEING 747 WITH BIOFUEL

Virgin Atlantic carried out the world's first flight of a commercial aircraft powered with biofuel on Sunday in an effort to show it can produce less carbon dioxide than normal... [Read More](#)

#### CATHAY CHIEF 777 PILOT FIRED AFTER LOW-LEVEL STUNT

Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways has fired a senior pilot for carrying out an unauthorized low-level flypast in Seattle during the delivery flight of a Boeing 777-300ER last month... [Read More](#)

#### WHY DELTA-NORTHWEST WON'T WORK

That's the headline from Fortune, where the publication's Barry Gimbel says the idea that consolidation "will solve all of the industry's woes" is far-fetched. Speaking of Delta-NWA, Gimbel... [Read More](#)

## **NORTHROP-EADS WINS U.S. AIR FORCE TANKER, BEATS BOEING**

An international consortium led by U.S. giant Northrop Grumman and European conglomerate EADS has won the U.S. Air Force's competition for the next fleet of new aerial refueling aircraft, officials announced late Feb. 29. The winners beat U.S. contracting behemoth Boeing, which had been expected in some circles to win the award. The much-awaited and delayed decision, which could set off a round of contracting bid protests, comes after a heated competition between the defense industry giants and that touched on everything from a previous Boeing tanker scandal to world trade subsidies and Buy American... [Read More](#)

## **FAA MANDATES PLASTIC PILOT CERTIFICATE**

Still hanging onto your paper pilot certificate? You'll need to upgrade to a plastic pilot certificate by March 31, 2010. The FAA released its final rule Feb. 28, announcing the required switch to the certificate it deems is more counterfeit resistant. When the FAA proposed this mandate in 2005, AOPA members overwhelmingly supported the move to a more secure certificate. If you are attached to your paper certificate and original issuance date (the plastic certificate will have a new one), don't worry. You can keep your paper certificate for nostalgia; you just can't use it to fly. [Read More](#)

## **OLDEST BOEING RETURNS TO AIR**

Scud running in 1928 was no safer than it is now. A pilot who tried it in a monster biplane called a Boeing 40C suffered a dramatic conclusion. The Pacific Air Transport airplane, which flew passengers and the mail in an enclosed cabin while the pilot sat out in the breeze, clipped trees for a mile, slicing one and then another, until a mountain got in its way near Canyonville, Ore. The single passenger died, and the cargo of diamonds scattered. There the wreckage sat for 70 years until it was recovered by the Oregon Aviation Historical Society and sold to Addison Pemberton. Now, eight years later and with the help of 61 volunteers who put in 18,000 hours, it's flying again... [Read More](#)

## **SERIOUS RUNWAY INCURSIONS HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR AWARENESS**

Two high-profile taxiway incidents in a single week have focused national media attention on runway safety issues soon after Rep. Jerry Costello called on the FAA to make regular reports to Congress on the status of runway safety efforts. On Sunday, Feb. 24, two United Airlines jets clipped wing tips on a taxiway at Dulles International Airport, outside Washington, D.C. The incident came one week after a similar episode at Washington, D.C.'s Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport forced the evacuation of 63 passengers from two US Airways planes. [Read More](#) to learn how you can prevent a runway incursion and the associated negative media attention.

## **777 SAFETY ALERT**

American Airlines Flight 229, a Boeing 777 bound from MIA to LAX, had the left engine hang up on approach to LAX at approximately 2,000 feet. The auto throttles were on and the left engine hung at approach idle as the right engine accelerated normally. It is believed that the left engine would not respond to throttle inputs for 10-15 seconds before finally responding and accelerating to the commanded thrust. The right engine performed normally. Maintenance has downloaded the DFDR data and Maintenance action to be taken (ATBT) will be to sump the fuel tanks, pull the engine fuel filters and check for contamination, BITE check the EEC and check the MAT for any existing faults.

## **PRATT & WHITNEY NEW ENGINE ATTRACTS INTEREST**

Pratt & Whitney said a new geared turboprop engine (GTF) will challenge existing non-geared engines on the market by reducing fuel burn by more than 12 percent and reducing carbon dioxide emissions, maintenance costs and noise, resulting in \$1.5 million in annual cost savings per aircraft. Mitsubishi and Bombardier have already chosen the GTF to power new aircraft types expected to launch this year. P&W is hoping it also will become the engine of choice for future replacements for single-aisle jets such as the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320.

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All contacts, comments, and enquires will be reviewed immediately. You will have a response from our company principal, Robert Spahr, whose personal email address is: [rspahr@precisionturbines.net](mailto:rspahr@precisionturbines.net), just as soon as feasibly possible.

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