Aviation Week Network Releases 2025 Commercial Fleet & MRO Forecast

Commercial aviation to grow over the next decade; Airbus to lead narrowbody market. Engine retirements peak in 2028; Leap & GTF engine issues create headwinds.

Aviation Week Network Logo

NEW YORK , NY, UNITED STATES, October 14, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Aviation Week Network today releases its 2025 Commercial Fleet & MRO Forecasts, a ten-year outlook of the air transport industry. Produced with independent projections and data by Aviation Week Intelligence Network's (AWIN) internal forecasting teams, the forecast findings show commercial deliveries to increase in velocity and MRO aftermarket demand growth to follow suit producing nearly $1.4 trillion in MRO demand after growing at a 3.2% CAGR. With increased utilization and longer-lived engines and airframes, engine shop visits are expected to yield $557.6 billion in demand necessitating over 95,000 overhaul events over the decade.

"Full operational recovery in almost every area of the world is pointing us to even higher expectations of worldwide commercial air service demand," said Brian Kough, Senior Director, Forecasts & Aerospace Insights, Intelligence & Data Services. "However, this surge in demand is tempered by supply chain demands still impacting nearly every aspect of the ecosystem and the labor market suffering from a lack of skilled technicians. From OEMs to MRO providers, flight crews, and ground staff, the industry is grappling with increased costs and capacity challenges. On the OEM side, struggles with delivering products bears watching. Tier one suppliers like Spirit AeroSystems, CFM International and Pratt & Whitney all hold critical roles in keeping Airbus and Boeing production on pace to meet demands for up to nine-years of aircraft backlog."

Key highlights from the forecast include the dominance of narrowbody aircraft deliveries, looming retirements, and ongoing supply chain challenges.

Narrowbody jets will account for 76% of the projected 21,900 global deliveries by 2034. Airbus is expected to strengthen its market position, with A320 family deliveries outpacing Boeing 737 deliveries by more than 2,000 aircraft by the end of the forecast period.

While near-term aircraft retirements remain low due to operators hedging against new-generation delays, retirements are expected to surge by 2028, particularly in North America. This spike could disrupt the legacy engine parts market as a flood of used serviceable materials (USM) enters the supply chain.

Supply chain constraints, particularly around critical components and skilled labor shortages, continue to present challenges across the aviation ecosystem, potentially slowing OEM deliveries and inflating operational costs.

The 2025 Commercial Fleet & MRO Forecast findings detail market demands and industry trends accounting for the impact of economic and macro trends on global fleets and MRO. By combining current fleet counts and stats, projected aircraft fleet changes, in-house flight data derived utilization projections, and segmented MRO cost analytics, the forecast delivers critical strategic insights for the commercial market sector.

The 2025 Business Aviation and Helicopter Fleet & MRO Forecasts are also now available. The 2025 military forecast is to be released on November 4.

For more information on Aviation Week Network's 2025 Fleet & MRO Forecasts or to subscribe, contact Anne McMahon at +1 646 469 1564, anne.mcmahon@aviationweek.com or go to https://aviationweek.com/fleetforecast

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