

International events highlight responsible development of business aviation around globe

Safe and responsible business aviation is enabled by key industry events, Ed Bolen reviews upcoming trade events and conferences

In addition to its more than 70 years of advocacy on behalf of business aviation operators across North America, the NBAA also encourages safe and responsible business aviation operations around the globe. One of the most effective methods for sharing this message is through key industry events and trade conferences.

At the forefront of these efforts is NBAA's International Operators Conference (IOC2018), taking place 26-29 March in Las Vegas, NV. This annual event provides operational, regulatory and real-life information critical for safe, efficient and compliant international business aviation operations.

Attendees at IOC2018 will receive the latest information about international regulations and security; receive important updates from every ICAO region around the world; and learn about the latest technological innovations affecting the industry. They will also have opportunities to exchange best practices with other global operators, and network with international service providers.

NBAA also promotes this vital industry's growth and development around the world through its support for influential international business aviation gatherings in China and Europe. For example, the Asian Business Aviation Conference & Exhibition (ABACE) is the premier event dedicated to showcasing business aviation's impact throughout China and the Asia-Pacific region.

Co-hosted by NBAA, the Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA) and the Shanghai Airport Authority (SAA) and coming to Shanghai, China on 17-19 April, ABACE2018 is the perfect venue for investors considering aviation as a business opportunity; companies thinking of using an aircraft for business; and flight departments that have long used aircraft as a valuable business tool.

Over the past seven years, ABACE has grown to become a must-attend event not only for industry stakeholders in China and throughout the Asia-Pacific – including business aviation leaders, entrepreneurs, flight department per-

sonnel, aircraft-purchase decision makers and other high-level attendees – but also for the worldwide business aviation community.

Officials throughout the region have also recognized the event's important role in driving the integrated development of cities and airports, as part of the greater effort to help facilitate the development of general aviation in China, and its significance as a critical industry throughout the Asia-Pacific.

I invite the readers of World Commerce Review to consider attending one of these impressive events in the coming months to experience the strength and diversity of our industry firsthand

The following month will bring the European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (EBACE2018) to Geneva's Palexpo Convention Center. Taking place 29-31 May in Geneva, Switzerland, the convention will bring together business leaders, government officials, manufacturers, flight department personnel and all manner of people involved in nearly every aspect of business aviation.

Jointly hosted each year by NBAA and the European Business Aviation Association (EBAA), the leading association for business aviation in Europe, EBACE is Europe's largest event showcasing business aviation products and services.

Industry professionals from throughout Europe and around the world will benefit from informative presentations and educational sessions, as well as opportunities to network with their peers to exchange knowledge and best practices. More than 450 exhibitors will be on hand at EBACE2018 showcasing the latest products and services, with dozens of business aircraft of all sizes, and for a variety of missions, on static display.

Another key aspect of EBACE is its ability to bring together influential leaders, government officials, and key industry stakeholders to discuss regulations and policies of importance to not only European business aviation operators, but to the industry across the globe. This important role will continue in 2018.

Changes at Geneva Airport to benefit EBACE attendees

This year, EBACE attendees will find also several changes at Geneva Airport (LSGG) – located adjacent to the Palexpo – aimed at benefitting all stakeholders, including business aviation operators. For example, refinements to the Prior Permission Required (PPR) system for coordinating general aviation slots are expected to optimize efficiency and capacity at the Swiss airport. Prior to December 1, parking and slot coordination was handled by airport FBOs, with reservations available up to 21 days in advance of an intended flight. Since the December 1 system change, reserva-

tion availability may still be viewed 21 days ahead of a flight, but slots are now available from FBOs five days ahead of an intended trip.

The new approach will allow for more flexibility, accommodating scenarios such as the need to change an aircraft due to maintenance or other issues. Efficiency and slot availability will also be increased, because a new 'match requirement' – under which operators will file a flight plan, then request a slot reservation – will ensure that files containing mismatches between flight plans and slot requests are not included in the system.

In a related development, construction remains underway to increase overall airport capacity by 2019. This work requires a temporary reduction in aircraft parking capacity, and towing into marked parking areas, but the ultimate result will be greater space for airport users.

The changes are the result of cooperation between the Geneva Airport Authority, EBAA Switzerland, the Geneva Business Aviation Association and other user groups. They represent meaningful developments that benefit business aviation operations, increase efficiencies and add capacity at Geneva Airport. Additional refinements may be made over time to further improve efficiencies based on operator feedback.

NBAA remains committed in 2018 to protecting and promoting the global development of business aviation as a vital, safe and secure industry. On behalf of the more than 11,000 members of NBAA, I invite the readers of *World Commerce Review* to consider attending one of these impressive events in the coming months to experience the strength and diversity of our industry firsthand. ■

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