



FLYING HIGH

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It has been now one hundred years since the first sea plane landed in Malta. As Malta celebrates its hundred years of aviation, the Malta Business Aviation Association is proud of the success the country has achieved in the past five years within the business aviation industry.

Since Malta enacted the Malta Aircraft Register Act in 2010, and soon after became a signatory of the Cape Town convention, business aviation companies from across Europe and the world came to Malta in the scores. With close to thirty EASA Air Operating Certificate licensed business jet operators and close to a hundred business jets on the Maltese aircraft register, despite its tiny size Malta is punching well above its weight.

Within the European Union and not just, Malta is one of the fastest growing reputable business aviation jurisdictions. Despite the economic downturn and uncertain recovery Malta has proven to be not only resilient but also innovative, providing serious business aviation aircraft management companies operators with a sound legal framework which is efficient and cost effective.

The Maltese jurisdiction provides the operating and managing companies with the confidence that in the ever changing EASA legislative framework the Maltese Civil Aviation Directorate will not only regulate but does so safely and efficiently. As a signatory of the Cape Town convention, business jet owners and financiers alike have the comfort that their asset and their investment is protected and recognised through a well-oiled and efficient mechanism, which has proved its clout and substance, time and again in the past five years.

As a small island in the Mediterranean, Malta has always acknowledged the importance of aviation for its survival. Hardly any businessmen or government official is indifferent to the aviation industry. The aviation sector provides the island with

connectivity it requires to exist and prosper. Scheduled and charter airlines connect Malta to world 365 days a year. Having one of the longest runways in Europe, Malta International Airport can handle any type of aircraft. The aviation industry in Malta has found a jurisdiction which does not give it lip service, but instead the support it requires for a sustained growth.

The aviation economic activity on the island is testament to this. The island hosts some of the most renowned and largest Maintenance Repair Organisations in Europe, whether a scheduled airline or a business jet operator, the island has it covered. Government and private schools provide a myriad of aviation courses, not only to serve its own demand, but in view of the expertise available on the island, the country is also experiencing a growth of foreign individuals and organisation who undertake their aviation training requirements in Malta.

The MBAA recognises the fact that to remain at the forefront of this industry the Maltese private and public sector need to continue to work together to improve the framework and sustain the growth. To this end one of the most ambitious programs of the association is that amongst other activities, the Malta Business Aviation Association together with Malta Enterprise, a government agency, have embarked on a project to create an aviation cluster with the participation of both the private and public sector. The objective of the cluster is to collectively work together to increase the productivity, services offered and gain a competitive edge.

For the fifth year the MBAA, Malta Enterprise and Transport Malta will be participating in Europe's largest business aviation conventions and exhibitions. It provides not only a platform for the local service providers but also for future customers of the jurisdiction the opportunity to meet and discuss why Malta with the authorities but also members of the aviation community who experience it first-hand. See you in Geneva. ■

