FALCON AVIATION INCREASES ITS MRO CAPABILITIES: ADDS BOMBARDIER Q400 BASE MAINTENANCE AT ITS AL BATEEN, ABU DHABI MRO FACILITY.

News / Business aviation, Events / Festivals, Maintenance / Trainings

Marks its third year of fixed wing operations for ADNOC from Al Bateen.

Falcon Aviation, one of the UAE's leading aviation companies specialising in business aviation services, charter and aircraft management, is further broadening its MRO expertise having obtained GCAA approval to start Bombardier Q400 base maintenance in its Fixed Wing Hangar at its Al Bateen Executive Airport HQ, Abu Dhabi.

It will support its own six-strong fleet of Q400 NGs, three of which are operating on the AOC of Qazaq Air in Kazakhstan, serving domestic routes in the country. Qazak Air will bring one of its Q400s into Al Bateen for maintenance in the next few weeks.

"We are delighted to have this accreditation to carry out base maintenance and provide MRO on the Q400NGs," said Falcon Aviation COO Captain Raman Oberoi. Falcon Aviation's fixed wing and rotary wing MRO at Bateen Airport already holds capabilities for Embraer

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and Gulfstream Business Jets; the Pilatus PC-12, Airbus Helicopters, Leonardo Helicopters and Bell Helicopters.

Falcon Aviation is also marking three successful years' flying on its fixed wing oil and gas operations with daily flight services operated by two Q400NGs - between Al Bateen and Das Island, and between Al Bateen and Zirku Island. The service, which started in September 2015 to serve demand from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has grown from an initial 61,000 passengers in its first year to 187,000 in 2016, increasing to 215,000 passengers during 2017. Today, the route supports 12 flights daily, back and forth, carrying 700 passengers a day.

Falcon Aviation at Abu Dhabi Air Expo

"We were born at Al Bateen 11 years ago and are proud to have been instrumental in helping the airport become a thriving aviation hub," Capt Raman said. Accordingly, Falcon is both obliged and pleased to return, as an exhibitor, to the biennial ***Abu Dhabi Air Expo 2018*** which opens its doors this week (February 26th to 28th), organised by 4M Events.

Falcon Aviation is showcasing a Leonardo AW189 in 19-seat configuration and an Embraer Legacy business jet from its charter fleet in the static.

At the show it will talk up its renowned expertise in VIP and Offshore Helicopter operations. Falcon was global launch customer of the Leonardo offshore-configured AW169 and recently ordered three more aircraft to serve a new oil contract in Kuwait. This bolsters its total fleet of Leonardo helicopters to 11, including five AW169s, two AW189s, plus **four AW109 Grand light twin helicopters.**

Falcon Aviation is committed to building the necessary infrastructure to support business and regional aviation in the GCC region. Mirroring its breadth of expertise at its Al Bateen HQ, it is working at a fast pace on a brand new showcase 20,000 sqm MRO hangar facility at DWC Airport in Dubai. Together with 13,000 sqm of apron space, the facility is on course to open at the end of this year. The facility will provide maintenance support for business jets, commercial fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, accredited by GCAA and EASA. It will also offer 24/7 AOG support and aircraft parking.

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