

## SKYLANDER EDGES FORWARD

Chris Cauchi reports



**S**KY AIRCRAFT, a subsidiary of GECI Aviation, which is dedicated to developing, certifying and producing the Skylander SK-105, has taken a decisive step in the programme's development, with the selection of its main equipment makers and suppliers.

The Skylander SK-105 is a modern design, multi-purpose twin turbo-prop aircraft capable of transporting 19 passengers or 2,7 tons of freight in a very spacious 28 cubic metre cabin and operating in extreme environments on short, roughly prepared airstrips.

Sky Aircraft claims its SK-105 is unequalled on the market in terms of cabin space, payload, and modularity. It meets the needs of the regional passenger transport, express freight, perishable goods, combined transport and VIP markets. The Skylander also meets the needs of humanitarian, medical evacuation, pilot training, aerial surveillance, airdrop, and other missions.

Sky Aircraft believes that these characteristics have made the Skylander SK-105 an aircraft which is being "eagerly awaited" by regional operators around the world. GECI International forecasts a market in excess of 500 aircraft in this category.

The Sky Aircraft team has worked to gather around the programme companies that are able to ensure a high level of quality, while having the industrial capacity necessary to keep up with the scheduled Skylander SK-105 production rate. The team selected to take part in the SK-105 programme consists of well-known aeronautics specialists.

Concerning the main systems, the 1 100 shp turboprop engines are being supplied by Pratt & Whitney Canada; the metal propellers will come from Hartzell and the avionics and glass cockpit are to be supplied by Cobham. The last-named company has a production unit in Troyes, in Champagne Ardenne, which should participate in producing the avionics for the Skylander.

The landing gear will be provided by Heggeman, which is also the supplier for the gear on the Dornier 228; the wheels and brakes will be provided by Beringer, a specialist company that supplies Pilatus aircraft. The windows and windshield will be provided by PPG and SGS, the environmental control system by Meggit and the fuel distribution and indication by Secondo Mona and Inter technique. The primary electrical circuit has been assigned to the Leach company, based in the Lorraine.

Sky Aircraft, whose activity is focused on final assembly of the Skylander SK-105 in Chambley, in the Lorraine, has selected its partners for producing the aircraft's parts and sub-assemblies. Among these partners one can mention Latecis, Lauak, Figeac Aéro, Mazair, Masa, and Romaéro. These companies are all local subcontractors specialising in aerostructures.

The Skylander's very modern design and industrialisation have enabled maximum automation of the production of parts and a significant reduction in their number. An SK-105 contains approximately 4 000 different structural components, while other aircraft typically have 12- to 15 000, giving the Skylander additional competitive advantages. →

WORLD AIRNEWS, MARCH 2011 57

## AIRCRAFT INSTRUMENTS



ABSOLUTE ACCURACY



### Instrumentation Solutions

#### WORKSHOP CAPABILITIES

- Genuine factory parts from most well known manufacturers
- Licenced engineer
- Overhauls, repairs, sales and installations of all auto-pilots, gyros and instrumentation
- MPLs, compass swings, pipe changes
- Loaner / Exchange units available
- Panel revamps
- Service to surrounding airfields

#### EQUIPMENT CAPABILITIES

- Autopilots
- ELTs
- Engine Management Systems
- Fuel Flow Systems
- Homebuilt instrumentation
- Standby instruments
- Stormscopes

#### CONTACT

Tel: +27 (0)21 935 1702  
Mobile: +27 (0)83 279 7548  
Email: [capetown@aircraftinstruments.co.za](mailto:capetown@aircraftinstruments.co.za)  
Signature Flight Support Building  
West Hangar, Beechcraft Road  
General Aviation Area  
Cape Town International Airport

[www.aircraftinstruments.co.za](http://www.aircraftinstruments.co.za)