



Issue 13

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## Aviation Sub-Group Newsletter

### RAF Aircraft Maintenance Contract Goes To Abu Dhabi

Royal Air Force transport aircraft will be maintained by an Abu Dhabi company following a competition held by the MOD to cut its aircraft repair bills.

The RAFs Tristar aircraft will now be maintained by Gulf Aircraft Maintenance Company. Previously, Marshall's of Cambridge had maintained the fleet, but following bids for £45m of new contracts, the MOD has split the business, with Marshall's retaining the maintenance of Tristar components, and Gamco taking over care of the overall aircraft.

#### Local News

Saudia is expected to place an order with Avro next month for 12 RJ jets in a £160 million contract.

Saudi prince, Al-Waleed bin Talal has emerged as the latest potential buyer for Fokker.

Qatar has ordered BAe Hawks, number unspecified, as part of a £300m defence deal signed by the Gulf state and the UK government. Also included are Shorts Starburst missiles, GKN armoured vehicles and Vosper Thornycroft fast patrol vessels.

#### Airbus Announcements

USAir, due to undergo a corporate identity revamp to US Airways, has signed for 120 Airbus single aisle aircraft with options on a further 280.

Emirates has ordered 16 A330-200s with options on seven.

Australia has chosen the BAe Hawk 100 as its advanced Lead-in Fighter to train F/A-18 pilots, replacing the RAAF's 30 year old Aermacchi MB.326Hs.

The British government has approved the sale of a further 16 Hawks to Indonesia.

#### Rolls Royce News

The Trent 800 has won FAA certification for Boeing 777 etops-180 min operations.

The first Boeing 777-200IGW with R-R Trent 892s has made its first flight. The combination is due to be certificated in March, with Emirates receiving the initial delivery aircraft.

R-R has signed a memorandum of understanding with Airbus for Trent 900s to power the 550 seat 8,000nm A3XX in competition with the GE/PW Alliance GP7000. R-R says it can certificate the Trent 900 by December 1999.

R-R has won the Royal Academy of Engineering Mac-Robert Award for 1996 for the development of the Trent engine. The award is Britain's premier award for innovation and is R-R's third win since the award began in 1969.

R-R recently sealed a £300 million engine deal with Emirates, making the airline the only one in the world to have a fleet entirely powered by R-R engines.

#### Did You Know?

Fuselage corporate promotion is big business; In racing green over a silver base on the side of a Ryanair Boeing 636, Jaguar's 'Big Cat' logo is the latest promotion idea. The aircraft will be visiting most of Ryanair's destinations around the UK.