

Press Release

328 Support secures new Dornier 328 Jet 12-seat VIP conversion contract

328 Support Services GmbH has commenced work on an N-registration airliner-configured Dornier 328 (Serial No 3209) at its hangar at Operpfaffenhofen Airport, near Munich. This aircraft is to be converted into a luxury 12-seat VIP business layout. The aircraft, operated by Aviando Services from Miami, FL, will re-emerge in six months' time with the most state of the art interior ever to be applied to the Dornier 328 Jet.

Special features will include new sidewall with electric window blinds, a noise reduction kit and a Sat phone system with two handsets. Additionally it will feature a digital IFE system from Audio International with eight individual TV monitors mounted next to each VIP seat two 20in mounted on the forward and aft bulkheads as well as a new 32in widescreen TV with drop down mechanism housed in a crezanda. De Crane soft leather seats have been selected. 328 Support Services' engineering team will also fit long range fuel tanks to the aircraft, enabling a 2,000 nm range. The organisation will also be carrying out a series of heavy maintenance checks and other modifications prior to its return to service in its new guise.

The aircraft, which previously saw revenue service with US carrier Atlantic Coast Airlines has been flying with its existing owner for the past year operating throughout North and South America as a highly valued company transport. The company's owner first discussed the possibility of reconfiguring the aircraft into a 12-seat business version at the 328 Operator's Conference in Palma, Mallorca in April last year.

Dave Jackson, Chief Executive of 328 Support Services said: "We are very pleased to take on another 328 conversion contract. This aircraft should be extremely special with a number of 'firsts' with its unique specification tailored to the Customer's wishes."

A spokesman for Aviando said "The choice of 328 Support Services to be our conversion partner was based on the fact that they are the only D328 conversion centre offering the long range tanks and their flexibility in matching our requirements"

Overseeing the work will be 328's newly appointed Head of Design Jorg Gorgenant who joined the company earlier this year. He was formerly Director of Avionic and Electrical Engineering at RUAG Aerospace. Jorg will join Head of Sales Ray Mosses and Head of Production, Karl-Heinz Klein at the Aircraft Interiors Show in Hamburg next week (March 31-April 2). 328 Support Services has again retained UK-based CTM Design, headed by Robin Dunlop, will be responsible for the interior design scheme.

328 Support Services has also just completed work on the conversion of 328 Jet (Serial No 3139) for Cirrus Aviation, part of the newly expanded DC Aviation Group – from a 32-seat airliner layout to a 12-seat VIP aircraft as well as the first “stand alone” retrofit of a D328 with long range tanks for Welcome Air.

Editor's notes:

Established in January 2006, 328 Support Services GmbH holds the type certificate for the Dornier 328 Jet and Turboprop aircraft. It provides worldwide support to a fleet in excess of 200 aircraft. At its Oberpfaffenhofen Airport, near Munich, Germany base, its 120-strong workforce offer full maintenance and engineering work, customer support, spare parts and technical services together with aircraft modernisation, retrofit and customisation work.

328 Support is the only organisation certificated to undertake the fitting of long range fuel tanks which can be fitted as part of a conversion, or as a retrofit solution.

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