Mitsubishi Aircraft Signs Contract with Saab for Support to Develop Technical Manuals

December 22, 2009

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation and Saab have signed a contract for Mitsubishi Aircraft’s development of technical manuals for the next-generation Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ).

“We have had ongoing discussions with Mitsubishi since 2003 when they were first considering entering the regional jet market and had concluded that they needed a partner for support and services outside Japan,” said Saab Aerotech President Lars-Erik Wige. “This contract is a step forward in the cooperation between our two companies. Mitsubishi is developing a groundbreaking aircraft in the MRJ and Saab is proud to work with them in their efforts to provide equally groundbreaking levels of customer support.”

“At Mitsubishi Aircraft, as we are fully responsible for the customer support of the MRJ, we are pleased to have Saab, with its many years of experience in this area, as a partner to help us in developing some part of our technical manuals in the field of customer support. This is one big step forward in Mitsubishi Aircraft’s drive to provide top-notch service to our valued customers,” said Mitsubishi Aircraft President Hideo Egawa.

Saab has acquired extensive experience and expertise in customer support via the Saab 340 and 2000 programs, as well as various military programs. Saab Aerotech, a business unit of the Saab Group, is a pioneer in the use of specification S1000D*, the industry’s most advanced specification standard for manuals. This contract will allow Mitsubishi Aircraft to benefit from the expertise that Saab has in these areas.

The MRJ program continues to proceed with recent developments including the September announcement of the final configuration, which incorporated
feedback from prospective customers around the world. In terms of sales, in October, Mitsubishi Aircraft announced the signing of a Letter of Intent with Trans States Holdings for an order of 100 MRJ aircraft, Mitsubishi Aircraft’s second order following that by All Nippon Airways.

This announcement represents a major milestone in the area of customer support as the MRJ project continues to advance.

*S1000D: This is an international specification established by the ASD (AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe) for electronic manuals. This specification is designed to streamline the preparing, managing, updating and using of equipment maintenance and operations information for multiple manuals in one database. A variation of this is to be adopted for use for the Boeing 787 as well as the Airbus A350 XWB.

**About Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation**

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation commenced operation on April 1, 2008 to conduct the design, type certification, procurement, sales & marketing and customer support of the Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ). It is currently capitalized at 100 billion yen, with this financing being furnished by, among others, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., Toyota Motor Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, Sumitomo Corporation and Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

**About MRJ**

The Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) is a family of 70- to 90-seat next-generation regional jets, which will offer both top-class operational economy and outstanding cabin comfort based on a vision of applying advanced mainline jet technology to create a new standard for next-generation regional jets. The MRJ is under development by Mitsubishi Aircraft and will be based on cutting-edge technology cultivated by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) during its many years engaged in the development and manufacture of both military and commercial aircraft. By featuring state-of-the-art aerodynamic design, noise analysis technologies and a game-changing engine, the MRJ will significantly cut fuel consumption, noise and emissions, consequently improving competitiveness and profitability for airlines. The MRJ will have a four-abreast seat configuration, with large overhead bins, and also feature an innovative slim seat that offers heightened comfort to passengers.

**About Saab**

Saab serves the global market with world-leading products, services and solutions ranging from military defense to civil security. Saab has operations and employees on all continents and constantly develops, adopts and improves new technology to meet customers’ changing needs. The
Stockholm-based firm has nearly 13,300 employees and a history in aviation technology that stretches back to 1937. Saab Aerotech is a business unit of the Saab Group.