Trans States Holdings Signed Purchase Agreement with Mitsubishi Aircraft for 100 MRJ Aircraft on Dec 27, 2010
TSH President Richard A. Leach Attends Reception Ceremony held in Nagoya

February 01, 2011

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation finalized and executed a definitive Purchase Agreement with Trans States Holdings (TSH) for an order of 100 next-generation Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) aircraft (50 firm, 50 options) on December 27, 2010.

TSH President Richard A. Leach visited Japan to attend the reception ceremony held on February 1st 2011 in Nagoya celebrating the definitive Purchase Agreement. Since the announcement of the LOI in October 2009, TSH and Mitsubishi Aircraft have been constantly exchanging views and strengthening the relationship. Both parties are pleased to conclude the definitive Purchase Agreement of the MRJ – the game-changing next-generation regional jet.
TSH, based in St. Louis, Missouri, is an airline holding company that owns and operates three independent airlines, Trans States Airlines, GoJet Airlines, and Compass Airlines, all of which have significant regional operations in North America. TSH is entrusted with feeder services for United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and US Airways.

TSH President Richard A. Leach said, “We have been very excited about the MRJ program for a long time, and we are extremely pleased to conclude this major order on December 27 last year reaffirming the 100 aircraft commitment we made with our LOI. Since that launch order, we have learned a lot about the quality of the Mitsubishi Aircraft team and the quality of the MRJ aircraft. Both have given us great confidence. In addition, many good things have happened with the MRJ itself. Mitsubishi Aircraft has entered the production drawing phase for the MRJ and continues to proceed with the manufacturing process.

“We are the first airline outside of Japan to purchase this exciting new aircraft, and we will be the first to place it into service in the US. We believe that the MRJ is a game-changing regional jet with its incredibly fuel efficient next generation Pratt & Whitney “PurePower®” geared-turbofan engines, together addressing the vital needs of the environment, as well as the critical needs of passengers and airline operators. The MRJ will reduce fuel consumption, noise and NOx emissions—this means savings on operating costs. By combining the largest cabin in the regional jet market with the
innovative seat design and very quiet cabin, we will be able to offer our passengers the best comfort of any regional jet.

“As the largest privately owned regional airline holding company in America, we offer more than 500 daily flights servicing 93 cities and transport over 8 million passengers annually. We believe that the MRJ will be the ideal aircraft to provide the seamless quality of excellent service for mainline carriers they want and thus we anxiously look forward to the day when we will be operating this spectacular 21st Century regional jet on our routes.”

Mitsubishi Aircraft President Hideo Egawa said, “Concluding this major order with TSH, the leading company in United States, on December 27 last year has given confidence to our MRJ program. Customers around the world have high expectations for the MRJ. This will be an exceptional, ‘game changing’ aircraft of the 21st Century. Expectations and operational requirements are particularly high in the large and important U.S. market, where there are many routes with airlines operating 50- to 100-seat regional jets.”

Egawa added, “We expect the MRJ to be an aircraft that will truly contribute to improved competitiveness and profitability for the airlines, and also open the door to a greater number of airports at which the MRJ can be operated.”

This order concluded on December 27 last year, combined with the June 2010 order for 25 aircraft (15 firm, 10 options) from All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd., brings the current number of orders for the MRJ to 125 aircraft (65 firm, 60 options). Numerous other carriers around the world are expressing growing interest and enthusiasm for the MRJ.

Egawa gave Mr. Leach MRJ model celebrating the definitive Purchase Agreement and performed the Japanese traditional “Kagami-Wari” (ceremonial breaking open of a sake barrel). Mitsubishi Aircraft employees enjoyed conversation with Mr. Leach at the ceremony. Mr. Gerald Wigmore, Chief Financial Officer of TSH and Mr. Todd Kallman, President of Pratt & Whitney Commercial Engines & Global Services were also in attendance to help celebrate this important event in Nagoya, Japan. On the same day, Mr.
Leach visited Tobishima Plant, the construction site of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. where the assembly of MRJ is soon to commence.

About Trans States Holdings, Inc.
Established in 1998, Trans States Holdings, Inc. is the largest privately held regional airline holding company in America and the parent company of three regional airlines, Trans States Airlines, GoJet Airlines and Compass Airlines.

Trans States Airlines, established in 1982 as Resort Air, currently operates as United Express and US Airways Express. The current fleet of 50-seat Embraer regional jets served nearly 2.2 million passengers in 2010. Information regarding Trans States Airlines can be found at www.transstates.net.


Compass Airlines is a member of the Delta Connection program, operating more than 170 flights each day to 35 airports in 20 states, Canada and Mexico. Based in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, the airline operates a fleet of 36 Embraer 175 aircraft. Founded in 2007, Compass has operated as a Northwest Airlink and Delta Connection carrier since then. For more information, please visit www.compassairline.com.
About Pratt & Whitney (PWA)
Pratt & Whitney is a world leader in the design, manufacture and service of aircraft engines, space propulsion systems and industrial gas turbines. United Technologies, based in Hartford, Conn., is a diversified company providing high technology products and services to the global aerospace and building industries.

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). The MRJ is a family of 70- to 90- seat next-generation regional jet which will offer both top-class operational economy and outstanding cabin comfort. As of April 2010, Mitsubishi Aircraft is capitalized at 100 billion yen, with financing furnished by, among others, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., Toyota Motor Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, Sumitomo Corporation and Mitsui & Co., Ltd.