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Brazilian signed Defence Agreement with Sri Lanka

During the first weeks of January, Brazil signed an agreement with Sri Lanka to cooperate in the defense sector. The agreement was signed during the visit of the Sri Lanka's Secretary of Defence and Urban Development Mr. Gotabhaya Rajapaksa in Brasilia. The main focus of the agreement was, according to an official statement, the training of Sri Lankan military officers in Brazil, as well as technical and

industrial cooperation in the defense sector. It is worth mentioning that the agreement paves the way for Sri Lanka's military officers to participate in courses offered by the Joint Center for Peace Operations in Brazil (CCOPAB) located in Rio de Janeiro.

Additionally, Brazilian and Sri Lankan officials formalized the cooperation of the two countries in several defence programs such as the Embraer KC-390 twin-engine jet-powered military transport aircraft, the Guarani 6x6 armoured personnel carrier developed by Iveco and the Brazilian Army.

During his visit in the Latin American country Mr. Gotabhaya Rajapaksa also visited the Navy Yard and Empresa Gerencial de Projetos Navais (EMGEPRON), a state owned company under the Brazilian Ministry of Defense in Rio de Janeiro and the Army headquarters in Brasilia.



Sri Lanka, from 1983 to 2009, fought a civil war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (also known as the Tamil Tigers) which fought to create an independent Tamil state in the north and the east of the island. The Sri Lankan armed forces defeated the guerillas in May 2009, bringing the civil war to an end. After the end of the civil war the authorities of Sri Lanka are deliberately trying to strengthen their ties with the governments of other countries in several sectors, amongst which defence is seen as a prominent one.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

KMW begins construction of a factory in Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil



Source: KMW do Brasil

The German company Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) began construction of a new facility in Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil in the middle of January. According to the German company the facilities will be their main development, manufacturing, and service centre in South America and it will be run by the local subsidiary, KMW do Brasil Sistemas Militares Ltda. KMW do Brasil acts as a

continental hub for KMW's activities in South America, and specializes in military vehicle solutions for the Brazilian Army. The factory is estimated to be ready in six months and is designed to serve customers throughout South America.

The beginning of the construction was delayed as KMW do Brasil Sistemas Militares Ltda was not granted a license by the State Foundation of Environmental Protection (Fepam).

The German company has firmly established their position in 2011 when they signed an industrial logistic support contract with the Brazilian army for the Leopard 1A5 tanks. The contract covers more than 220 Leopard 1A5s and other vehicles of the Leopard product family, as well as a large number of simulation and training equipment.



Krauss-Maffei Wegmann GmbH & Co. KG (KMW) leads the European market for highly protected wheeled and tracked vehicles. The armed forces of more than 30 nations worldwide rely on tactical systems by KMW. At locations in Germany, Brazil, Greece, Mexico, the Netherlands, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the USA and Turkey some 3500 employees develop, manufacture and support a product portfolio ranging from air-transportable, highly protected wheeled vehicles through reconnaissance, anti-aircraft and artillery systems to main battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and bridge-laying systems.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects”



Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects” provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met...

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Provision of a primary training aircraft for acrobatics and military purposes



A company excelling in the area of primary training aircraft construction is willing to provide its primary training solution as an entry level training tool for small countries' air forces.

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

Mail at: g-menexis@epicos.com

Synthetic Flight Training Device for helicopter and fixed-wing pilots' entry level and advanced training (non-combat)



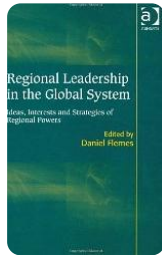
A company constituting the first civil avionics and simulator manufacturer in its country is proposing the collaboration with a Prime Contractor or a third party in a targeted country, for the development and installation of a helicopter or fixed-wing simulator, to serve civilian and military helicopter pilots' entry level (VFR) and advanced (IFR) training needs. The project can be implemented either as a standalone project or integrated within a major acquisition.

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

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Regional Leadership in the Global System, by Daniel Flemes



This book presents innovative approaches to the analysis of the foreign policies of regional powers and establishes a conceptual framework for further research. We assume that ideas, interests and strategies of regional powers are highly significant variables that influence their foreign policies. This volume explains how ideas, interests and strategies of regional powers shape regional and global politics. While comparative research projects involving OECD-countries are by now fairly common, comparative research integrating developing regions is still the exception. This is despite the fact that the countries concerned are seen to be among the key actors of the 21st century. This collection emphasises the role of regional powers in intra-regional, interregional and global contexts. Specific questions concerning the rise of regional powers are analysed from a comparative perspective.

Brazilian Economy: Growth and Development, 6th Edition, by Werner Baer



Brazil has undergone significant socio-economic changes since the 1930s and especially since World War II. This alternation in the economic status quo of the country played an important role in the region of Latin America. This book is trying to delineate the results of these changes by providing vast amounts of new statistical and institutional information. Additionally, issues such as privatization, income and regional inequalities, and the environmental impact of development are also extensively explored. The book will be valuable in a wide range of venues, from universities to the corporate world to the libraries of development organizations.



Canada's Bombardier cuts 1,700 jobs after CSeries delay

Canadian aeronautics company Bombardier said Tuesday it is eliminating 1,700 jobs in Canada and the United States, only days after announcing it would delay the launch of its CSeries aircraft.

Some 1,100 jobs in the Montreal region and 600 at a factory in the US state of Kansas will be cut, amounting to 4.4 percent of Bombardier's workforce.

A company spokeswoman said the jobs slated for elimination include 300 cut in December.

Before the layoff Bombardier employed some 38,350 people in its aeronautic branch.

The action comes after the company on Monday announced a 19 percent drop in orders last year.

In addition, the manufacturer announced last week a one-year delay in the launch of its hotly-anticipated CSeries aircraft, saying it needs more testing.

The launch of the 100-125 seat CS100 now has been pushed to the second half of 2015, followed by deliveries of the slightly roomier CS300 some six months later.

The delay results in an increase in program costs for the new aircraft, necessitating the layoffs.

Development costs for the series were initially estimated at US \$3.4 billion.

But, according to Kristine Liwag, an analyst with the Royal Bank of Canada, "each year of delay could increase the development costs of the program by \$1 billion," with the price now approaching \$5.5 billion.

Walter Spracklin, also of the Royal Bank, said that the program's risk will now be difficult to absorb. Assuming a price of \$50 million per aircraft and a profit margin of 10 percent, Bombardier "will need to sell over 800 aircraft to break even." Only 198 CSeries aircrafts have been ordered from 17 client companies, Bombardier said a week ago.

Bombardier's spokeswoman said that cuts affect all employees from engineers and designers to assembly line employees and commercial service workers. Around 3,000 employees, including 800 engineers, were assigned to the CSeries program.

Source: 2014 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Boeing, GECAS Announce Order for 20 737 MAXs and 20 Next-Generation 737s

SEATTLE, Jan. 20, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- Boeing (NYSE: BA) and GE Capital Aviation Services (GECAS), the commercial aircraft leasing and financing arm of General Electric (NYSE: GE), announced today an order for 40 737s. The order, valued at \$3.9 billion at list prices, consists of 20 737 MAX 8s and 20 Next-Generation 737-800s. The order, booked in 2013, was previously attributed to an unidentified customer on Boeing's Orders and Deliveries website.

"We ordered more 737 MAX 8s and Next-Generation 737-800s because demand continues to grow as our airline customers require more fuel-efficient aircraft to compete in the marketplace," said Norman C.T. Liu, president and chief executive officer, GECAS. "This order further strengthens the large GECAS order book."

The follow-on order increases the GECAS order book for the 737 MAX to 95 airplanes and the Next-Generation 737 to 387 airplanes, the most for both models by any company in the leasing industry.

"GECAS is an industry leader and this follow-on order reinforces the value of the Next-Generation 737 and 737 MAX in the leasing market," said John Wojick, senior vice president of Global Sales, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "The 737 MAX will provide GECAS's airline customers with the best-in-class operating efficiencies and passenger amenities."

The Boeing 737-800 is one of the best-selling versions of the highly successful Next-Generation 737 family, the most technologically advanced airplanes in the single-aisle market. The Next-Generation 737's market success has been confirmed by investors who consistently rank it as the most preferred single-aisle airplane due to its wide market base, superior performance efficiency and lowest operating costs in its class.

The 737 MAX brings the most advanced engine technologies to the world's best-selling airplane, building on the strengths of today's Next-Generation 737. The 737 MAX incorporates the latest-technology CFM International LEAP-1B engines to deliver the highest efficiency, reliability and passenger comfort in the single-aisle market. Airlines operating the 737 MAX will see an 8 percent operating cost per seat advantage over tomorrow's competition. To date, 32 customers have ordered 1,763 MAX airplanes.

With today's announcement, GECAS has ordered 638 airplanes directly from Boeing, which includes 737s, 747s, 757s, 767s, 777s and 787s. To date, GECAS has taken delivery of 459 of the airplanes.

About GE Capital Aviation Services (GECAS)

GECAS, the U.S. and Irish commercial aircraft financing and leasing business of GE, has a fleet of over 1,630 owned and serviced aircraft with over 230 airlines. With 40+ years of industry experience, GECAS is recognized as the pre-eminent airline leasing company in the

world, offering a wide range of aircraft types and financing options, including operating leases and secured debt financing. GECAS also provides an ever expanding array of productivity solutions including spare engine leasing, airport and airline consulting services, and spare parts financing and management. GECAS, a unit of GE Capital, has offices in 23 cities around the world, and services customers in over 75 countries. (www.GECAS.com)

GE (NYSE: GE) works on things that matter. The best people and the best technologies taking on the toughest challenges. Finding solutions in energy, health and home, transportation and finance. Building, powering, moving and curing the world. Not just imagining. Doing. GE works. For more information, visit the company's website at www.ge.com.

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Source: Boeing, Epicos

France military to up defences against 'cyber war'

France will soon launch a 1.5-billion-euro (\$2 billion) plan to defend itself against "cyber war" as a strategic priority, Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Tuesday.

The project, to be launched "in a few weeks", will be written into the French military budget over the next five years, Le Drian told a cyber-security forum in the northern city of Lille.

"The scale needs to be changed" given that cyber-attacks against French defence ministry organs have quadrupled in two years, he said.

In an interview to Les Echos newspaper, the minister was more specific.

"In 2013 we recorded 780 significant computer incidents within the defence ministry, against 195 in 2011," he said.

Risks, he said, were increasing of either attempts to paralyse government servers or to destroy information and command systems.

"They are general localised attacks coming from foreign powers or activist groups, but they clearly show intrusion attempts into networks able to affect our forces operating abroad or even our partners," he said.

Defensive measures taken could be broadened through cooperation with other EU nations, either through shared platforms or expertise, he added.

At the Lille conference, Le Drian said his ministry aimed to recruit more IT and programming experts to extend protection, train up existing staff, and to use networking technology to better support French troops.

Personnel in the cyber division of the ministry's armaments unit will nearly double to 450 in coming years, he vowed, "and we will triple the volume of studies dedicated to cyber issues".

Source: 2014 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

BlackBerry shares lifted by big Pentagon contract

BlackBerry shares leapt more than nine percent Tuesday as the troubled Canadian smartphone maker got a boost from news of contract to supply the US military with 80,000 new handsets.

The stock gained 9.36 percent to end at \$9.93, capping a rally of some 30 percent so far in 2014 and more than 60 percent from its lows last month, when the company reported a quarterly loss of more than \$4 billion.

The latest gains came after last week's announcement from the Pentagon that it will include some 80,000 BlackBerry phones as part of a new "mobility" program for the Defense Department, which also includes devices made by Apple, Samsung and Motorola.

BlackBerry shares started a rebound last month after it announced plans to outsource its handset production to Taiwan-based Foxconn, which according to analysts could help the Canadian firm concentrate on software and services and avoid many of the risks of the volatile smartphone segment.

Last year, the company said it was considering a sale or other strategic move, but later scrapped those plans and told customers it was staying in the smartphone business.

BlackBerry helped create a culture of mobile users glued to smartphones, but lost its luster as many moved to iPhones or devices using Google's Android software.

It still has some 70 million subscribers worldwide, but most of these are using older handsets, with newer devices on the BlackBerry 10 platform unveiled a year ago failing to gain traction.

Source: 2014 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Canada pledges financial aid to West Bank

Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada said Monday the staunch Israeli ally would provide additional financial support for the West Bank, as he met Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in Ramallah.

"I have the pleasure to announce today that Canada will this year give additional (financial) support for the economic development of the West Bank," Harper told reporters, saying this was key for "social stability" and for advancing peace.

Harper was on his first official visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, as the US-backed Middle East peace process falters ahead of an April deadline after nine months of talks.

He did not elaborate on details about the aid.

Israel ally Canada was one of the few countries that opposed a successful Palestinian bid for upgraded status at the United Nations in 2012.

Abbas acknowledged "differences" with Ottawa on the question of Palestine, but said these should be resolved through discussion, and that the Canadians were entitled to their own views.

A diplomatic spat last April saw the Palestinian Authority summon Canada's envoy over a controversial visit by Foreign Minister John Baird to annexed east Jerusalem to meet Israel's justice minister.

Baird met Tzipi Livni, lead peace negotiator in Israel's cabinet, at her office in east Jerusalem, a move normally avoided by visiting diplomats because it could be seen as legitimising Israel's controversial annexation.

Abbas also reiterated that Palestinians were committed to the agreed nine months of talks, despite Palestinian anger at Israel's continued settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank.

The Middle East Quartet published a plan in September to revive the ailing Palestinian economy, in an effort to support peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

The three-year "Palestinian Economic Initiative", which is to focus on private sector growth, came after international financial institutions urged Israel to loosen sanctions against the territories.

Source: 2014 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)