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Archer Aviation Receives $10 Million Pre-Payment from United Airlines

In August of 2022, United Airlines made an investment of $10 million in Archer Aviation, a start-up based in San Francisco dedicated to revolutionizing the air travel industry. The new company is aiming to provide helicopter-like taxi services for people in urban areas using purely electric flight vehicles. It appears Archer's dream to make flying cars is slowly becoming a reality, though there are still many who doubt the technology's safety and capabilities.

Archer Aviation has released video footage of their first successful test flight in which the Maker aircraft, a fully electric aircraft, hovers for an extended period of time. The San Francisco start-up is also striving to have every vehicle be completely carbon-neutrality, which aligns with United Airlines' goal of being carbon-neutral by 2050. The United Airlines president stated that "United Airlines Ventures has invested in a diverse roster of companies working in support of our goal to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, without the use of traditional carbon offsets". This statement is representative of a common goal in the aviation and automotive industries, one that aims to promote sustainability in a world where renewable forms of energy are valued highly.

eVTOL technology is making waves in the aerospace industry, and United Airlines is making it clear that they are hopeful the technology can bring change to traffic patterns as well as new business. Instead of sitting in traffic trying to get home, consumers could choose to board an Archer Aviation created, United Airlines operated eVTOL vehicle, and fly right over the gridlock. This new form of transportation could launch the aerospace ten years into the future as early as 2024, not to mention create a number of new jobs for pilots, flight crew, etc.

This investment on United Airlines' part is not out of left field. Recently, following the Farnborough Air Show, United announced its plan to partner with BOOM Technology and bring back supersonic commercial travel for the first time since the Concorde. The supersonic United flights are projected to take flight in 2029, however much of the logistics/operations of a supersonic airliner are still being worked out. *Source: Thom Patterson, Flying Magazine, Photo from Electric VTOL News*

Surcharge Totals June - November 2022

	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
15-5	1.2507	1.1863	0.9428	1.1041	*	*
15-7	1.9162	1.777	1.4584	1.5035	*	*
17-4	1.2147	1.157	0.9196	1.1187	*	*
17-7	1.6869	1.5735	1.2406	1.2318	*	*
201	1.3636	1.2892	1.0305	1.0091	*	*
301 7.0%	1.6646	1.5539	1.2251	1.1991	*	*
302/304/304L	1.8245	1.7006	1.3419	1.3143	*	*
304-8.5%	1.8948	1.7642	1.3923	1.3639	*	*
305	2.3961	2.2188	1.7533	1.7188	*	*
309	2.4635	2.287	1.8087	1.7753	*	*
310	3.4856	3.216	2.5465	2.5012	*	*
316/316L	2.4464	2.2609	1.8431	1.7628	*	*
316LS/316LVM	3.55	3.37	2.91	2.83	*	*
317L	2.8153	2.5997	2.1413	2.0354	*	*
321	1.9783	1.8336	1.4457	1.4109	*	*
347	2.2539	2.1166	1.7358	1.7064	*	*
409/409 Mod	0.5879	0.5635	0.4357	0.4161	*	*
410/410S	0.5752	0.5569	0.4319	0.4166	*	*
430	0.6618	0.6445	0.5031	0.4893	*	*
434	0.8042	0.774	0.6274	0.5953	*	*
439	0.7246	0.6979	0.544	0.5239	*	*
440A	0.6618	0.6445	0.5031	0.4893	*	*
2205	2.1013	1.9635	1.6409	1.5896	*	*
263	13.7809	17.0102	17.888	16.37	15.0165	11.9584
276	10.9469	13.5654	14.0451	12.4194	11.0588	9.506
A286	3.4179	4.6872	4.9578	4.2697	3.7093	3.0669
330	4.3853	5.9745	6.2587	5.2845	4.5889	3.6909
400	8.2174	10.9344	11.42	9.5045	8.2954	6.6443
Custom 455	2.02	1.93	1.64	1.61	*	*
Custom 465	2.57	2.45	2.09	2.05	*	*
600	8.6572	11.7955	12.3716	10.3161	8.9053	7.3446
601	7.3787	10.0205	10.5005	8.8208	7.6205	6.1229
617	12.4276	15.4734	16.148	14.4168	13.0248	10.5673
625	10.7837	13.3873	13.8411	12.1373	10.8391	9.6866
Custom 630	1.70	1.64	1.42	1.37	*	*
718	9.5284	11.8148	12.234	10.7918	9.7184	8.6636
X-750	9.2206	12.4025	13.0288	11.0237	9.5815	7.7941
825	5.6334	7.4606	7.8044	6.6992	5.8342	4.9306
HX	7.7349	9.8659	10.2434	8.8909	7.8235	6.7705
188	18.8121	21.8448	23.115	23.0095	22.247	17.6141
CCM	35.21	30.39	23.83	20.26	*	*
L-605	20.6464	23.6523	25.0684	25.3164	24.6902	19.4244

*Surcharge currently not available

United and American Explore Supersonic Commercial Flights with Boom Technology

Both American Airlines and United Airlines have made plans and investments in Boom Technology, a company dedicated to creating supersonic aircraft for passengers.

Boom Technology is headquartered in Denver, Colorado and has been building supersonic aircraft since 2014. Their mission is to "Make the world dramatically more accessible". "When we fly twice as fast, cities rarely visited become major travel destinations. We can attend meetings in far-off places and return for evenings with loved ones. Global leaders can solve crises in-person and children grow up in a world where nothing is foreign".

2022 has been a massive year for Boom. Not only did they reveal the Overture, the aircraft designed to bring supersonic travel to consumers, at the Farnborough Air Show, they agreed to sell 20 of these planes to American Airlines. Boom also opened a new "Superfactory" in North Carolina. This new 400,000 square foot production center will be the site of the final assembly line for the Overture.

Boom hopes to roll out aircraft in 2025 with 2026 being the year that flights take off. Having raised more than enough capital already, the investments from American, United, and the USAF are indications that commercial supersonic flights are more than just a possibility. Soon, they will likely be a reality.

Of course, there are questions whether or not these supersonic flights will be able to take to the skies. The Concorde, which reduced Transatlantic flight times heavily, was admonished for the loud supersonic booms it generated, which disturbed urban residents. Boom Technology claims the Overture can mitigate these concerns, but time and tests will tell if that is the case.
Source: Gregory Polek, AIN Online

Relativity Announces Joint Mars Mission Proposal

In mid-July, Relativity Space announced with Impulse Space that the companies are working together to develop a Mars lander. The lander would be an unmanned craft that would serve as a support rover for "the research and development needed to build towards humanity's multiplanetary future".

Relativity CEO and founder Tim Ellis stated that, "With the delivery capabilities of Terran R coupled with Impulse's in-space transportation, we are bringing humanity one step closer to making Mars a reality". Ellis is not the only industry -leading CEO to believe so firmly that mankind has a future among the stars. Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk has been and remains a famous proponent of interplanetary travel/colonization, and it seems that this movement has picked up real traction in the space industry. Relativity and Impulse's announcement for their proposed Mars mission is more evidence that interplanetary colonization could be a reality within the near future.

In history, NASA and the Chinese space program were the only two organizations to successfully land craft on Mars. Now, it seems to be a race as to who can put a man on the red planet first. Relativity, Impulse, and SpaceX are hoping to join that short list and mark a new age of space exploration. *Source: Jeff Foust, Space News*

United Performance Metals is proud to revive our monthly market informer! Our new Marketing Specialist, Luke Williams, will be at the helm of this project, and if you ever have any inquiries about the content of the market informer or the articles included, please contact him at lwilliams@upmet.com.