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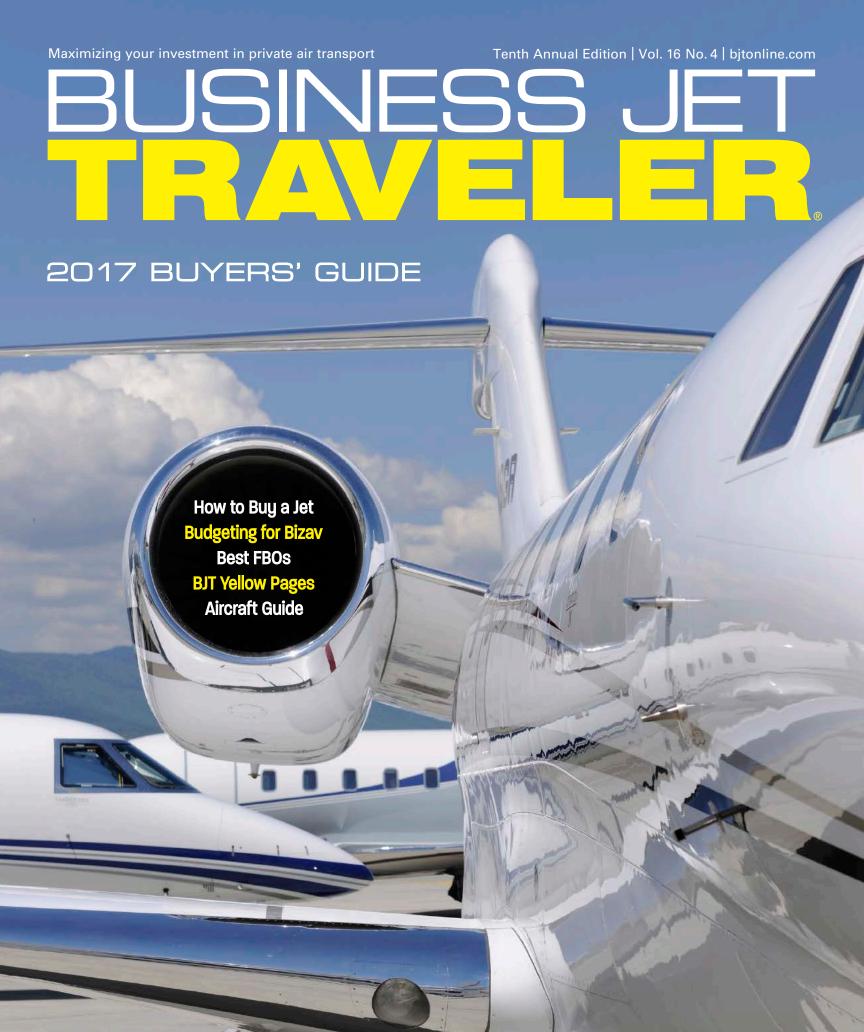


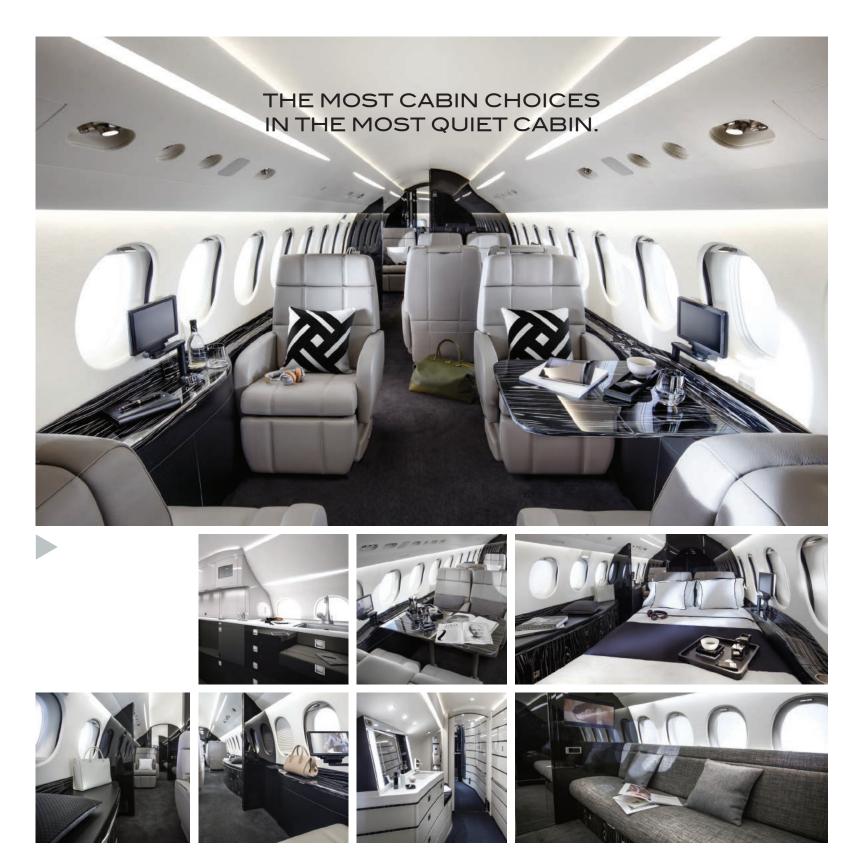




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courts interpret it.



Cover Photo: Mark Wagner



The game-changing Legacy 500 — the first midsize jet with fly-by-wire controls — is the benchmark for the future in performance, passenger room and comfort. On the flight deck, the advanced Rockwell Collins Pro Line Fusion™ platform puts pilots in complete control in a cockpit environment that provides superior ergonomics. With seating for up to 12 passengers, the Legacy 500 delivers a smooth flight in a largest-in-class stand-up cabin with a flat floor, fully equipped galley, state-of-the-art inflight entertainment and elegant seating that converts into fully flat berths in a low cabin altitude. The main baggage compartment is the largest in class and complements generous inflight-accessible cabin stowage space. The clean-sheet-design Legacy 500 is also the fastest jet in its class, delivering a high-speed cruise of Mach 0.82 and excellent runway performance.







LEGACY 500: YOU FEEL AT HOME

"The first experience I had with the Legacy 500 was when I got a call to come to the airport to view it. It was a beautiful, beautiful sight.

I remember vividly flying back from Brazil when we went down to pick up the Legacy 500. Just being with the family on the plane, being able to enjoy the aircraft and to be able to hear each other and interact with each other without the roar of the aircraft all around us...it was a very, very memorable trip for all of us.

What I like most about the aircraft as a passenger is the low cabin noise and the low-altitude pressurization. Both of those are key for me. They really make a difference while traveling. The cabin welcomes you as you get on the aircraft. You feel at home. It's very comfortable. The design is very sleek.

My father and my brother are both pilots, so the Legacy 500 took on special meaning for them in terms of the avionics, fly-by-wire and HUD system. Safety is first for us and the Legacy 500 avionics help in that regard. We have a relatively short runway and we usually fly a full payload. The Legacy 500 performs well in both aspects.

The sales team at Embraer was outstanding. They did a tremendous job for us. Really, they made us feel special. And with that, they helped us to own a very special airplane. We can't be more grateful for that."



- Nathan Grindstaff, Board Member, Mastercorp Watch Nathan's story and request more information at EmbraerExecutiveJets.com/Nathan



Up Front

Ten Years Strong: The BJT Buyers' Guide

You're holding the 10th annual **BJT** Buyers' Guide, which includes an updated edition of our Yellow Pages directory (*page 40*). This carefully curated reference source contains contact information for charter brokers, caterers, completion centers, and many other service providers and manufacturers—all the resources you need to maximize your investment in business aviation. Also here (*page 22*) is a database that covers all popular business jets, turboprops, and helicopters.

We suggest you keep the Buyers' Guide handy, and also that you visit the online versions of its directories. Not only do we regularly update those directories but they contain many features you won't find in print. Company listings at BJTonline.com/yellowpages, for example, include links to their websites and can be sorted by location. At BJTonline.com/aircraft, meanwhile, you can filter search results by airplane type, size, price, and range.

While we're dedicated at **BJT** to providing you with such information, we're also determined to deliver the expert guidance you need to make the best use of it. You'll find such advice throughout this issue, starting with James Wynbrandt's "Budgeting for Bizav" (*page 6*), which illustrates private aviation options for various spending levels, from \$25,000 to "the sky's the limit." Also here: an incisive look at whether now is a good time to buy used aircraft (*page 20*) and a must-read report (*page 38*) on purchase-contract language that can cause problems for buyers and sellers.

We have many more valuable features planned for the remainder of the year, which reminds me:



The development team behind bitonline.com: Michael Giaimo, Ryan Koch, Evan Williams, and Nathan Douglas

please don't forget to vote in **BJT**'s 7th annual Readers' Choice Survey. This year's poll, at **BJT**online.com/survey, is shorter than last year's and should take you only a few minutes to complete.

This is your opportunity to talk back to the aviation companies you deal with and to share your opinions and experiences with fellow readers. It's also your chance to help a worthy cause, because we'll make a donation for each completed survey to Corporate Angel Network, which provides transportation to care for cancer patients.

Look for survey results in our October/November issue. Meanwhile, enjoy this Buyers' Guide.



Jennifer Leach English Editorial Director jenglish@bjtonline.com

AIN Publications Names New Editor-in-Chief

Matt Thurber, the author of many **BJT** cover stories, was recently appointed editor-in-chief of AIN Publications, publisher of **Business Jet Traveler**. Thurber (in foreground at left), who has worked at AIN for 17 years, is a pilot with multiple jet type ratings and a 2012 winner of the National Business Aviation Association's Gold Wing journalism award. Only the fourth editor-in-chief in the 45-year history of the company, he succeeds Charles Alcock, who joined AIN in 1990. Alcock, who became editor-in-chief in 2012, is leaving the company to return with his family to his native England.



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Business aviation's offerings continue to expand: you can take advantage of so-called private airlines, membership clubs, shuttle flights, and empty legs (often-bargain-priced repositioning flights), not to mention charter, fractional aircraft shares, and the many variations of the now almost old-fashioned jet card.

How to determine which option and provider best suits your needs? Arguably, you should consider your budget first, because no matter how much an option or provider fits your travel plans and preferences, you're out of luck if it doesn't also fit your finances. So let's look at four annual spending limits and see what business aviation access you can get for each.



Up to \$75,000

As little as \$25,000 to \$75,000 can take you quite a distance today via business aviation, depending on where you're located, where you need to go, and how often you want to get there. Your alternatives include new access models that involve shared aircraft operating under the FAA's Part 380 rules, which allow scheduled charter operations, rather than Part 135 regs that govern on-demand, or ad hoc, charter. Industry experts have long dismissed shared flights as the antithesis of business aviation's essence, which they say

involves the ability to have an aircraft to oneself, and to enjoy the complete control and privacy that come with it. But the market indicates that the experts may have been wrong or that tastes may be changing with technology.

Private airlines. So-called private airlines (they're neither private nor commercial air carriers) offer scheduled service on established routes, but with less hassle than airlines, and much lower costs than traditional charter. They utilize aircraft that carry 30 or fewer passengers, eliminating the need for TSA security screening (providers vet travelers beforehand), operate from general aviation facilities with plenty of parking,

and offer apps that make booking quick. Show up 15 minutes before a flight, and away you go.

California's Surf Air, which did much to popularize the private airline concept, established the allyou-can-fly subscription model, charging a membership fee for unlimited access to flights between the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas and Las Vegas, with its fleet of Pilatus PC-12/PC-12 NG single-engine turboprops. Memberships start at \$1,950 per month (for two reservations or one round trip), with higher membership levels allowing more reservations at one time. The company recently purchased a similar service, Rise, which has been offering flights to such Texas locations

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WHEELS UP

as Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. Following the acquisition, Surf Air announced plans to add service to such locations as New Orleans; Taos, New Mexico; Aspen, Colorado; and Sun Valley, Idaho.

In contrast to subscription-based providers, JetSuiteX (marketed by California-based light-jet charter operator JetSuite) requires no membership fee or other access restrictions for flights on its executive-configured Embraer E135 commuter jets, primarily linking Las Vegas and locations in California, with fares starting at \$129 and topping out at a little over \$300.

Membership clubs. Unlike private airlines where a fixed fee pays for benefits, membership clubs charge for pay-as-you-go access to a fleet of aircraft and, depending on the provider, discount charter rates and other low-cost or free options such as shuttle, crowdsourced, and empty-leg flights. (Crowdsourcing allows members to create a charter flight and offer per-seat rates to other members without the commitment of booking the flight.) The empty-leg flights are typically same day, and if they're leaving from somewhere nearby and you don't mind finding your own way back, they can provide a spur-ofthe-moment luxury travel opportunity, but they aren't practical for trips that requires planning.

At Wheels Up, individual memberships start at \$17,500 for the first year and \$8,500 for annual renewal. That entitles you to ad hoc charter access to the company's Wi-Fi-equipped King Air 350i twin turboprops and refurbished Cessna Citation Excel/XLS light jets (operated by Gama Aviation) at hourly rates of \$3,950 and \$6,950, respectively. Wheels Up also offers free shuttle flights, a charter brokerage arm, crowdsourcing capability, and a daily selection of free empty legs. Exclusive on-the-ground member activities under its Wheels Down



program are another benefit. Wheels Up's entry-level membership, "8760" (the number of hours in a year), costs \$5,950 annually but provides access only to its owned fleet.

JetSmarter offers discount charter brokerage, free and low-cost shuttle flights, and free empty legs. The company's "Smart" program (\$1,000 initiation, \$14,000 per year) provides free access to shuttle flights (some 40 routes in the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East), as well as discount charter deals and other perks. Free shuttle seats are limited, but on some routes you can initiate your own shuttle flights and pay an economical per-seat rate—for example, about \$2,000 on a light jet from New York to South Florida—that will make the trip even if no other passengers sign on.

Low-cost cards. Jet cards (see "Up to \$500,000" below), typically cost in the six figures, but Magellan Jets offers cards that start at \$43,500 (for 10 hours in a light jet), like its gift jet card, and another designed for clients whose teenagers want to tour colleges before deciding where to apply.

You can also buy the minimum \$50,000 JetSuite card, granting you access to a Phenom 100 at \$3,875, or a CJ3 at \$5,405 per hour—about

enough to get you across the country and back. In addition, JetSuite has daily deals for empty legs on repositioning flights (subject to cancellation) starting at \$536.



Up to \$500,000

If you want to fly with some regularity on your own schedule, you'll have to open your wallet much wider. "I get calls fairly frequently from people who have had bad experiences flying commercially, or flown on a friend's private jet, and say, 'I want to do that,'" says James Butler, CEO of Shaircraft Solutions. "When you get a sense of their budget, it tends to be a short conversation."

No consensus exists on what a minimum annual spend level is to take frequent advantage of business aviation, but it starts somewhere in the six figures; most jet cards are in that range, and so is regular use of ad hoc charter. About \$250,000 buys 50 hours of light jet or 25 hours of super-midsize flight time with a card, while \$500,000 can provide 150 to 200 flight hours in your own turboprop, according to David Wyndham, president of business aviation consultancy Conklin & de Decker.

Jet cards. Debit-style jet cards offer prepaid access to one or more aircraft types at guaranteed hourly rates, either for a set number of hours (25 to 50, typically) or for a set amount of money (\$100,000-\$1 million). Cards are among the most expensive ways to access business aircraft, but their convenience and simplicity, and the concierge-style service that major programs strive to provide, keep them in demand. Independent auditors don't track jet card sales activity and flight hours but providers such as Delta Private Jets, Sentient, and Flexjet have reported strong sales growth in recent years.

Most programs offer light, midsize, super-midsize, and large-cabin aircraft, and the costs for 25 hours aboard a top card provider's fleet range from about \$134,000 to \$175,000 for a light jet to about \$335,000 to \$375,000 for a largecabin model. But price is the last thing to consider when comparing cards. The products and program options range widely. NetJets' Marquis offerings, for example, include the X-Country Card, which entitles holders to a discount of more than 20 percent on transcontinental flights, while its Combo Card provides 12.5 hours of flight time on aircraft from two categories.

Among the program distinctions to consider: Do the cards





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expire, or just their rate guarantees? What are the minimums for flight legs or daily usage? What are peak days and their access restrictions? Find out about service areas; onboard Wi-Fi; fees and policies for cancellation, upgrades, and downgrades; fuel surcharges; and roundtrip discounts. And of course, make sure the fleet aircraft suit your needs and that their condition and interiors meet with your approval.

For \$100,000 (minimum), you can get XOJet's Preferred Access card. XOJet pioneered transparent, one-way charter rates in the last decade, and it can stretch charter dollars through its dynamic pricing, offering off-peak rates on aircraft from its own and Preferred Partner operators' fleets. XOJet's Elite Access card puts its owned and operated fleet of Challenger 300 and Citation X jets at your disposal for \$8,500 per hour, yielding about 23 hours of flight time if you spend the \$200,000 minimum.

Delta Private Jets' (DPJ) card (available in \$100,000, \$250,000, \$500,000, and \$1 million values) provides access to a vetted fleet, with light-jet rates as low as \$5,100 per hour. Cardholders also enjoy benefits with parent company

Delta Airlines, including Diamond Medallion Status in its SkyMiles club and seamless booking on trips that combine DPJ flights with ones on the airline.

Perform due diligence on the financials and safety standards of providers you're considering. Any broker or operator can offer a jet card, and fees are often kept in general operating accounts, affording little financial protection to cardholders.

On-demand charter. Short of whole ownership, charter is your most economical access option, with point-to-point pricing largely having replaced yesterday's roundtrip rates for one-way flights. To stretch your access budget at any level, establish a relationship with a charter provider who understands your preferences and mission requirements. A basic question on the charter decision tree has long been whether to source flights through a broker or an operator, but today a third optionan app on a personal device—is throwing down roots. Operators such as Clay Lacy Aviation, Priester Aviation, Executive Jet Management, and Solairus control

the jets. Brokers, which include large, long-established firms like Hunt & Palmer, Air Partner, and Le Bas International, are independent, unregulated agents that arrange flights for travelers through operators they work with.

Operators may save you a broker's commission and can provide quicker answers on availability. Conversely, brokers can source through multiple operators, and negotiate on your behalf for the best deal. But anyone can put up a website and go into business as a charter broker. Be familiar with the best practices the Air Charter Association of North America has established for brokers, which members pledge to observe.

Most major providers now have apps that simplify booking and managing charter for clients, and several third-party platforms aim to facilitate virtually instantaneous charter booking for anyone. Input where and when you're going, the number of passengers in your party, and a few booking preferences if desired, and apps from PrivateFly, Stratajet (iOS only), and Returnjet will quickly list a range of available aircraft and estimated costs. Six-figure charter bookings have

reportedly been arranged this way. But unlike online platforms for airline flights, these platforms for the most part can't provide exact pricing, access a sufficient pool of lift, or complete transactions without human intervention.



Up to \$10 Million

At this spending level, you have the budget for a full range of fractional ownership options; enough bespoke charter lift to keep you in the air year-round; or ownership of your own business jet. Conklin & de Decker's Wyndham estimates that \$1.25 million equals 150 to 200 hours in your own light jet, while the same hours in your super-mid-size would cost about \$4.5 million.

Fractional ownership. Fractional jet shares remain popular for their consistency and quality of service, no-hassle ownership experience, and the ability to enjoy the perks of owning an airplane for a fraction of what that would cost. A share can even be better in some ways than full ownership, because you can upsize or downsize to other fleet aircraft when needed and utilize multiple aircraft at one time. (Owners rarely if ever fly on the aircraft they have a share in, but rather on identical models from the fleet.) It doesn't take \$10 million a year to enjoy this access, but this sum ensures you'll be able to afford a share in even the largest business jets.

A minimum share is typically ½16th, entitling you to 50 hours of flight time per year. Besides the acquisition cost, you pay a flat monthly management fee, and the operational cost for each hour flown. (Some fractionals offer a share leasing option.) The ownership term is typically two-and-a-half to five years, after which you



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may elect to extend the contract or have the provider repurchase the share. In recent years, shareowners have complained about sharp drops in residual values and onerous repurchase policies, but they've largely remained loyal to the concept, if not always to the provider.

Another fractional benefit: access to the newest aircraft models, as fractional providers often serve as launch customers, placing large fleet orders that monopolize production lines. Several next-generation jets are scheduled to enter fractional fleets in coming months, making this a good time to consider a share purchase.

PlaneSense is the U.S. launch customer for the Pilatus PC-24, essentially a twinjet version of the rugged PC-12 STOL turboprop that the fractional provider currently operates. NetJets is taking first deliveries of the super-midsize Citation Longitude, the largest jet Cessna has built. And Flexjet will be the first U.S. operator for Gulfstream's G500 and follow-on G600, and has also ordered the airframer's flagship G650 for its fractional fleet.

Moreover, some major providers are in deal mode. "We have seen more flexibility in providing enhancements, and potential owners have the ability to massage their contracts more than in the past," says Shaircraft's Butler, who negotiates contracts for fractional and jet card buyers.

Fractional companies are tightlipped about share costs, and ownership plans for these new models are reportedly still under development, but we can make ballpark estimates. The G650, the most expensive of these jets, lists for \$68.8 million, and volume discounts aren't passed along to shareowners. Also, fractional aircraft are often customized (e.g.,



Flexiet's Red Label and NetJets' Signature Series premium aircraft) and include costly options. Let's say this adds 7.5 percent to the purchase price, bringing the total cost of a Flexjet G650 to about \$74 million. The minimum share of large-cabin jets is often oneeighth, or 100 hours, putting its acquisition cost at about \$9.25 million. As for management fees, in comparison NetJets charges about \$60,000 per month for overseeing a half-share (costing about \$4.4 million) of its exclusive Platinum Edition Phenom 300, a much-less-complex platform to manage. Expect to pay a monthly management fee in the low six figures for your eighth share in a G650; operational costs are in the \$10,000-per-hour range, or about \$1 million per year.

Most shares, though, are in older, less-costly models. Nonetheless, "The combination of fractionals' higher price structure and the depressed values of whole aircraft is leading a few to consider the leap to whole ownership," says aviation attorney Daniel Herr of Fractional Law.

Whole ownership. No other access option provides the freedom and control of whole ownership. A \$10 million annual budget provides sufficient resources to buy and operate an aircraft that meets the needs of many would-be owners, especially with the values available in today's preowned market. "The acquisition cost of a quarter share of a new Challenger 350 would fund the outright purchase of an early Challenger 300, and an eighth share of a new Challenger 350 would fund the outright purchase of an early Citation X," notes Herr.



The Sky's the Limit

Next year, Bombardier's Global 7000, the world's largest purposebuilt business jet, enters service. At \$72.8 million, it may not fit your budget, but it's sure to join the fleet of a premium all-Bombardier charter operator like VistaJet or Zetta Jet. Rates will likely be near \$20,000 per hour, putting the round-trip cost of these operators' U.S.-Asia milk runs at around \$500,000. If you need to go every other week for a year, you'll blow past the \$10 million mark. Requiring regular access to a Boeing Business Jet-a BBJ-777 outfitted for international touring like Europe's Comlux operates, or a VVIP-configured BBJ-787 like China-based Deer Jets'-will also vault you to this spend level. (Repositioning fees alone for these flights may run into six figures.)

If you must have your own, you can pick up BBJs starting at about \$62.3 million, green; interior outfitting adds another \$20 to \$25 million. The equivalent green Airbus Corporate Jet (ACJ) 318 runs about \$75.1 million. New executive-configured Airbus and Boeing widebodies are in the lower nine figures, and that's just the buy in—you'll also need to budget for operations and maintenance.

James Wynbrandt (jwynbrandt@bjtonline.com), who covers preowned aircraft, charter, and other subjects for BJT, is a multi-engine instrument-rated pilot. He has written for the New York Times, Forbes, and Barron's.

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How to buy a jet

Follow these steps to assure a successful acquisition.

by James Wynbrandt

You've chartered, jet carded, maybe owned a fractional jet share, and now your usage and finances have reached a level where whole aircraft ownership might make sense. Good timing—several next-generation business jets are about to enter service and you can find historic values on preowned aircraft in every category. But by themselves, these market conditions aren't sufficient reasons to buy.

Purchase a jet because no other solution will accomplish what you need to do as reliably and economically; because you can't afford to wait three hours for your fractional provider to have an aircraft available; or because, though ownership is more expensive than other private-access options, you feel its value justifies the cost.

Once you've determined that full ownership really does make sense for you, be sure you buy in a way that won't leave you disappointed. Get the aircraft that best suits your needs and that meets your operational budget, and get it at a fair price. Here are the steps professionals follow:

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How to buy a jet

Get representation.

About nine out of 10 buyers engage aircraft brokers to handle purchases, says Johnny Foster, chairman of the National Aircraft Resale

Association (NARA). Could you complete the transaction on your own? Perhaps, but why would you want to? It's complex and time consuming, requires expertise in several specialized fields, and is filled with opportunities for costly mistakes that can put your investment and safety at risk.

Moreover, not having a broker is a red flag to just about any seller's representative, says Jay Mesinger, CEO of Mesinger Jet Sales, as few such transactions close, due in part

to the buyer's ignorance of customary industry practices. Even Fortune 100 companies with their own flight departments typically engage brokers to buy and sell their aircraft. NARA maintains a directory of member brokerages, and you'll find many reputable brokers listed in the Yellow Pages

section of this guide (see page 40).

The cost of their services varies widely, but charges are typically fee- rather than percentage-based. NARA members point out that while real estate agents and yacht brokers are licensed, aircraft brokers are CEO of Mesinger Jet Sales unregulated and require no train-

ing or bonding. Foster notes that NARA's 40 members represent just 3 percent of the world's registered aircraft brokers and dealers, but last year accounted for \$6.5 billion of business aviation's \$10 billion preowned retail sales market. Asked about the fee he charges, Foster demurs. "Any broker who is worth his salt will save [the client] his fee multiple times over," he says. "It's not about buying cheaper, it's about buying the best."

Select the right aircraft type.

Identify the aircraft type that meets your needs. "The mission drives the requirements," says David Wyndham, president of bizav costanalysis firm Conklin & de Decker. "What

must the aircraft do to be successful in your organization?" To determine the best aircraft for clients, consultants and brokerages analyze travel patterns and preferences: where you fly, how often, with how many other David Wyndham, president passengers and how much luggage, of bizav cost-analysis firm your preferred cabin configuration,

and of course your budget-not only for the purchase but for operation.

Indeed, the buy-in price is only "a very, very small component" of the cost of ownership, says NARA's Foster, who's also presi-

> dent and CEO of brokerage Ogarajets. "A lot of people who can write a check for \$2 million choke on the aspect that it's going to cost a million [a year] to operate the plane."

Don't necessarily expect a wholly Johnny Foster, chairman of the National Aircraft owned aircraft to meet all your Resale Association (NARA) mission needs. If you usually fly

> with six passengers but occasionally use a largecabin jet to carry 10, buy an aircraft that accommodates the smaller group, and charter when you need a bigger model.

Decide between new and preowned.

Platform options can include new and/or preowned aircraft, each with a subset of con-

> siderations. New aircraft feature the latest technologies and cabin comforts, and come with warranties that minimize maintenance concerns. But some new aircraft are proven platforms that have been in produc-

tion for several years; in contrast, new-to-market jets, though more

advanced, could experience entry-intoservice issues or fall short of promised performance, notes Jeff Agur, CEO of business aviation consultancy VanAllen. He advises buyers of such models to make sure performance guarantees are spelled out in Jeff Agur, CEO of business the purchase agreement.

Meanwhile, preowned inventory has recently included several almost-new aircraft, some with only ferry time logged, at substantial discounts over the cost of factory-fresh models. These prices illustrate the steep drop in residual values that almost all business aircraft have undergone since the Great Recession, though declines are most dramatic among recently manufactured

airframes. Over the past year (through the first quarter of 2017), average asking prices across all business jet categories continued their decline, with prices falling 1.4 percent for light jets; 4.6

percent for midsize jets; and 1.8 percent for large-cabin models, according to Amstat.

Source your jet.

Once you identify the aircraft type that meets your needs and decide between new and used, the search for the optimum available models begins. If you're buying new from a manufacturer, you can negotiate for items like additional crew training, maintenance coverage, or other enhancements, especially if you're bargaining with more than one airframer. (Even when they're purchasing new jets, buyers today often engage aircraft brokers to negotiate deal points and oversee the completion.)

If you're going the new jet route, have an interim lift solution in place. Depending on the manufacturer's backlog, it could take years before you get your aircraft, though earlier delivery positions are occasionally sold in the secondary market. (If depreciation tax benefits are a factor in deciding whether to buy new or preowned, note that 2017 is the last year purchasers of new aircraft can take full advantage of accelerated bonus depreciation under the current tax code.)

For preowned aircraft, whose sales numbers far outstrip those for new ones, brokers access global inventory through a variety of channels, which are also tracked by data services including JetNet LLC and Aircraftpost.com. You've probably surfed the web and seen abundant listings of aircraft for sale, equipage, service histories, and asking prices. What's missing is the actual sales price, the crown

> jewel of preowned transaction data, which is critical for accurately establishing market value. Brokers know these figures via "interpolation" and market intelligence, says Mesinger. "You have to be in the market every day." Brokers also factor in

the cost of complying with upcoming aviation consultancy VanAllen regulatory mandates, and use mainte-

> nance cost, price trends, and other data-analysis tools in calculating value and making bids.

Select a management company.

Unless you plan to establish a flight department, you'll need a management company to operate and maintain your jet. Some firms provide a full range of in-house capabilities while others may outsource all services. Either way, the company should be familiar with your aircraft model and transparent with all its fees and accounting.

If you plan to make your jet available for charter, as many owners do, check the company's charter demand for that model, and discuss your expectations for charter revenue and the

Conklin & de Decker

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How to buy a jet

availability you'll provide to the aircraft Don't proceed under the misapprehension that charter revenue will make owning a jet profitable; it's intended only to offset some ownership costs. "I have seen very few instances in general aviation where an aircraft makes money," says Robert Molsbergen, president of charter and management company ExcelAire.

Have your acquisition team in place.

Line up your team of legal, title, and maintenance experts and financing sources so the transaction can proceed once you've located an acceptable aircraft and agreed with the seller on the purchase price:

Aviation attorney—Most companies acquiring an aircraft have in-house counsel, but you'll need an attorney who specializes in aviation to buy a jet responsibly. The attorney determines the best

legal framework, such as an LLC or trust, in which to own the aircraft for liability, tax, and regulatory purposes, and handles a host of other legal issues relating to ownership and aircraft registration.

Robert Molsbergen, president of charter and management company
ExcelAire

Title company—Establishing title has always been among the most essential elements in an aircraft transaction, but it has become more challenging with

the rise of the global business jet market. Your best candidate aircraft might be under foreign registry, in a jurisdiction where liens and encumbrances aren't as well documented as they would be under the FAA's procedures in the U.S. Title companies have agents available in-country who can comb records to establish clear ownership, though you may also require legal counsel in the country of registration to search for such liens or other claims.

Maintenance technician—The prepurchase inspection is perhaps the most critical part of the transaction. This is when the aircraft is examined to ensure that its condition is as advertised. As

the buyer, you get to decide where the inspection will be performed, and who will conduct it. You'll need a maintenance technician who is thoroughly familiar with the aircraft type being inspected. That's especially important for aircraft with parts and systems that may be out of production or that may be near a major scheduled maintenance event, so that you can understand the expenses you'll face. The annual operating costs of some legacy aircraft can be several times the purchase price, and their use may be limited due to downtime needed for maintenance.

Financier—Lenders are funding aircraft purchases and refurbishments for creditworthy applicants, but arranging the financing takes longer than it did a decade ago, and depending on the age of the jet, you may need to put up 20 to 40 percent of the purchase price.

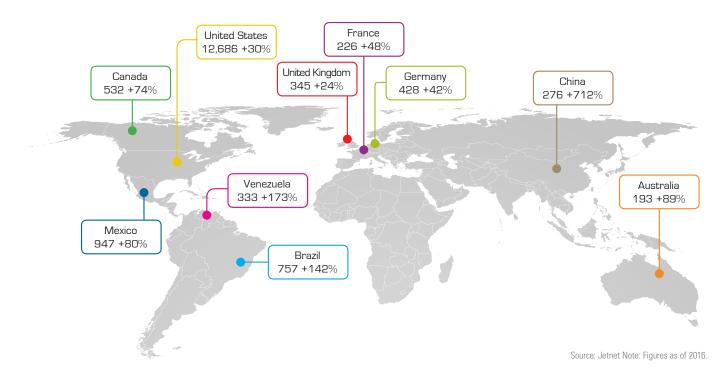
James Wynbrandt (jwynbrandt@bjtonline.com), a multi-engine instrument-rated pilot, is a longtime BJT contributor who has also written for Barron's, Forbes, and the New York Times.

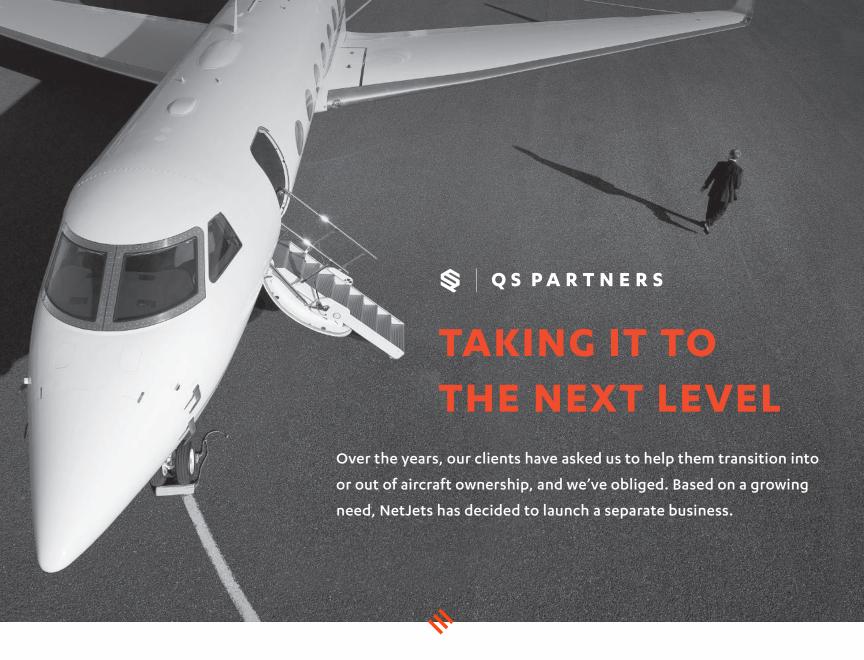
Where the Jets Are

The map shows the 10 countries with the most private jets and the number in each country as of last year. The U.S. has far more than the next nine countries combined, while European nations lag Mexico and Brazil. But the picture could change: the percentages indicate the

increase in the number of private jets in these countries from 2006 to 2016; and China, Venezuela, and Australia, three of the countries with the fewest bizjets, are rapidly adding them while the U.S. growth rate ranks among the slowest.

—Ed.





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W W W . Q S P A R T N E R S . C O M

Time to buy?

Older business jets now sport bargain prices, but consider some caveats before you purchase one.

by Mark Phelps

ecause prices of preowned business jets have never been more attractive, you may be wondering whether the dream of owning one is now within your reach. It might be. But before the dream morphs into a nightmare, make sure you consider all the angles—and that your expectations don't overreach the realities.

If you're contemplating a first purchase, you've probably already at least dipped a toe into the industry, perhaps as a charter user, jet-card holder, or fractional-share owner. Now, full ownership might seem like the next logical step. Maybe you've found that you regularly charter the same aircraft type, but availability is sometimes an issue. The control of full ownership could be the answer for you. Or perhaps you've identified a mission that could take your business to the next level, but the aircraft available to

you don't have the range or passenger capacity to make it work. Buying a more capable jet-and maybe even offsetting some costs by making it available for charter might be the right move.

But when it comes to older jets, some caveats are in order. The sorry

> state of the global economy and the resulting glut of preowned inventory have much to

do with falling prices. But a lessappreciated reason is that technological improvements found on newer jets have accelerated over the past decade. Engine advances have made them incrementally more fuel efficient, quieter, and more environmentally friendly. Techno-leaps in avionics have not only made aircraft safer but have increased their utility and efficiency as more direct routings and improved traffic control have resulted.



Cabin electronics and connectivity hardware have also improved markedly, with vast improvements in bandwidth over the past five years—and lower cost. All these advances might not be available in older aircraft. Today's new jets represent lots more than fresh paint schemes.

One way to evaluate the prudence of buying an older airplane is to compare it with acquiring an older factory or office building. The price might be right, but what about

One bright spot for buyers of older aircraft concerns residual value.

upkeep? Will you need to refresh the electrical service to accommodate modern demand? Does outdated HVAC equipment translate to prohibitively higher energy bills over time (not to mention environmental concerns)? Does the building have sufficient communications equipment to accommodate your business needs? Or, can it be easily updated without a cost-prohibitive gutting of the interior?

Many of the same concerns could accompany buying a previous-generation jet. It may well be that due diligence will reveal that the older airplane is a good deal, even with the cost of upgrades. In fact, some particularly capable airframes (the Beechjet/Hawker 400, for one) are good targets for "remanufacturing" programs involving modern engines, avionics, cabin electronics, and refreshed paint and interior at reasonable prices. But you don't want

publication Aviation International News.

those costs to come as a surprise.

One such cost is financing. Deals vary, but depending on the terms, the monthly payment for principal plus interest could wind up representing a surprisingly small percentage of the overall budget. Most of the other costs associated with aircraft ownership are not that much lower for an older airplane than for a newer one. In fact, some might be higher.

For example, most new aircraft have at least a portion of the maintenance charges incorporated into the purchase price as warranty coverage. Owners of an older aircraft are on the hook for all maintenance charges. Further, as an aircraft ages, life-limited parts and systems come up for overhaul or replacement. In some out-of-production aircraft. those parts and components might become harder to find over time. Maintenance service contracts help spread out the charges, but unhappy surprises are more likely with older airplanes.

Hangars don't know what year the aircraft that are under their roofs were manufactured, so storage charges are measured by wingspan, not life span. Training is similarly agnostic to the age of the airplane involved, though some older, less prevalent aircraft might not have as many training facilities available.

One bright spot for buyers of older aircraft concerns residual value—as long as you lean toward the glass-half-full frame of mind, that is. Over the past decade, buyers of new aircraft have taken a beating in the "return on investment" column. It used to be that factory-fresh business jets sold after a few years at a generous percentage of their original price. But those days disappeared

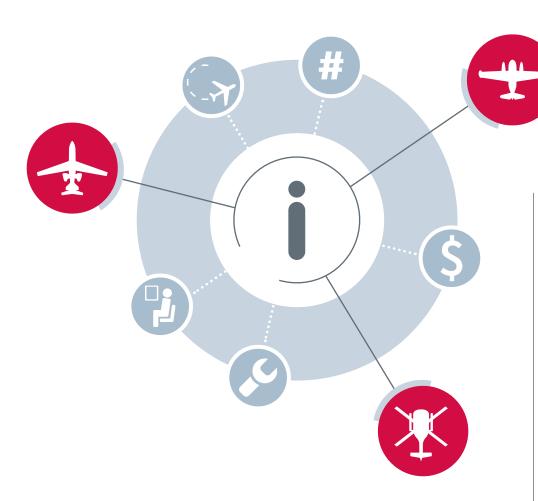
Mark Phelps (mphelps@bjtonline.com) is a managing editor at BJT sister

with the global recession of 2008. That's probably the big reason you might be considering a purchase now in the first place—to turn other owners' misfortune to your advantage. As long as you're diving into the older-bizjet pool with

the assumption that you're acquiring a largely depreciated asset to begin with, you can't be distressed with diminishing values.

So go ahead. Make a splash. Just be sure you're not diving headfirst into the shallow end.





Aircraft Guide

As soon as its first owner departs from the manufacturer's delivery center, a new airplane technically becomes used (or preowned). For various reasons, however, 10 years after an aircraft's final production date is generally considered the milestone separating "newer" used business aircraft from "older" ones.

In deciding which aircraft to cover, we went well past this 10-year mark to provide information on all certified business airplanes and helicopters manufactured since 2000. This means our list includes some models built before that year, as long as they were still being produced as recently as 2000. As a rule, a long production run is indicative of a successful aircraft.

Visit bjtonline.com/aircraft

for the most up-to-date version of these listings.

GENERAL SPECS

USED PRICES

Airplane and some helicopter selling prices are based on the latest edition of the Aircraft Bluebook Price Digest. Additional helicopter pricing data is from helicopter appraisers HeliValues.

PASSENGER SEATING

The typical passenger seating on the aircraft is not the maximum certified seats. These numbers may vary for different operations (corporate, commercial, EMS, etc.).

CABIN DIMENSIONS

Cabin volume is the interior volume, with headliner in place, without seats or other furnishings. Cabin width, height, and length are based on a completed interior. Width and height are the maximum within that cabin space. In "cabin-class" aircraft, the length is measured from the cockpit divider to the aft pressure bulkhead (or aft cabin bulkhead, if unpressurized). For smallcabin aircraft, the distance is from the cockpit firewall to the aft bulkhead.

RANGE

For jets and turboprops, it's the maximum IFR range with four passenger seats occupied, using the NBAA IFR alternate fuel reserve calculation for a 200-nautical-mile alternate. For helicopters, it's the VFR range with all passenger seats occupied.

PRODUCTION STARTED/ENDED

Year of the first delivery to the year of the last serial-number delivery.

NUMBER BUILT

Total number produced, which may include converted aircraft.

JETS









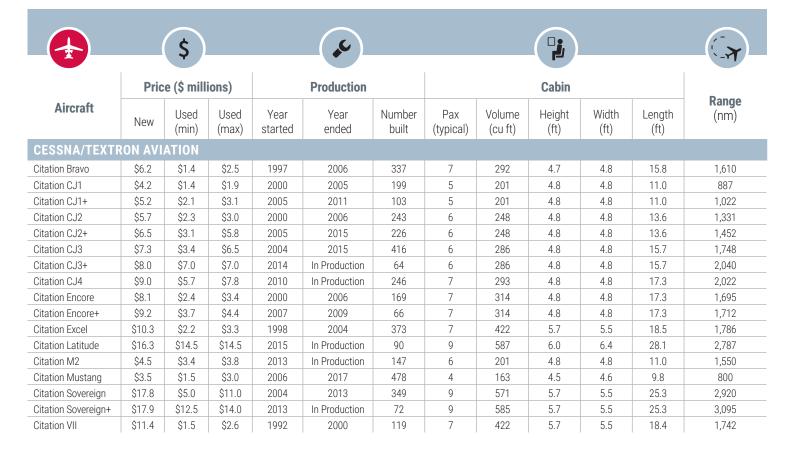


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	Pric	e (\$ mill	ions)		Production		_					
Aircraft	New	Used (min)	Used (max)	Year started	Year ended	Number built	Pax (typical)	Volume (cu ft)	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Range (nm)
AIRBUS												
ACJ318 Elite	\$72.0	\$55.0	\$70.0	2005	In Production	18	19	5,300	7.3	12.1	70.9	6,360
ACJ319	\$87.0	\$55.0	\$85.0	1998	In Production	72	19	5,843	7.3	12.1	78.8	6,360
ACJ320	\$95.0	\$43.0	\$93.0	1989	In Production	7	19	6,825	7.3	12.1	91.0	6,360
ACJ321	\$110.0	\$14.0	\$60.9	1997	In Production	N/A	19	8,547	7.3	12.1	113.8	N/A
BEECHCRAFT/1	[EXTROI	N AVIAT	ION									
Beechjet 400A	\$6.7	\$0.5	\$1.2	1990	2003	351	7	305	4.8	4.9	15.6	1,318
Hawker 4000	\$22.9	\$5.0	\$6.0	2008	2012	79	8	746	6.0	6.5	25.0	3,177
Hawker 400XP	\$7.8	\$1.3	\$2.4	2004	2010	252	8	305	4.8	4.9	15.5	1,318
Hawker 400XPR*	N/A	\$1.9	\$3.7	1986	2010	N/A	8	305	4.8	4.9	15.5	1,817
Hawker 750	\$13.3	\$3.0	\$4.3	2008	2011	49	8	551	5.8	6.0	21.3	2,081
Hawker 800XP	\$13.2	\$1.6	\$2.6	1995	2005	474	8	551	5.8	6.0	21.3	2,539
Hawker 800XPi	\$13.2	\$2.6	\$2.6	2005	2005	N/A	8	551	5.8	6.0	21.3	2,539
Hawker 800XPR*	N/A	\$2.0	\$3.1	1995	2005	N/A	8	551	5.8	6.0	21.3	2,825
Hawker 850XPR*	\$14.1	\$3.0	\$4.0	2006	2009	121	8	551	5.8	6.0	21.3	2,615
Hawker 900XP	\$16.1	\$5.0	\$7.0	2007	2012	196	8	551	5.8	6.0	21.3	2,825
Premier I	\$5.7	\$1.2	\$1.6	2001	2005	133	6	285	5.4	5.5	13.6	1,072
Premier IA	\$7.1	\$1.7	\$2.5	2006	2012	165	6	285	5.4	5.5	13.6	1,072
BOEING												
BBJ	\$71.4	\$41.0	\$71.4	1998	In Production	121	19	5,396	7.0	11.5	79.2	6,230
BBJ 2	\$88.8	\$62.5	\$88.8	2001	In Production	17	19	6,525	7.0	11.5	98.5	5,722
BBJ 3	\$103.0	\$78.9	\$95.5	2006	In Production	7	19	7,290	7.0	11.5	107.3	5,722
DOMBADDIED												
BOMBARDIER			1				l .					
Challenger 300	\$21.0	\$8.0	\$16.5	2003	2014	456	8	930	6.1	7.2	23.7	3,220
Challenger 350	\$26.7	\$19.5	\$22.0	2014	In Production	175	8	1,002	6.1	7.2	23.7	3,200
Challenger 604	\$26.8	\$4.2	\$8.2	1996	2007	366	10	1,146	6.1	8.2	28.4	4,033
Challenger 605	\$21.0	\$9.5	\$20.0	2007	2015	288	10	1,146	6.1	8.2	28.4	4,063
Challenger 650	\$32.4	\$24.0	\$32.4	2015	In Production	42	10	1,146	6.1	8.2	28.4	4,000
Challenger 850	\$32.0	\$14.0	\$29.0	2006	2012	78	15	1,964	6.1	8.2	48.4	2,946
Global 5000	\$49.0	\$14.0	\$38.0	2005	In Production	217	13	1,889	6.3	8.2	42.5	5,137
Global 6000	\$62.3	\$36.0	\$46.0	2012	In Production	262	13	2,002	6.3	8.2	48.4	6,390
Global Express	\$45.5	\$10.0	\$16.0	1999	2005	148	13	2,002	6.3	8.2	48.4	6,460
Global Express XRS	\$58.5	\$18.0	\$31.0	2005	2012	171	13	2,002	6.3	8.2	48.4	6,390
_earjet 31A	\$6.5	\$0.65	\$1.4	1991	2003	209	6	281	4.4	5.0	12.9	1,251
_earjet 40	\$8.0	\$1.6	\$2.5	2004	2007	40	6	369	4.9	5.1	17.7	1,631
_earjet 40XR	\$10.8	\$1.9	\$4.4	2005	2012	94	6	369	4.9	5.1	17.7	1,601
_earjet 45	\$10.3	\$1.7	\$3.3	1998	2007	249	8	415	4.9	5.1	19.8	1,889
_earjet 45XR	\$13.2	\$2.8	\$5.8	2003	2012	211	8	415	4.9	5.1	19.8	1,841
_earjet 60	\$12.6	\$1.3	\$2.3	1993	2003	316	7	447	5.7	5.9	17.7	2,134
Learjet 60XR	\$14.7	\$3.0	\$5.2	2007	2013	114	7	447	5.7	5.9	17.7	2,182
Learjet 70	\$11.3	\$6.5	\$7.3	2013	2017	13	6	369	4.9	5.1	17.7	1,920
Learjet 75	\$13.8	\$8.0	\$10.0	2013	In Production	98	8	415	4.9	5.1	19.8	1

*The XPR variants are part of factory remanufacturing program.



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Aircraft	Pric	e (\$ mill	ions)	Production				Dange				
	New	Used (min)	Used (max)	Year started	Year ended	Number built	Pax (typical)	Volume (cu ft)	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Range (nm)
Cessna/Textron Aviat	ion (contin	ued)										
Citation X	\$23.1	\$3.0	\$12.0	1996	2012	323	8	538	5.7	5.5	23.9	3,140
Citation X+	\$23.4	\$14.0	\$17.0	2014	In Production	25	8	593	5.7	5.5	25.2	3,460
Citation XLS	\$11.3	\$4.0	\$5.4	2004	2009	332	8	422	5.7	5.5	18.5	1,871
Citation XLS+	\$13.0	\$6.0	\$10.8	2008	In Production	227	8	422	5.7	5.5	18.5	1,896
CIRRUS												
Vision SF50*	\$1.96	\$1.96	\$1.96	2016	In Production	N/A	4	170	4.1	5.1	11.5	N/A
DASSAULT												
Falcon 2000	\$24.6	\$3.3	\$9.3	1995	2007	231	10	1,028	6.2	7.7	31.2	3,213
Falcon 2000DX	\$29.5	\$11.0	\$14.0	2007	2010	4	10	1,028	6.2	7.7	31.2	3,378
Falcon 2000EX EASy	\$30.2	\$10.0	\$14.5	2004	2009	136	10	1,028	6.2	7.7	31.2	3,878
Falcon 2000LX	\$32.9	\$14.0	\$20.0	2007	2013	128	8	1,028	6.2	7.7	31.2	4,095
Falcon 2000LXS	\$34.7	\$24.0	\$28.0	2013	In Production	51	8	1,028	6.2	7.7	31.2	4,065
Falcon 2000S	\$29.6	\$21.0	\$24.0	2013	In Production	34	10	1,028	6.2	7.7	31.2	3,601
Falcon 50EX	\$21.4	\$3.0	\$6.4	1997	2007	100	9	569	5.9	6.1	23.5	3,366
Falcon 7X	\$53.8	\$21.0	\$44.0	2007	In Production	269	12	1,506	6.2	7.7	39.1	5,803
Falcon 8X	\$58.4	\$57.5	\$57.5	2016	In Production	N/A	12	1,695	6.2	7.7	42.7	6,450
Falcon 900B	\$26.2	\$3.0	\$7.3	1986	2000	149	12	1,270	6.2	7.7	33.2	4,000
Falcon 900C	\$31.6	\$7.4	\$10.2	1998	2005	25	12	1,270	6.2	7.7	33.2	4,000
Falcon 900DX	\$38.0	\$11.0	\$18.0	2005	2010	24	12	1,270	6.2	7.7	33.2	4,050
Falcon 900EX EASy	\$41.4	\$13.5	\$20.0	2003	2010	249	12	1,270	6.2	7.7	33.2	4,630
Falcon 900LX	\$44.3	\$22.0	\$36.0	2010	In Production	54	12	1,270	6.2	7.7	33.2	4,750
EMDDAED												
EMBRAER			4			_	_					
Legacy 450	\$16.6	\$16.0	\$16.0	2015	In Production	7	7	705	6.0	6.8	24.0	2,575
Legacy 500	\$20.0	\$18.0	\$19.0	2014	In Production	46	8	823	6.0	6.8	27.5	3,125
Legacy 600	\$26.0	\$5.0	\$15.0	2002	2017	193	13	1,656	6.0	6.9	49.8	3,429
Legacy 650	\$31.6	\$11.0	\$22.0	2010	In Production	88	13	1,656	6.0	6.9	49.8	3,919
Lineage 1000	\$53.0	\$31.0	\$35.0	2009	2013	28	19	3,914	6.6	8.8	84.3	4,554
Lineage 1000E	\$53.0	\$37.0	\$43.0	2013	In Production	N/A	19	3,914	6.6	8.8	84.3	4,600
Phenom 100	\$4.1	\$2.0	\$3.3	2008	2013	304	5	212	4.9	5.1	11.0	1,045
Phenom 100E	\$4.2	\$3.5	\$3.9	2013	2017	38	5	212	4.9	5.1	11.0	1,178
Phenom 100EV	\$4.2	\$4.2	\$4.2	2016	In Production	38	5	212	4.9	5.1	11.0	1,178
Phenom 300	\$9.0	\$5.8	\$8.2	2009	In Production	353	7	324	4.9	5.1	17.2	1,974
GULFSTREAM												
GIV-SP	\$32.8	\$4.2	\$7.4	1992	2002	287	13	1,658	6.2	7.3	45.1	4,136
GV	\$43.1	\$9.5	\$14.5	1995	2002	194	13	1,595	6.2	7.3	50.1	6,500
G100	\$12.1	\$2.4	\$3.5	2001	2006	24	7	304	5.6	4.8	17.1	2,790
G150	\$15.7	\$4.8	\$11.5	2006	2016	125	7	521	5.8	5.8	17.7	3,018
G200	\$23.3	\$3.0	\$8.5	1999	2011	248	8	869	6.3	7.2	24.5	3,394
G280	\$24.5	\$16.3	\$19.0	2012	In Production	120	8	888	6.3	7.2	32.3	3,400
G300	\$25.5	\$4.4	\$5.4	2003	2004	13	13	1,658	6.2	7.3	45.1	3,774
G350	\$36.0	\$6.0	\$16.0	2005	2012	11	14	1,658	6.2	7.3	45.1	3,846

^{*} Preliminary data



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	Pric	Price (\$ millions)			Production			Cabin					
Aircraft	New	Used (min)	Used (max)	Year started	Year ended	Number built	Pax (typical)	Volume (cu ft)	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Range (nm)	
Gulfstream (continue	ed)												
G400	\$32.5	\$7.7	\$8.7	2003	2004	23	13	1,658	6.2	7.3	45.1	4,136	
G450	\$43.2	\$10.0	\$27.0	2005	In Production	359	14	1,658	6.2	7.3	45.1	4,363	
G500	\$50.5	\$12.0	\$28.0	2003	2012	9	18	1,812	6.2	7.3	50.1	5,910	
G550	\$60.0	\$17.0	\$46.0	2003	In Production	572	18	1,812	6.2	7.3	50.1	6,820	
G650	\$64.5	\$56.0	\$64.0	2012	In Production	228	18	2,421	6.4	8.5	53.6	7,000	
G650ER	\$66.5	\$65.0	\$67.0	2014	In Production	96	18	2,421	6.4	8.5	53.6	7,500	
HA-420 HondaJet	\$4.5	N/A	N/A	2012	In Production	66	5	N/A	4.8	5.0	12.1	1,223	
NEXTANT AER	OSPACE												
Nextant 400XT*	N/A	\$3.9	\$3.9	1986	2003	47	7	305	4.8	4.9	15.5	2,005	
Nextant 400XTi*	\$5.2	\$2.9	\$4.5	2004	2010	5	7	305	4.8	4.9	15.5	2,013	
ONE AVIATION													
Eclipse 500	N/A	\$0.75	\$0.85	2006	2008	264	3	109	4.2	4.7	7.6	574	
Eclipse 550	\$2.9	N/A	N/A	2013	2015	28	3	109	4.2	4.7	7.6	1,125	
SYBERJET													

^{*} The Nextant 400XT and 400XTi are part of a remanufacturing program.

Source: Conklin & de Decker

TURBOPROPS







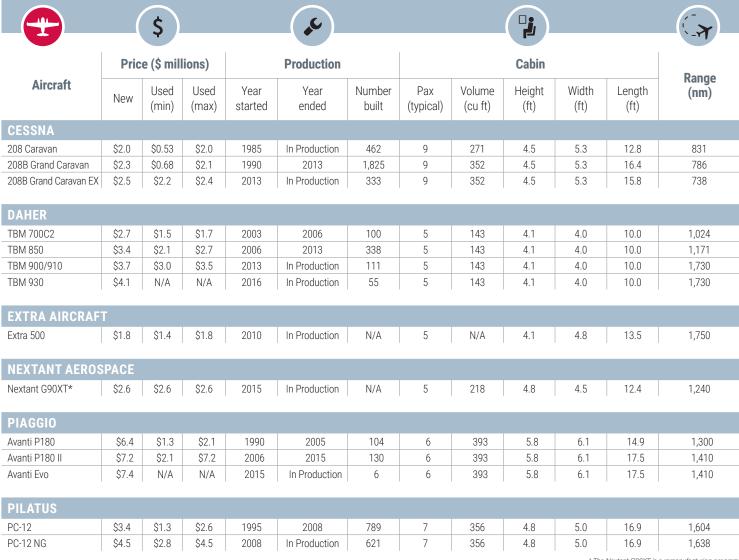




	Pric	e (\$ mil	lions)	Production				Dongo				
Aircraft	New	Used (min)	Used (max)	Year started	Year ended	Number built	Pax (typical)	Volume (cu ft)	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Range (nm)
BEECHCRAFT												
King Air 250	\$6.0	\$3.3	\$5.0	2011	In Production	167	6	303	4.8	4.5	16.7	1,051
King Air 350	\$6.4	\$1.3	\$3.5	1990	2009	683	8	344	4.8	4.5	19.2	1,535
King Air 350ER	\$7.8	\$4.7	\$5.0	2008	2009	81	8	344	4.8	4.5	19.2	2,692
King Air 350i	\$7.0	\$3.5	\$6.5	2009	In Production	375	8	344	4.8	4.5	19.2	1,535
King Air 350iER	\$8.4	\$3.7	\$6.5	2010	In Production	2	8	344	4.8	4.5	19.5	2,238
King Air B200	\$5.3	\$0.70	\$2.6	1981	2008	1,160	6	303	4.8	4.5	16.7	1,164
King Air B200GT	\$5.8	\$2.8	\$3.4	2008	2013	126	6	303	4.8	4.5	16.7	1,164
King Air C90B	\$2.8	\$0.85	\$1.5	1992	2005	437	5	218	4.8	4.5	12.4	828
King Air C90GT	\$3.0	\$1.6	\$1.7	2006	2007	100	5	218	4.8	4.5	12.4	869
King Air C90GTi	\$3.4	\$1.8	\$1.9	2007	2010	130	5	218	4.8	4.5	12.4	869
King Air C90GTx	\$3.6	\$2.0	\$2.8	2010	In Production	158	5	218	4.8	4.5	12.4	1,061



Pilatus PC-12



* The Nextant G90XT is a remanufacturing program.



ROTORCRAFT

*		\$			ac)							(A)	
	Pric	e (\$ mill	lions)		Production			Cabin					
Aircraft	New	Used (min)	Used (max)	Year started	Year ended	Number built	Pax (typical)	Volume (cu ft)	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Range (nm)	
AIRBUS HELICOF	PTERS												
AS332L1 Super Puma	\$21.7	\$7.2	\$22.2	1986	2011	N/A	12	479	5.1	5.9	22.3	406	
AS332L2 Super Puma	\$14.8	\$12.9	\$13.1	1993	2007	N/A	9	479	5.1	5.9	25.8	392	
AS350B2	\$2.4	\$0.67	\$2.4	1990	In Production	1,286	4	61	4.3	5.4	6.6	312	
AS350B3 (2B)	\$1.9	\$1.1	\$1.8	1997	2008	1,427*	4	61	4.3	5.4	6.6	300	
AS350B3 (2B1)	\$2.1	\$1.8	\$2.1	2008	2011	1,427*	4	61	4.3	5.4	6.6	300	
AS355N TwinStar	\$2.5	\$1.0	\$1.7	1993	2006	236	3	106	4.3	5.4	6.6	320	
AS355NP TwinStar	\$3.9	\$1.8	\$3.8	2007	In Production	56	4	61	4.3	5.4	6.6	315	
AS365N2 Dauphin	\$6.7	\$1.4	\$2.8	1990	2001	137	6	186	4.6	6.3	7.2	420	
AS365N3 Dauphin	\$8.6	\$2.8	\$6.0	1998	2010	224	6	186	4.6	6.5	7.2	354	
AS365N3+ Dauphin	\$10.7	\$6.7	\$9.1	2011	In Production	N/A	6	186	4.6	6.5	7.2	341	
BK117C1	\$4.1	\$1.1	\$1.9	1992	2003	36	8	147	4.2	4.9	6.7	221	
EC130B4	\$2.8	\$1.1	\$1.9	2000	2012	448	5	65	4.2	6.1	7.2	280	
EC135P1	\$3.4	\$1.4	\$2.1	1997	2004	49	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	254	
EC135P2	\$3.5	\$2.2	\$2.7	2004	2006	174	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	254	
EC135P2+	\$4.7	\$2.7	\$3.7	2006	2011	405	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	254	
EC135P2e	\$5.4	\$3.7	\$5.4	2011	In Production	N/A	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	278	
EC135T1	\$3.5	\$1.4	\$2.1	1997	2004	106	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	262	
EC135T2	\$3.5	\$2.2	\$2.7	2004	2006	148	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	262	
EC135T2+	\$4.7	\$2.7	\$3.7	2006	2011	269	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	254	
EC135T2e	\$5.4	\$3.7	\$5.4	2011	In Production	N/A	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	256	
EC145	\$8.7	\$4.0	\$6.0	2001	In Production	591	8	143	4.2	5.6	7.4	274	
H120	\$2.1	\$0.50	\$1.8	1997	In Production	691	4	54	4.1	4.4	7.5	240	
H125	\$2.9	\$2.2	\$2.5	2011	In Production	536	4	61	4.3	5.4	6.6	300	
H130	\$3.3	\$1.9	\$2.6	2012	In Production	150	5	65	4.2	6.1	7.2	268	











	l	44										
Aircraft	Pric	e (\$ mill	lions)	Production				Donas				
	New	Used (min)	Used (max)	Year started	Year ended	Number built	Pax (typical)	Volume (cu ft)	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Range (nm)
Airbus Helicopters (co	ontinued)											
H135	\$5.7	\$5.7	\$5.7	2014	In Production	20	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	278
H135	\$5.7	\$5.7	\$5.7	2014	In Production	19	5	100	4.2	4.7	5.9	256
H145	\$8.3	\$8.3	\$8.3	2013	In Production	114	8	143	4.2	5.6	7.4	260
H155	\$10.6	\$4.4	\$10.6	2003	In Production	131	6	225	4.4	6.7	8.4	373
H175	\$16.8	\$15.0	\$15.0	2012	In Production	14	10	434	4.6	6.8	12.5	650
H215C1	\$27.0	N/A	N/A	2016	In Production	N/A	12	N/A	5.1	5.9	19.6	406
H215L1	\$27.9	N/A	N/A	2016	In Production	N/A	12	479	5.1	5.9	22.3	406
H225	\$27.9	\$13.4	\$26.0	2005	In Production	169	12	595	4.8	5.9	25.8	354
BELL												
206B3	\$1.4	\$0.32	\$1.0	1977	2010	2,307	3	54	4.2	3.9	3.3	270
206L4	\$2.6	\$0.80	\$2.3	1993	In Production	483	5	73	4.2	3.9	5.0	253
407	\$3.1	\$1.2	\$2.4	1996	In Production	1,560	5	84	4.2	4.8	5.0	293
407GX	\$03.0	\$2.5	\$3.0	2013	In Production	N/A	5	84	4.2	4.8	5.0	N/A
407GXP	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$3.1	2013	In Production	N/A	5	84	4.2	4.8	5.0	N/A
412EP	\$11.2	\$3.7	\$10.0	1994	In Production	608	6	208	4.4	8.0	8.6	N/A
412EPi	\$11.2	\$11.2	\$11.2	2013	In Production	N/A	6	208	4.4	8.0	8.6	310
427	\$4.3	\$1.3	\$4.2	1999	2010	87	5	102	4.2	4.6	5.8	312
429	\$6.6	\$4.8	\$6.0	2009	In Production	312	5	130	4.1	5.0	9.8	325
430	\$8.0	\$1.2	\$2.5	1996	2008	129	5	158	4.8	4.8	8.3	276
505 Jet Ranger X	N/A	N/A	N/A	2016	In Production	N/A	N/A	61	4.4	4.8	7.2	294
ENSTROM												
280FX	\$0.47	\$0.13	\$0.50	1985	In Production	N/A	1	40	3.9	1.1	4.1	214
480	-	\$0.13		1903	2000		3	32	4.0	5.7	5.0	
	\$0.46		\$0.30	2001		N/A						155
480B F-28F	\$1.2 \$0.47	\$0.35	\$0.50	1981	In Production In Production	N/A N/A	3	32 40	3.9	5.5 4.4	5.0 4.1	165 214
LEONARDO*												
	000.0	010.0	000.5	1004	In Donder C	N1/A	10	070	6.0	0.0	01.0	100
AW101	\$28.0	\$13.9	\$28.5	1994	In Production	N/A	10	970	6.2	8.2	21.3	466
AW109 Grand	\$6.4	\$2.8	\$4.0	2005	2010	427	5	178	4.2	5.3	7.7	360
AW109 GrandNew	\$5.8	\$5.3	\$5.5	2010	In Production	N/A	5	178	4.2	5.3	7.7	357
AW109 K2	\$3.8	\$3.1	\$3.5	1993	2003	367	5	125	4.3	4.7	5.4	75
AW109 Power	\$5.1	\$1.3	\$5.1	1997	In Production	421	5	125	4.2	5.3	6.9	260
AW109 Trekker	\$4.5	\$4.5	\$4.5	2014	In Production	N/A	5	178	4.2	5.3	7.7	357
AW119 Ke	\$3.6	\$1.8	\$3.5	2007	2013	278	5	121	4.2	5.3	6.9	380
AW119 Koala	\$3.0	\$1.8	\$2.3	2000	2006	N/A	5	121	4.2	5.3	5.8	N/A
AW119 KX	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$3.1	2013	In Production	N/A	5	121	4.2	5.3	6.9	380
AW139	\$11.3	\$5.5	\$11.0	2004	In Production	833	8	282	4.7	7.2	8.9	460
AW139 Enhanced	\$14.1	\$5.5	\$13.0	2016	In Production	N/A	8	282	4.7	7.2	8.9	460
AW169	\$8.3	\$8.3	\$8.3	2014	In Production	25	6	223	4.3	6.7	7.1	366
AW189	\$15.5	\$15.5	\$15.5	2015	In Production	33	8	396	4.7	8	11.41	600
MD HELICOPTE	RS											
MD HELICOPTE MD500E	\$2.2	\$0.40	\$1.5	1983	In Production	403	3	51	4.4	4.5	3.5	174
Formerly Finmeccanica. Agus	1	, VO. TO	Ų 1.0	1700	iii roddolloll	100	1	01	1 7.7	7.0	0.0	1/7

^{*} Formerly Finmeccanica, Agusta Westland.



Leonardo AW109Power



Source: Conklin & de Decker



bout 3,400 FBOs operate at U.S. airports, delivering essential business aviation services such as fueling, deicing, aircraft maintenance, and shelter, and providing comfortable waiting areas for passengers and crew. To determine which of those locations offer the best overall experiences, BJT's sister publication, Aviation International News, has conducted an annual survey since 1981, polling a select subset of its readership, including pilots, flight schedulers, and dispatchers—those who can knowledgeably evaluate FBOs.

While in the past, AIN's survey invited these readers to rate locations only during certain months, the magazine now allows them to evaluate FBOs

year-round. That allows respondents to keep their observations up to date, with their latest rating of a location replacing their previous one.

Another change in this latest survey: rather than base results on just a current round of voting, *AIN* now compiles average scores based on responses from the last four years.

The survey asks respondents to rate facilities they've used over the past 12 months on a scale of 1 to 5 in the following categories:

Line service: competence and professionalism of the workers who meet the airplane on the ramp and service it.

Passenger amenities: quality of lounges and conference rooms, as well as the availability of ground transportation.



Africa, and Asia	Pacific 2013–2017	
FBO	Airport	Overall Average
TAG Farnborough	Farnborough	4.70
Universal Aviation	London Stansted	4.55
XJet	London Stansted	4.54
MJets	Don Mueang International	4.52
Eccelsa Aviation	Olbia Costa Smeralda	4.47
TAG Aviation	Geneva International	4.46
KLM Jet Center	Amsterdam Schiphol	4.45
Jet Aviation	Geneva International	4.36
Signature Flight Support	Nice Cote D'Azur International	4.36
Execujet Europe	Zurich	4.32
Harrods Aviation	London Luton	4.32
Hawker Pacific	Sydney Kingsford Smith	4.29
Execujet Middle East	Dubai International	4.26
Dassault Falcon Service	Paris Le Bourget	4.24
Signature Flight Support - Terminal 3 (formerly Landmark)	Paris Le Bourget	4.23
Execujet Brussels	Brussels National	4.17
Universal Aviation	Paris Le Bourget	4.16
Signature Flight Support - Terminal 1	Paris Le Bourget	4.14
Hong Kong Business Aviation Center	Hong Kong International	4.10
Swissport Executive	Nice Cote D'Azur International	4.09
Jet Aviation	Dubai International	4.07
Signature Flight Support - Terminal 1	London Luton	4.02
Jetex Paris	Paris Le Bourget	3.95
Vienna Aircraft Handling	Vienna International	3.92
Aviapartner Executive	Nice Cote D'Azur International	3.91
Jet Aviation	Zurich	3.88
Vipport Vnukovo-3	Moscow/Vnukovo	3.31
Million Air/CJET	Beijing/Capital	3.30
FBOs with the same overall average are listed in	n alphabetical order.	

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Pilot amenities: availability and quality of pilots' lounges, flight-planning facilities, snooze rooms, crew showers, entertainment, and recreation offerings and complimentary crew cars.

Facilities: cleanliness, comfort, upkeep, and convenience of the location.

Customer service: professionalism of customer-service desk representatives, their familiarity with the local area, and their assistance with reservations and catering arrangements.

With an average score of 4.75, the highest-rated FBO in the Americas this year is the Sheltair location (formerly Tampa International Jet Center) at Florida's Tampa International Airport, which the Florida-based chain purchased a year ago. The perennially high-rated facility earned the best score this year for passenger amenities (4.75) and shared top honors for pilot amenities (4.73). The 20-acre facility is open 24/7 and encompasses a 12,000-squarefoot, two-story terminal with atrium lobby, a street-side customer canopy at the front entrance, and on the airside, a 12,500-square-foot arrival/ departures canopy to shelter aircraft and guests from the heat and rain. Other features include a passenger lounge overlooking the ramp, a pair of A/V-equipped conference rooms, complimentary refreshments, and a courtesy shuttle to hotels. The airport's U.S. Customs facility is adjacent to the ramp, providing easy international flight clearance.

On *AIN*'s list of leading FBOs outside the Americas, nine of the top 10 are in Europe. (The exception is MJets in Bangkok, Thailand.) Londonarea facilities occupy the three top slots, with Farnborough Airport's TAG Aviation at No. 1, a position it has held for more than a decade.

"The key difference is that we are the only [UK] airport dedicated solely to business aviation," says TAG Farnborough Airport CEO Brandon O'Reilly. "The ownership of the airport and the operation of the FBO are concentrated in one operation so there is no compromise on the service."

Recent upgrades at the FBO include a high-capacity lounge on the top floor of the three-story, 52,000-square-foot terminal to accommodate large groups such as sports teams and rock bands and a fully equipped gym for visiting pilots. The location features more than 329,000 square feet of hangar space, an on-airport luxury hotel, and a pub.

Curt Epstein (cepstein@bjtonline.com) is a senior editor at *Aviation International News*.

	Top-Rated FBOs in the Americas 2013–2017			
	FB0	Airport	Location	Overall Average
	Sheltair (formerly Tampa Int'l Jet Center)	Tampa International	Tampa, FL	4.75
	Jet Aviation	Palm Beach International	Palm Beach, FL	4.74
	Atlantic Aviation (formerly Black Canyon Jet Center)	Montrose Regional	Montrose, CO	4.72
	Fargo Jet Center	Hector International	Fargo, ND	4.72
9,	Pentastar Aviation	Oakland County International	Waterford Twp., MI	4.71
P 59	Ross Aviation (formerly Airflite)	Long Beach /Daugherty Field	Long Beach, CA	4.70
T0	Skyservice	Lester B. Pearson International	Toronto, Canada	4.70
	Atlantic Aviation	Charles B. Wheeler Downtown	Kansas City, MO	4.68
	J.A. Air Center	Aurora Municipal	Aurora, CO	4.68
	XJet	Centennial	Denver, CO	4.68
	Signature Flight Support	Scottsdale	Scottsdale, AZ	4.67
	Banyan Air Service	Fort Lauderdale Executive	Fort Lauderdale, FL	4.66
	Business Jet Center	Dallas Love Field	Dallas, TX	4.66
	Wilson Air Center	Memphis International	Memphis, TN	4.66
	Base Operations at Page Field	Page Field	Fort Myers, FL	4.65
%	Global Select	Sugar Land Regional	Sugar Land, TX	4.65
P 1	Meridian Teterboro	Teterboro	Teterboro, NJ	4.65
2	Million Air	Addison	Addison, TX	4.65
	Million Air	Indianapolis International	Indianapolis, IN	4.65
	Sheltair	Long Island MacArthur	Ronkonkoma, NY	4.64
	Signature Flight Support	St. Paul Downtown Holman Field	St. Paul, MN	4.64
	Destin Jet	Destin-Fort Walton Beach	Destin, FL	4.63
	Texas Jet	Fort Worth Meacham International	Fort Worth, TX	4.63
	Wilson Air Center	Charlotte/Douglas International	Charlotte, NC	4.63
	Monterey Jet Center	Monterey Peninsula	Monterey, CA	4.62
	Atlantic Aviation	Pittsburgh International	Pittsburgh, PA	4.61
	Henriksen Jet Center	Austin Executive	Austin, TX	4.61
	Premier Jet Center	Flying Cloud	Prairie, MN	4.61
	Signature Flight Support	Minneapolis-St Paul International	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	4.60
	Vail Valley Jet Center	Eagle County Regional	Gypsum, CO	4.60
	World-Way Aviation	Sorocaba	Sorocaba, Brazil	4.60
%	Orion Jet Center	Opa-Locka Executive	Opa-locka, FL	4.59
TOP 20%	Rectrix	Sarasota/Bradenton International	Sarasota, FL	4.59
ᅙ	Sheltair	Jacksonville International	Jacksonville, FL	4.59
	Wilson Air Center	Lovell Field	Chattanooga, TN	4.59
	Fontainebleau Aviation	Opa-Locka Executive	Opa-locka, FL	4.58
	Signature Flight Support	Pierre Elliott Trudeau International	Montreal, Canada	4.58
	Atlantic Aviation	McClellan-Palomar	Carlsbad, CA	4.57
	Signature Flight Support	Boca Raton	Boca Raton, FL	4.57
	Alliance Aviation Services	Fort Worth Alliance	Fort Worth, TX	4.56
	Heritage Aviation	Burlington International	South Burlington, VT	4.56
	Signature Flight Support	Charleston AFB/International	Charleston, SC	4.56
FB0s	with the same overall average are listed in alph			



When boilerplate boils over

Buyers and sellers count on commonly used purchase-contract language to protect them. Whether it really will depend on exactly what an agreement says and how courts interpret it.

by Jeff Wieand

t's easy to see why most business jets are sold on what's known as an "as is, where is" basis. They can break down, require costly repairs, and be involved in incidents resulting in damage to the aircraft, passengers, and other people and property. If you're selling your jet, you don't expect to be responsible for issues like this if they happen after closing; you expect to pass that responsibility to the buyer along with title to the aircraft.

The first seller of an airplane the manufacturer—has an advantage here. In response to concerns that zealous plaintiffs' lawyers were endangering general aircraft production by holding manufacturers

"strictly liable" for damages caused by defects, Congress passed the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994. Under the Act, the airframer is essentially off the hook 18 years after the aircraft was first delivered, assuming it did not engage in certain kinds of bad acts, such as fraudulent misrepresentations about the aircraft's capabilities. This is true even if the manufacturer's original customer no longer owns the aircraft. As a result, a subsequent buyer's attorneys may look to another seller: the previous owner who sold it to their client.

But sellers have lawyers too, and they invariably provide in the purchase agreement that the aircraft is delivered to the buyer at

closing "as is, where is," a magic phrase that's supposed to ward off post-closing liabilities. The phrase absorbs added talismanic power by being typed in ALL CAPS.

Though the "as is, where is" phrase is widely used, its suitability for a business jet sale is strained, since aircraft purchase agreements almost always indicate exactly where the aircraft will be delivered and the closing will take place. But attorneys are typically loath to alter the magic phrase and insist that the "where is" language be included, anyway.

"As is, where is" likely has plenty of company in the purchase agreement. Although sellers' attorneys will rarely tolerate any contractual

representations warranties or regarding the aircraft post-closing (which the attorney may want the contract to disclaim even when there aren't any), contract law and the Uniform Commercial Code provide certain "implied warranties," such as the warranty of merchantability, which can apply even though the contract doesn't invoke them. Implied warranties are generally eliminated only if the contract disclaims them by name. Further, as there are lots of kinds of damages, including lost profits and punitive damages, a seller's counsel will want to disclaim as many of these as possible. The result can add up to a couple of pages of cumbersome boilerplate, which some seller attorneys want to restate in the warranty bill of sale and/or delivery receipt.

s all this verbiage effective? Two recent cases show how complicated the answer can be. In the first case, Luig v. North Bay Enterprises, the plaintiff sold a Bell helicopter to the defendant. After the sale, it emerged that, because of modifications made to the engine prior to closing, the airworthiness certificate no longer showed the correct aircraft type and was thus invalid. When the buyer complained, the plaintiff/seller sought a court judgment that he had complied with the purchase agreement terms in delivering the helicopter to the defendant. He argued



that the contract, which required the buyer to accept the aircraft "as is, where is," was intended to waive all warranties as to the helicopter's post-closing condition. However, like almost all aircraft purchase agreements, the contract also required the seller to deliver the helicopter in airworthy condition.

After examining the agreement, the Federal District Court in Texas concluded that the "as is" clause successfully excluded all implied warranties, such as merchantability. But the court also decided that the contract contained a warranty by the seller that the aircraft would be delivered in airworthy condition and that the "as is" clause was insufficient to exclude that warranty. The court's reasoning was a form of the rule of construction that "the specific trumps the general." The "as is" clause was deemed too general to disclaim the specific airworthiness warranty.

Two months later, a Federal District Court in Tennessee considered a similar issue. In this case, after operating a Citation jet for almost two years, the purchaser discovered during a scheduled airframe inspection at a Cessna service center that holes had been drilled through a structural spar as part of an interior reconfiguration by a previous owner. It was no great surprise when Cessna determined that the holes rendered the aircraft unairworthy.

The unseemly facts of the sale as reported by the court are interesting, as unbeknownst to buyer and seller, the buyer's pilot and a maintenance technician working on the airplane conspired to structure the sale as a "back-to-back," netting them \$200,000 in a \$2.1 million transaction. However, this sordid tale did little to stimulate the court's sympathy for the buyer, who had not only purchased an aircraft that couldn't fly, but was apparently swindled in the process. Unfortunately, though aspects of the court's reasoning are difficult to follow, its

Is all this verbiage effective? Two recent cases show how complicated the answer can be.

conclusion is clear: despite language in the contract that the seller "shall deliver the Aircraft from the Pre-Purchase Inspection...in Airworthy Condition," the court determined that, to the extent "in Airworthy Condition" conflicts with the "as is, where is" clause and other warranty disclaimers in the contract, "the disclaimers control."

The lesson from these cases is that representatives of both buyer and seller must take great care in drafting the purchase agreement. The seller should not assume that, simply by including an "as is, where is" clause, it has eliminated the potential for post-closing liabilities. (The Texas court noted that "the mere use of the two words 'as is' has never been held to automatically bar an action on an express warranty.") Similarly, the buyer should not assume that requirements that the aircraft be airworthy at closing will provide a cause of action against the seller if this later proves false.

In the cases discussed above, the courts tried to provide a detailed, nuanced reading of the purchase agreement, stating that the contract must be construed to ascertain and give effect to the intention of the parties. This may include consideration of whether "airworthy condition" is intended as a delivery condition, a covenant, an objective of the prepurchase evaluation, a representation, or a warranty.

Jeff Wieand (jwieand@bjtonline.com) is a senior vice president at Boston JetSearch. His award-winning Taxes, Laws, and Finance column has appeared continually in **BJT** since we published our first issue in 2003.



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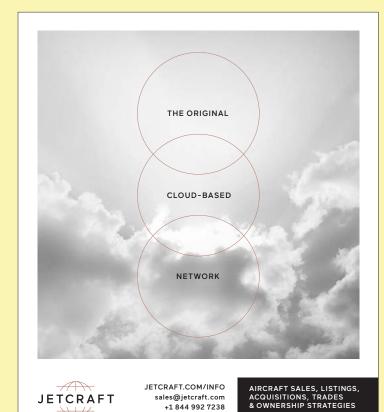
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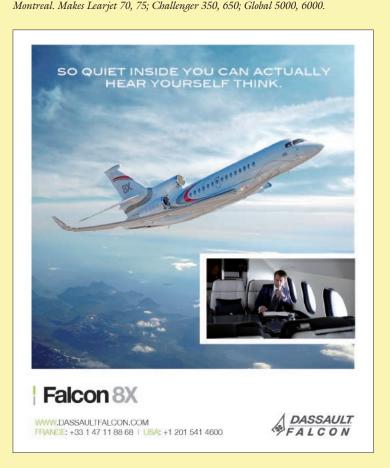
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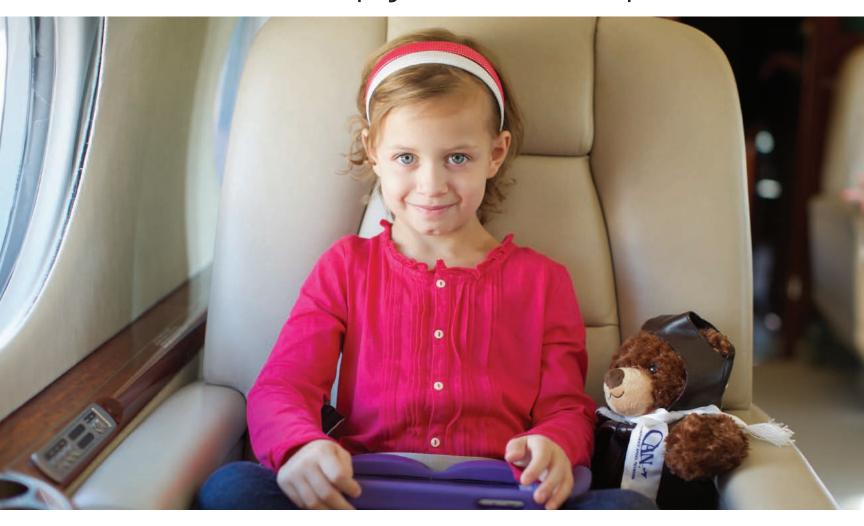
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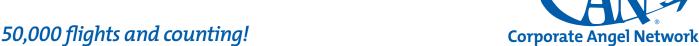
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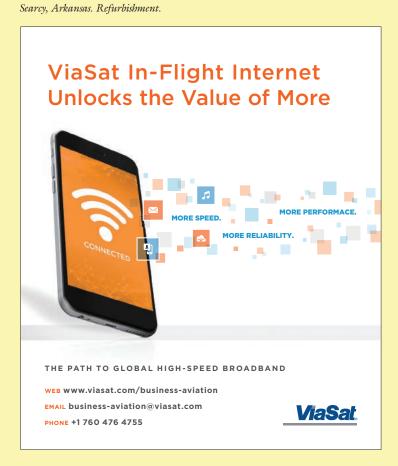


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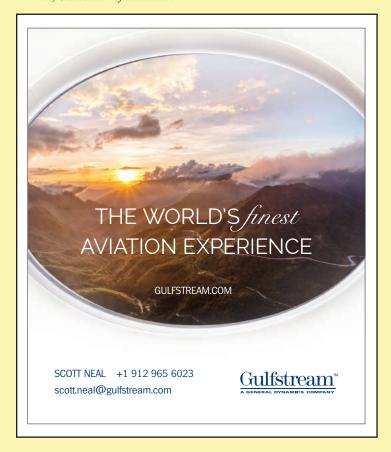
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