

# The Major Aircraft Manufacturers

## AT A GLANCE

Here's a look at the world's leading business jet manufacturers and their current and upcoming models.

by Matt Thurber



**AIRBUS**

Airbus ACJ

[airbus.com](http://airbus.com)

Headquarters: Blagnac, France

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–nine units, \$616 million

Aircraft in production: ACJ318, ACJ319, ACJ320, plus VVIP widebodies

Airbus entered the bizliner market in 1997 with the Airbus Corporate Jet (ACJ), an executive version of its A319 airliner. The company's three single-aisle bizliners are now named the ACJ318, ACJ319 and ACJ320. Airbus Corporate Jets plans to offer the "new-engine option" (neo) for the ACJ319 and ACJ320 beginning in 2018. For government and other customers requiring the ultimate in space and long-distance capability, Airbus also produces executive versions of its A330, A340, A350 and A380 widebody jetliners.



Hawker King Air C90GTX

**BEECHCRAFT CORPORATION**

[beechcraft.com](http://beechcraft.com)

Headquarters: Wichita, Kansas

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–177 units, \$1.118 billion (totals include 36 piston aircraft)

Aircraft in production: King Air C90GTX, 250, 350i

Beechcraft Corporation traces its roots back to 1937, when Walter Beech introduced the Model 18, arguably the first cabin-class, twin-engine business airplane. That effort morphed in 1964 into the twin-turboprop King Air model, which has since undergone multiple upgrades and remains in production to this day. Raytheon bought Beech in 1980, adding the Hawker business jet brand, and the company became Hawker Beechcraft. It emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy in February of this year as the Beechcraft Corporation, which no longer produces a business jet and instead focuses exclusively on its turboprop line.



**BOMBARDIER**

Global 5000

[bombardier.com](http://bombardier.com)

Headquarters: Montreal, Canada

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–179 units, \$5.833 billion

Aircraft in production: Learjet 70, 75, 60XR; Challenger 300, 605, 850; Global 5000, 6000

Bombardier started out as a snowmobile manufacturer in 1942 and has grown into one of the world's largest producers of business jets and regional airliners. In the last two decades, the company has introduced several business jet models, including the Learjet 40/45 and 70/75, Challenger 300 and 605 and Global 5000 and 6000. The forthcoming Learjet 85 will be the first all-composite business jet. The ultra-long-range Global 7000 and 8000 models will join the fleet in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

Boeing Business Jet



**BOEING BUSINESS JETS**

[boeing.com/commercial/bbj](http://boeing.com/commercial/bbj)

Headquarters: Seattle, Washington

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–12 units, \$232 million (figure includes only 737-type BBJs)

Aircraft in production: BBJ, BBJ2, BBJ3 plus VVIP widebodies

The BBJ combines components of two 737 models: the 737-700 series airframe and the larger 737-800 series wing, landing gear and center fuselage section. A larger, stretched version called the BBJ2 boasts 25 percent more cabin capacity and the even larger BBJ3 is based on the 737-900ER. Starting in 2018, the BBJ1, BBJ2 and BBJ3 will be transitioning into the Max platform, with 12 percent improved fuel burn offered by the upgrade to the CFM International Leap-1B engine. All Boeing jets from the 737 to its largest and newest 747-8 and the 787 are available in VVIP versions.



Cessna Citation Sovereign

## CESSNA AIRCRAFT

cessna.com

Headquarters: Wichita, Kansas

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–282 units, \$1.852 billion (totals include 283 piston aircraft)

Aircraft in production: Caravan; Citation Mustang, CJ2+, CJ3, CJ4, Encore+, XLS+ and original Sovereign and X models

Cessna built its first airplane in 1927 and has since rolled out more than 190,000. Of the roughly 16,000 business jets in operation worldwide, Cessna has produced a third of them. The company's 11 business jet models span the Mustang very light jet and continue up the spectrum to the new version of the Citation X, which when certified will be the world's fastest civil airplane with a top speed of Mach 0.935. Other offerings include the new M2, Latitude, Longitude, X and upgraded Sovereign. To serve the growing Asian market, Cessna will produce models in China—the XLS+, Sovereign and Latitude—and develop an entirely new jet with China's Avic.



Dassault Falcon 2000S

## DASSAULT FALCON

dassaultfalcon.com

Headquarters: Saint-Cloud, France

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–66 units, \$2.939 billion

Aircraft in production: Falcon 2000LX, 2000S, 900LX, 7X

Dassault Industries, EADS and a group of private investors own Dassault Aviation, whose marketing and support subsidiary in the U.S. is Dassault Falcon Jet. The company builds airframes at its factory in southwest France. Dassault offers the Falcon 900 and 2000 family of business jets, as well as the Falcon 7X trijet, featuring the latest in fly-by-wire flight-control technology and fighter-jet-style sidesticks in the cockpit. The next Falcon—tentatively called the SMS—will be a twin-engine jet, but no details have been released on that aircraft. The lower-cost Falcon 2000S was certified last year, and next year will see entry-into-service of the 2000LXS, which replaces the 2000LX.



## DAHER-SOCATA

Daher-Socata TBM 850

tbm850.com

Headquarters: Tarbes, France

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–38 units, \$130 million

Aircraft in production: TBM 850

Daher-Socata's speedy single-engine turboprop TBM 850 cruises at 320 knots as high as 31,000 feet while carrying up to six occupants. Range at top speed is more than 1,400 nautical miles with reserves or nearly 1,600 nautical miles at the 252-knot long-range cruise speed, yet the TBM 850 can land on runways as short as 2,100 feet. Industrial conglomerate Daher, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2013, purchased Socata in 2009.



Eclipse 500

## ECLIPSE AEROSPACE

eclipseaerospace.net

Headquarters: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Aircraft in production: Eclipse 550

Eclipse Aerospace has resumed production of its iconic very light jet, now dubbed the Eclipse 550. The new jet is aerodynamically the same as its predecessor, the 500, with the same Pratt & Whitney Canada PW610F turbofan engines, but sports a more sophisticated flight deck, the Avio IFMS system based on avionics made by Innovative Solutions & Support.



Embraer Phenom 300

## EMBRAER

embraer.com

Headquarters: São Paulo, Brazil

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–99 units, \$1.253 billion

Aircraft in production: Phenom 100, 300; Legacy 600, 650; Lineage 1000

Embraer's ERJ 135/145 airframe served as the foundation for the company's first business jet, the Legacy 600, which was introduced in 1999. In the past decade, Embraer has made a strong push into the business jet market by developing the Phenom 100 and 300 small-cabin jets, the midsize Legacy 450 and 500, the Lineage 1000 bizliner and the longer-range Legacy 650. The Legacy 500 and 450 midsize jets feature fly-by-wire flight controls and sidesticks and will be certified in late 2013 and 2014, respectively.



Gulfstream G650

## GULFSTREAM AEROSPACE

gulfstream.com

Headquarters: Savannah, Georgia

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–94 units, \$4.067 billion

Aircraft in production: G150, G280, G450, G550, G650

Last year, two new Gulfstream jets received certification from the FAA, the super-midsize G280, built in Israel by partner IAI, and the ultra-long-range, large-cabin G650. The G280 replaces the G200. The flagship G650 has a larger and wider cabin and larger windows than the G550, the manufacturer's previous top model, and can fly 7,000 nautical miles unrefueled. The G650 has a maximum operating speed of Mach 0.925, giving it the title of the world's fastest civil airplane—at least until the upgraded Citation X receives certification.



HondaJet

## HONDA AIRCRAFT

hondajet.honda.com

Headquarters: Greensboro, North Carolina

Sales (business aircraft): not applicable  
FAA certification due 2014

Aircraft in production: HondaJet

Honda Aircraft has begun production of the HondaJet and expects to receive certification next year from the FAA. The light jet carries up to six passengers and features over-the-wing engine mounting, which frees up space in the fuselage and allows for a fully enclosed lavatory, unique in this size aircraft.



Piaggio Avanti

## PIAGGIO AERO INDUSTRIES

piaggioaero.com

Headquarters: Genoa Sestri, Italy

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–five units, \$36 million

Aircraft in production: P.180 Avanti II

The sleek, pusher-turboprop Piaggio Avanti was developed in response to the energy crisis of the 1970s. Piaggio delivered the first Avanti in 1990. In 2005, the aircraft was updated with the Rockwell Collins Pro Line 21 avionics system, given slightly more powerful Pratt & Whitney Canada engines and branded the Avanti II. Piaggio has confirmed development of a business jet but has revealed few details about the product so far. Piaggio Aero is jointly owned by Tata, Mubadala Development and the Ferrari and di Mase families.



Pilatus PC-12

## PILATUS BUSINESS AIRCRAFT

pilatus-aircraft.com

Headquarters: Stans, Switzerland

Sales (business aircraft): 2012–62 units, \$287 million (total includes six PC-6 Porter utility aircraft)

Aircraft in production: PC-12NG

Pilatus is the world's largest manufacturer of single-engine turboprops. The company's PC-12 was certified in 1994 and became an instant hit with buyers, who appreciated its ruggedness, spacious cabin and performance. Today, more than 1,000 PC-12s are in service. The newest version, the PC-12NG, features a more powerful engine and Honeywell Primus Apex avionics. Pilatus is developing the PC-24, a twin-engine light jet with a midsize cabin, due for entry into service in 2017.

### OTHER BUSINESS AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS

**Cirrus Aircraft**  
Duluth, Minnesota  
cirrusaircraft.com

**Diamond Aircraft**  
London, Canada  
diamondaircraft.com

**Extra Aircraft**  
Hünxe, Germany  
extraaircraft.com

**Piper Aircraft**  
Vero Beach, Florida  
piper.com

**Quest Aircraft**  
Sandpoint, Idaho  
questaircraft.com

**SyberJet Aircraft**  
Cedar City, Utah  
sj30jet.com

### HELICOPTER MANUFACTURERS

**AgustaWestland**  
Cascina Costa di  
Samarate, Italy  
agustawestland.com

**Bell Helicopter**  
Hurst, Texas  
bellhelicopter.com

**Enstrom Helicopter**  
Menominee, Michigan  
enstromhelicopter.com

**Eurocopter**  
Marignane, France  
eurocopter.com

**MD Helicopters**  
Mesa, Arizona  
mdhelicopters.com

**Robinson Helicopter**  
Torrance, California  
robinsonheli.com

**Sikorsky Aircraft**  
Stratford, Connecticut  
sikorsky.com