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Another step forward in the build-up of the fleet

With the activation of one further Learjet 55 (D-CFAI) and of one additional Learjet 60 (D-CSIX), FAI was able by the middle of the year to reach one of its key strategic goals for 2009. FAI has at this point in time deployed a fleet totalling 11 Learjets (2 x LR35A, 6 x LR55, 3 x LR60) to serve our core business of air ambulance flights as well as UN peacekeeping missions in Africa, while keeping a "back-up" plane in store. We are now in a position to guarantee the continuous availability of four air ambulance aircraft and five aircraft for the peacekeeping missions even when faced with the need to carry out long technical overhauls. The required flexibility of the fleet will be further enhanced with the deployment of a fourth Learjet 60 (D-CNUE). With by then 12 Learjets FAI would be one of the largest users of this type of plane in the world. An improved availability in the field of air ambulance services with four dedicated aircraft permanently available has proven absolutely essential in the last few months in order to meet the demand from the market. Particularly time critical missions for emergency and intensive care patients out of areas with sub-standard medical infrastructures will now be better served thanks to the build-up of the current FAI fleet.

Increased long range transport capacity

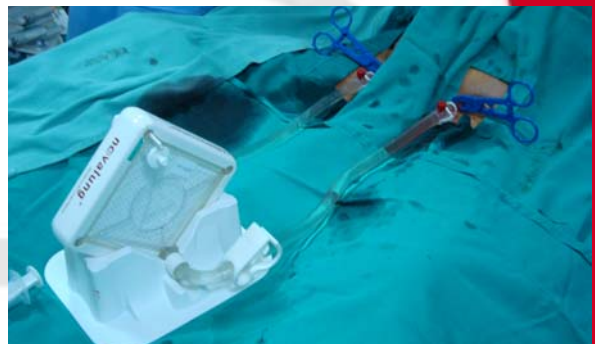
FAI is also expecting growth in the area of long range transport with the planned arrival in service of a second Challenger 604 at the beginning of 2010. This will significantly improve service availability in this segment of the market, as FAI had to react to the unexpectedly high use of the first CL604. Among other assignments the Challenger was used to fly a well-known Formula 1 driver from Budapest to his home country Brasil.

The high season is back

After a first half of the year where given the economic crisis the travel industry showed signs of weakness, the last two months have brought about a lot of activity. With 13 % more missions in August 2009 compared to the same month in 2008 and 57 % more volume in September, FAI has shown an extraordinarily high level of activity. This positive trend has maintained itself during the first week of October, so that FAI can now reasonably expect a 10 % growth of its activities by the end of the year.

Innovative ARDS air medical transport

A medical team under the leadership of FAI's deputy medical director Dr. Götz Leonhardt proceeded, in close cooperation with Novalung GmbH, to the medical transport of a patient suffering from an extremely severe pulmonary condition from Kuwait to London for further treatment. The Novalung GmbH company is a market leader in the area of artificial pulmonary function support and has developed a device which "breathes for the patient" outside his body (Novalung iLA). The iLA membrane-ventilator® supports the affected lungs by assisting in the vital functions of oxygen uptake and carbon dioxide elimination. The small, only 14 x 14 cm, device function outside the body as if it were a natural organ fed blood by the heart. The connection to the patient's circulation is achieved through two highly flexible Novaport® catheters (vascular access devices) that were positioned by the FAI team in one artery and one vein in the patient's groin.



This therapeutic modality completes the usual mechanical ventilation treatment which is essential for intensive care patients with severe lung infections like this gentleman. All the relevant physiological parameters could be improved after about 36 hours using this approach, and thus allowed a low risk air medical transport to be planned and carried out. This project was brought about by Dr. Thomas Buchsein, FAI's medical director, who had been monitoring the patient's clinical status for quite a while, and thought that given the patient's unfavourable flight physiological parameters the only option to successfully carry out the mission was using this "artificial lung".



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