Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation

Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation designs, develops, manufactures, markets, services and supports the world’s most technologically advanced business-jet aircraft. The company, based in Savannah, Ga., is a wholly owned subsidiary of General Dynamics. Gulfstream, which has approximately 11,500 employees, has built more than 2,000 aircraft for corporations, governments and individuals around the world. In 2011, it delivered 107 green aircraft. More than 70 percent of 2011 orders were international. Its backlog at the end of 2011 was $17.9 billion.

Gulfstream manufactures seven aircraft across a spectrum of price and performance points. The models are the wide-cabin, high-speed G150; the large-cabin, mid-range G350; the large-cabin, long-range G450; the large-cabin, ultra-long-range G500; the large-cabin, ultra-long-range G550; and two new aircraft, the large-cabin, mid-range G280 and the ultra-large-cabin, ultra-long-range G650. The large-cabin models are manufactured at company headquarters in Savannah and outfitted at one of five Gulfstream completion centers — Savannah; Brunswick, Ga.; Dallas, Texas; Appleton, Wis.; and Long Beach, Calif. The mid-cabin G150 and G280 models are co-manufactured by Israel Aerospace Industries in Tel Aviv, Israel, and outfitted in Dallas.

Gulfstream aircraft prices range from $15.6 million for the G150 to $64.5 million for the G650.

The company’s two newest aircraft, the G280 and G650, have been well-received. Both offer the longest range and the fastest speed in their respective classes. Powered by best-in-class Rolls-Royce BR725 engines, the flagship G650 is capable of traveling 7,000 nautical miles (12,964 km) at Mach 0.85 and has a maximum operating speed of Mach 0.925, which makes it the fastest civil aircraft.

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The two new aircraft flew for the first time in 2009 and remain on track as they continue extensive flight testing in preparation for full Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) certification in 2012. The G650 received provisional type certification from the FAA in 2011, while the G280 received it in 2012. Both the G280 and G650 are scheduled to enter service in 2012.

To support its fleet, Gulfstream maintains the largest company-owned product support network in business aviation, with more than 3,300 professionals worldwide. No other business-jet manufacturer offers a wider range of services, enhancement, spares, support functions and technical publications than Gulfstream.

Gulfstream provides airframe, avionics, engine and refurbishment service and support for its aircraft at eight locations in the United States — Savannah, Appleton, Brunswick, Dallas, Las Vegas, Long Beach, West Palm Beach, Fla; Westfield, Mass. — and one outside the U.S. — Luton, England. The company also operates a component repair facility in Lincoln, Calif.

The Gulfstream brand first appeared in 1957, when Bethpage, N.Y.-based Grumman Aircraft Engineering Co. completed the design for the turboprop-driven Gulfstream I, which had its maiden flight on Aug. 14, 1958. Company founder Roy Grumman named the aircraft the “Gulfstream” because many Grumman executives vacationed in Florida, where the Gulf Stream current flows northward along the coast.

In 1967, Grumman moved the Gulfstream corporate-jet operation to Savannah. The company experienced a series of mergers and buyouts during the 1970s, which led to Gulfstream becoming its own entity in 1978. General Dynamics bought Gulfstream in 1999.

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