

BOMBARDIER DELIVERS FIRST CRJ200 SPECIAL FREIGHTER AIRCRAFT

News / Manufacturer



Bombardier Commercial Aircraft announced that it has delivered the first CRJ200 Special Freighter (CRJ200SF) aircraft to launch operator Gulf & Caribbean Cargo, Inc. Db a IFL Group (IFL Group) of Waterford, Michigan.

The CRJ100SF/CRJ200SF jets are converted from the passenger version of the aircraft by Aeronautical Engineers, Inc. (AEI) of Miami who is a Bombardier-licensed Third Party Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) provider. The freighter design includes a large 94 in. x 77 in. (238.7 cm x 195.6 cm) cargo door, hold up to 14,840 lbs. (6,731 kg) of payload on the main deck and offer eight 61.5" X 88" pallet positions for containerization.

“CRJ100 and 200 jets are the assets upon which regional airlines have built their existence, however they are gradually being replaced in favor of larger aircraft and are finding homes in secondary markets with modifications such as AEI’s freighter conversions,” said David Speirs, Vice President, Asset Management, Bombardier Commercial Aircraft. “We are continuing to see growing interest in these pre-owned aircraft

from both traditional and emerging sectors of the industry.”

“The CRJ100 and 200 operator base has grown by about 120 per cent over the past eight or nine years, a strong indication of the aircraft’s continuing strength, versatility and appeal,” added Mr. Speirs.

“To date, we have received commitments for 45 aircraft conversions from a variety of operators and we fully expect to convert over 100 aircraft over the life of the program,” said Robert Convey, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Aeronautical Engineers. “I believe that most CRJ100SF, CRJ200SF aircraft will be operated on longer-range regional services with thin demand that require the speed of a jet but can’t support larger narrow-body freighters.”

“Speed and on-time performance are vital factors for success in a growing air freight industry,” said Michael Church, President, IFL Group. “The reliability of the CRJ aircraft have made their mark in the highly-competitive and fast-paced world of regional airline operations and we’re confident that will continue in our air freight business.”

21 DECEMBER 2016

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