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Budapest Airport opens inflatable hangar

(Text prepared by Budapest Airport)

Aircraft engineers of Lufthansa Technik Budapest no longer have to worry about freezing winter weather, as a huge special inflatable hangar has been commissioned at their Budapest base, the dimensions of which allow indoor parking of an Airbus A320 or a Boeing 737.

The unusual technical solution has been made necessary due to the Ferihegy-based Lufthansa Technik Budapest receiving so many orders for the winter period. Their existing hangar capacity –accommodating up to five mid-size aircraft simultaneously – proved insufficient. Budapest Airport and Lufthansa Technik made a joint decision to erect a temporary inflatable hangar purely for the purpose of civil aviation, the first in Europe.

The inflatable hangar produced by Buildair of Spain, selected as a reference facility, is already operated at Getafe Air Base, in the vicinity of the Spanish capital, where Airbus' division in assembling military transport and tanker planes is based. The floor-space of the facility reaches 4000m², and is currently foreseen to be operated for six months in Ferihegy – for as long as weather conditions make it necessary. The inflatable hangar has already proven its reliability, safely withholding winds of 70-80 km/hour in the middle of October, only a few days after it was erected.

“This type of hangar has already passed the test in Spain, but in Budapest we now have an opportunity to test the durability of the Buildair structure in more demanding winter conditions as well. The inflatable hangar is operated on the basis of the same principle as inflatable covers for tennis courts or swimming pools, but our product is much bigger and is capable of withholding significantly stronger loads,” emphasised José Antonio Sanz, Commercial Director, Buildair.

“The Budapest base of Lufthansa Technik is receiving more and more orders, we perform annual maintenance and/or thirty-day overhauls for an increasing number of airlines. In aviation, the winter period is traditionally the peak season for repair and maintenance and we can only meet the increased demand with this extraordinary solution in the winter of 2014/2015,” said Dietmar Focke, the new CEO of Lufthansa Technik Budapest who took up his post in Hungary just recently. He added: “Hungarian and foreign professionals working here are doing a great job and thanks to the inflatable hangar we can create additional high-value jobs at our Budapest base where only a few days ago we celebrated the handover of the 100th aircraft of Norwegian Airlines repaired by us.”

“I am happy to see that our long-term cooperation with Lufthansa Technik has reached a new stage. Last year we handed over a 2000m² spare-parts warehouse, this year's novelty is the inflatable hangar. Our next project in the aviation MRO-business is the construction of a dedicated Wizz Air maintenance hangar. Budapest Airport is ready to support the operation and success of its long-term airport partners with sustainable investments.” said René Droese, Property Director, Budapest Airport.

Snapshots of the event can be downloaded from: <http://goo.gl/bXdgja>



Photo caption: (left to right) René Droese, Property Director, Budapest Airport; Dietmar Focke, CEO, Lufthansa Technik Budapest and José Antonio Sanz, Commercial Director, Buildair stand in front of Budapest Airport's new inflatable hangar – the first in Europe purely for civil aviation.

Notes for Editors

- Budapest Airport Zrt. is the operator of Budapest Airport. It is owned by an international consortium of investors, led by the privately-owned German company AviAlliance, an independent airport manager holding a 52.66% stake, together with Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (20.17%), Malton Investment Pte Ltd. (22.17%) and KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH (5%).
- Budapest Airport welcomed 8.5 million passengers in 2013, flying on the airport's services to 99 destinations across 34 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth in the period to end-October 2014 has exceeded +7%.
- Budapest Airport's route development for 2014 include:
 - Launched since September:
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Kutaisi, 30 September
 - Emirates Airlines daily service to Dubai, 27 October
 - To launch:
 - Vueling thrice-weekly services to Barcelona and Roma, starting 27 March 2015
 - SAS four times weekly service to Stockholm Arlanda, starting 29 March 2015
 - Air Transat weekly service to Montréal-Toronto, starting 18 June 2015

To find out more on Budapest Airport, visit www.bud.hu

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