

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **50 years of Aero-Dienst – 50 Years of Excellence in Business Aviation**

Nuremberg, 16 May 2008 (dg) – In 1958 the international political climate was marked by the confrontation between the two superpowers, the USA and the Soviet Union, culminating in the arms race. The Central Register of Traffic Offenders was opened in Flensburg and Elvis Presley was completing part of his military service in Germany. It was also the era of Germany's economic miracle, when the owners of the Nuremberg firms Diehl and FAUN seized the opportunity to set up a general aircraft maintenance business: that was the moment of birth of Aero-Dienst GmbH, which now numbers among the largest and most important complete service providers for business aviation in Europe.

Today, some 200 highly qualified and motivated employees look after the four business areas of Aircraft Maintenance, Operations, Sales and Management. At the start of 2008 two new models were added to the fleet of aircraft, and Aero-Dienst was appointed as an "Authorized Service Center" for Falcon 900EX and 900EX EASy. In July the new hangar 3a will start operations.

The Aero-Dienst success story is based on the entrepreneurial pioneering spirit of its two founders, Karl Diehl and Karl-Heinz Schmidt, on its committed and well-trained employees, and on some key milestones in the company's 50-year history. Aero-Dienst was registered as a commercial airline in 1966 and was given licence number 2 – right behind Lufthansa. The sale, maintenance and chartering of Learjets began in 1968 and, in 1975, Aero-Dienst took over air ambulance flights for ADAC emergency rescue cover. In those days the aircraft were specially converted within an hour for this kind of use, whereas today two fully equipped Dornier 328 Jets in three different configurations, together with two Beechcraft King Air 350, are on standby as air ambulances.

1989 saw the opening of the second hangar, with a surface area of 4,000 square metres serving as an aircraft hangar and central spare parts warehouse.

In 1998 ADAC became the new owner. Increasing numbers of regional, national and international companies were putting their faith in the expertise of Aero-Dienst, while prominent customers valued the professional skills and discretion of the Nuremberg team. Aero-Dienst was given a facelift in 2006, receiving a new image with modern logo and company motto: "Your Jet – Our Job – Since 1958".

Today nine aircraft are operated; just recently a Falcon 900EX trijet and a 45 Learjet XR were registered in the AOC. Aero-Dienst is also an “Authorized Service Center” for numerous aircraft models and manufacturers. With the forthcoming commissioning of the new third hangar, the total operations area of Aero-Dienst at Nuremberg airport extends over some 5,500 square metres.

But Aero-Dienst is celebrating another anniversary this year: For 30 years it has been working as a Service Center for Honeywell engines and avionics. This constant cooperation between USA and Europe stands for a very stable consistency in the aviation business.

On schedule with its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Aero-Dienst will be awarded with the “Safety of Flight Award Gold” by the European Business Aviation Association (EBAA). This award emphasizes the company’s operational qualification, its high training standards as well as its general competence of aviation.

A recent customer survey revealed an extremely high level of customer satisfaction with the company: Aero-Dienst enjoys a good image in terms of reliability, professionalism, quality and customer focus, and has an exceptionally loyal customer base. Rising sales are proof of this success year after year.

And so today management, staff, partners and associates are celebrating the 50-year anniversary of Aero-Dienst, which is looking forward with optimism to a successful future. This is ensured by corporate vision and the outstanding pool of young trainee aircraft mechanics in Nuremberg, who consistently gain top marks.

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