

International Aviation Firms Announce Coalition

Seminar Offers Critical Information for International Operators Focus on SAFA, TSA, and CBP Issues

September 1st, 2010 – Washington, DC: Industry leaders have joined together to develop a seminar covering vital information for private and charter aircraft operators conducting international flights to and from Europe. Aviation experts will present the program at the 2010 National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia on Tuesday October 19th at 2:00 PM in room B318, and repeat it on Wednesday the 20th at 2:00 PM in the same room. Directors of flight and maintenance departments, pilots, cabin crewmembers, and dispatchers, as well as representatives of non-EU civil aviation authorities should take the opportunity to attend this informative no-cost program.

The first topic of discussion is the European Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA) program. The European Commission requires the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to subject aircraft registered in non-European countries to random ramp inspections upon landing at airports in the EU and other signatory countries. These SAFA inspections follow procedures and reporting formats common to all EU Member States, and focus on the quality of operating procedures, flying staff, and aircraft airworthiness. According to the SAFA 2007 annual report, 8,594 inspections were performed that year (latest data available).

Michael Grüninger of **Great Circle Services AG** (www.gcs-safety.com) will provide insights into the history and processes of SAFA, enabling operators to better understand and prepare for their next inspections. "If an inspection identifies significant irregularities, these will be taken up with the operator and their oversight authority," says Grüninger, Managing Director of Switzerland-based GCS. "Where irregularities have an immediate impact on safety, inspectors can demand corrective action before they allow the aircraft to leave, presenting a very real risk of being grounded or delayed by European Authorities." Severe or repeated deficiencies can lead to blacklisting by all EU member states, seriously impeding an operator's ability to conduct flights. A former SAFA inspector for Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) and a SAFA trainer for the European Commission, Grüninger has personally inspected some 700 aircraft and has contributed to SAFA standardization, training, and development throughout Europe and overseas. He is also an accredited IS-BAO Auditor.

GCS is a safety consultancy firm which assists airlines, MROs and training organisations with operational and maintenance issues, including training and auditing. The company's strength lies in its ability to understand both sides of the coin; the regulators and the aviation industry at large.

Next, Eric Moilanen, President of **Premier Corporate Security** (www.premiercorporatesecurity.com), will discuss issues, policies and procedures involving Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Transportation Security Agency (TSA) for aircraft entering and leaving the U.S. An 8-year law enforcement veteran and 18-year corporate pilot with type ratings in the Gulfstream G-IV and Douglas DC-9, Moilanen has a unique understanding and perspective on aviation security. "We see a number of easily-avoidable TSA and CBP-related errors made by operators," states Moilanen. "We'll discuss these, and specifically address the differences and special procedures for the Part 91, 125, and 135 communities". Also highlighted will be the differences in the way the TSA and CBP handle U.S. versus non-U.S. registered aircraft.

PCS provides highly experienced, specialized advocacy for operators dealing with TSA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. They manage aviation security programs for high profile international operators including foreign dignitaries and heads of state, as well as prominent business leaders foreign and domestic. They have created several TSA compliant counter-terrorism training programs and work extensively with all federal agencies under the Department of Homeland Security umbrella.

International Trip Planning Services (www.itpops.com), which provides comprehensive and personalized flight planning and trip support services to the corporate aviation industry, and **Bizliner Aviation** (www.bizliner.aero), which provides consultancy, auditing, management services, and crew resourcing for large VIP aircraft, are sponsoring the seminar. Seating will be limited to 44 attendees per session, and advance registration is recommended. More information on the seminar and links to each participating company can be found at www.bizliner.aero/SAFA. To register, call +1-202-747-3233 or email SAFASeminar@bizliner.aero.