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Vibro-Meter wins Dassault contract for Falcon 7X engine vibration monitoring units

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Paris Air Show, 2003: Meggitt PLC company Vibro-Meter SA announced today (15 June 2003) that it will supply engine vibration monitoring units (EVMUs) aboard Dassault's new long-range executive jet, the Falcon 7X. It is the second contract for EVMU's awarded to the company by the French aircraft manufacturer. The EVMU is a key predictive maintenance device. However, because its fan trim balance feature contributes to a well-balanced engine, travellers experience a smoother ride in the aircraft in which the unit is installed. This is an entirely appropriate enhancement of the Falcon 7X, which will launch a new era in business jet travel from 2005, flying faster, further and higher than any Falcon in service today with a non-stop range of 5,700 nm.

With its unique three-engine design, the new Falcon 7X -- which will be able to fly non-stop from Paris to Tokyo, or New York to Riyadh -- is unrestricted by ETOPS considerations across oceans. Furthermore, the high performance of its 6,100lbs thrust per engine PW307A powerplant will allow operators access to more demanding airfields such as those at high altitudes on warm days.

Vibro-Meter's engine vibration monitoring unit helps to predict maintenance requirements, obviating the need for costly unscheduled repairs. Output from the unit is also used to help balance engines, which will enhance the comfort of the regular and increasingly discerning business traveller. The Falcon 7X also uses accelerometers offered through PWC from Endevco, an operating business within Meggitt's specialist, high value electronics division.

Vibro-Meter's relationship with Dassault started in 2000 with a first vibration monitoring unit contract for the Falcon 2000 EX, a derivative of the existing Falcon 2000 aircraft, featuring new PW308C turbofans. Vibro-Meter began shipping EVMU's for the Falcon 2000 EX in 2002. The aircraft was certificated in March 2003.

Dassault has further enhanced the aircraft with the recent installation of its new EASy flightdeck, on course for JAA and FAA certification in the first quarter of 2004.

Richard Greaves, managing director of Meggitt Aerospace Systems division and Vibro-Meter president commented: "We are excited to be working with Dassault, a company at the forefront of future generation business jet design. The Falcon 7X will be the first business jet to feature fly-by-wire controls and this technology, adapted from Dassault fighter jets, will add performance and safety benefits. The selection of engine vibration monitoring from Vibro-Meter will facilitate cost effective maintenance scheduling and, because of the equipment's engine balancing contribution, ensure a smoother flight."

Dassault Falcon Jets are designed and manufactured alongside Dassault Aviation's renowned fighter aircraft. The Falcon family of jets encompasses six aircraft, all positioned at the top end of the market with a range of 3,000 to 5,700 nm.

*Vibro-Meter, part of Meggitt PLC's Aerospace Systems division, manufactures systems, sensors, and equipment primarily for the aerospace and industrial industries.
Meggitt PLC is traded on the London Stock Exchange.*

PRESS RELEASE