

Flightcraft hits its stride Olympic-style

This summer, Eugene OR will play host to the Olympic team track and field trials. Flightcraft, which operates FBOs at EUG (Eugene OR) and PDX (Intl, Portland OR), is gearing up in anticipation of increased GA and business traffic to the region.

Flightcraft VP & General Mgr Jordan Papé notes that plans call for a new business aviation terminal at the EUG facility to be completed by early May. An upgrade of the Flightcraft business aviation terminal at PDX—specifically, renovation and recarpeting of the pilot lounge—is also scheduled for completion by that time.

Other FBO terminal amenities at PDX include flight planning with WSI Pilotbrief Pro, 2 conference rooms, a snooze room and a charter flight ops management office.

Flightcraft is an Air BP dealer. At EUG it pumps fuel for both GA and commercial aircraft, while at PDX the airlines have formed a fuel consortium, and Flightcraft serves a mixture of business aircraft and some visiting military aircraft (ie, those not using the ANG base on the south side of PDX). Fuel is kept in above-ground storage tanks. On an average day, Flightcraft pumps around 22,000 gallons of Jet A.

At PDX, Flightcraft has 9 hangars with a total floorspace of 175,000 sq ft. It also has an 8000 sq ft hangar at EUG. At present, says Papé, the company employs 102 people at PDX—a figure that includes technicians, CSRs, pilots and sales personnel—and 27 at EUG.

Flightcraft is a division of The Papé Group, whose core businesses center on capital equipment and heavy machinery for the construction and forestry industries throughout the western US. In business since 1938, the Papé organization bought Flightcraft in 1986 to help in its mission to be the premier provider of capital equipment in the western US.

Apart from FBOs, Flightcraft has 2 other primary areas of business—MRO activity and aircraft charter/management.

MRO business accounts for some 40% of Flightcraft's revenue, and both facilities are

licensed Part 145 repair stations. EUG concentrates mainly on piston-engined aircraft, while the PDX service center specializes in work on turbine-powered aircraft—especially Citations and King Airs—and in avionics installations and service.

Flightcraft PDX became a Citation authorized service center (ASC) in 1996 and remains the only non-Cessna-owned ASC west of the Rockies. The company has also been a Beech associate for many years and, although not affiliated with Hawker Beechcraft, performs a large amount of work on King Airs.

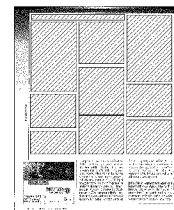
Dir of Tech Ops Mitchell Berck has been with Flightcraft for 27 years. He oversees 37 technicians and support staff at PDX. The service center, which is physically separate from the FBO, consists of 2 hangars and includes a service sales office, avionics shop, parts department and component shop with nondestructive testing bay.

Flightcraft holds parts for Beechcraft, Cessna/Citation and Piper aircraft, and for Continental, Honeywell, Lycoming and Pratt & Whitney Canada (P&WC) engines. The company holds more than 10,000 parts in stock—in keeping with what Jordan Papé describes as the company's commitment "to keep its customers moving."

Berck explains that most of Flightcraft's work on engines—turbines at PDX, reciprocating at EUG—consists of major inspections. Overhauls, on the other hand, typically go out to Dallas Airmotive or P&WC.

As part of Flightcraft's third strand of business, it also manages around a dozen aircraft, including Papé Group's 2 airplanes. A Cessna 414, Citation CJ3 and Learjet 35 are among the aircraft on leaseback through Flightcraft.

Papé adds that charter and management form a relatively small part of the business. Flightcraft customers—including first-time visitors attending this summer's Olympic trials—will find "a family-run organization committed to the highest level of customer service." And, he insists, not only are individual customers remembered—it's "a more personal experience." —Phil Rose





Airside view of Flightcraft's newly refurbished business aviation terminal at PDX.



Flightcraft team members (L-R) VP & General Mgr Jordan Papé, Dir of Customer Service David Jinings and Dir of Technical Ops Mitchell Berck.



King Airs and Citations dominate maintenance work performed by Flightcraft PDX.