Telair International Delivers First ``Blast-Resistant'' Aircraft Baggage Containers: Federal Aviation Administration to Oversee In-Service Airline Use

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RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, Calif., Sep 19, 2002 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Telair International, a subsidiary of Teleflex Incorporated (NYSE:TFX), announced today the delivery of the first production units of the Telair Hardened Unit Load Device (HULD) wide body aircraft baggage container. The U.S. Department of Transportation, Transportation Security Agency (TSA) purchased these FAA certified containers to gather additional in-service data as part of its ongoing aviation security development program for airline passenger safety. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), now part of the TSA, will oversee the in-service assessment program for the Telair containers to collect field performance data and assess additional postal package and general cargo-carrying applications. This will be a continuing effort in what has been a lengthy research and development process conducted by the FAA and TSA towards developing another layer of passenger aircraft safety and anti-terrorist defense.

"Telair and Teleflex have committed considerable man hours and funding in the effort to design and manufacture a blast-resistant baggage container capable of meeting the FAA test protocol and worthy of consideration by the world's air carriers. Today, Telair is the only company to have successfully passed the FAA blast test and to be issued full airworthiness certification for a hardened wide-body aircraft baggage container that is practical for real world cargo use by cost-conscious airlines," said Telair President, Axel Hauner. The Telair HULD successfully passed the FAA blast-resistance test August 14, 2001, and was fully approved as airworthy on December 12, 2001. Limited HULD production began earlier this year, and Telair is now prepared for full-scale manufacturing of its first fifty production units.

"We view the HULD not as a typical cargo or baggage container, but as a sophisticated aircraft security device, designed to bridge the 'gap' between the capability of existing detection technology and the types of blasts that aircraft can survive. Consequently, our development and manufacturing costs and procedures are far different from a typical container," Hauner added.

Indeed, the FAA and other U.S. governmental agencies have long understood the limits of Explosive Detection Screening and have called for a physical protection from undetected concealed explosives. The Telair HULD was specifically designed to meet this challenge and has already demonstrated its blast-resistant capabilities by serving as a last line of defense against undetected explosives concealed in passenger baggage and stowed in the under-wing cargo hold. "Since the Pan Am Flight 103 disaster, our industry has sought to prevent in-air bombings by designing a baggage container able to control an undetected explosive device. We have proven our ability to do this. Now the real test may be the everyday use of our HULD containers in an equally threatening environment...the world's airports," he continued.

Telair and Teleflex supply cargo and other aerospace equipment to the global aviation industry. The HULD, therefore, has been designed to meet the everyday and severe demands of cargo and baggage operations, while offering a high security profile. The FAA intends to put the HULD production-grade units into immediate service. "We understand the FAA plans to fast track its in-service review of HULD performance and we look forward to its findings for use as a baseline for future design and maintainability improvements to the currently certified HULD configuration. In the meantime, production at our Rancho Dominguez (CA) plant has begun, and we are continuing our dialogue with both U.S. and international carriers...anticipating that HULD ordering will begin," Hauner concluded.

Telair is a subsidiary of Teleflex Incorporated (NYSE:TFX), a $2 billion diversified industrial company well known for providing innovative solutions to customers in the aerospace industry. In addition to its significant expertise in specialty composites, Teleflex also manufactures complex turbine engine components; repairs airfoils; and provides turbine engine services to the power generation market. Teleflex also delivers products and services to the automotive, marine, medical and industrial markets worldwide. Further information about Teleflex Incorporated and its various businesses can be obtained at www.teleflex.com.

Telair International, www.telair.com, is a single source for the design, manufacture and support of complete on-board baggage and cargo handling systems, for wide- and narrow-body aircraft. The company is committed to providing Complete Cargo Competence(TM) for original equipment manufacturers and more than 50 air carriers around the globe.

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