Federal Aviation Administration Approves Telair International's Blast Resistant Aircraft Baggage Container

February 8, 2002
RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, Calif., Feb 8, 2002 (BUSINESS WIRE) --

Global Manufacturer of Aircraft Cargo Systems Ready to Market High Security Aircraft Passenger Baggage Container

Telair International, a subsidiary of Teleflex Incorporated (NYSE:TFX), today announced FAA certification and the issuance of a Technical Standard Order (TSO-C90) for its Hardened Unit Load Device (HULD), an aircraft baggage container capable of withstanding serious security threats.

The HULD successfully passed the FAA's blast-test August 14, 2001 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. The device, a cargo container for wide body aircraft, is specifically designed to house passenger luggage/baggage and seeks to prevent aircraft damage from explosions or ballistic release. Subsequent component testing and the development of component maintenance manuals have occurred since the test.

"With the FAA's clearance of the TSO we can now offer the HULD to our existing customers and other carriers or aircraft manufacturers seeking to upgrade on-board security," said Telair Vice President and General Manager, Dennis K. Staver.

Engineered to realistically meet the added weight concerns of the world's airlines and the heightened security interests of passengers, carriers and flight crews, the Telair HULD can now be immediately put into service along with other Telair baggage and cargo containers. By combining the HULD with other Telair Ultralite(R) containers, there is no appreciable weight gain, despite the HULD's more robust construction. And, as a "last line of defense," passengers and flight crews would have the assurance that screened or unscreened baggage may now be secured in a blast resistant container.

"The HULD offers an important bastion against terrorist threats as it overcomes whatever inconsistencies may exist related to screened baggage. For example, if every baggage container now in service were a Telair HULD, the present concern over inadequate airport screening of passenger luggage would be significantly reduced," he continued.

Developed over a four-year period, the Telair HULD seeks to protect passengers from the type of explosion thought to have brought down Pan Am Flight #103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Since that tragedy, the FAA and other organizations have sought a practical solution to increased on-board baggage security, without creating an unrealistic weight penalty for carriers. "Our company, working with the FAA, has come up with the solution. A functional cargo system for baggage that accommodates the need to protect passengers and flight crews from the risk of an explosion in the cargo hold...without penalizing the carrier with added weight," he continued.

The Technical Standard Order was issued January 16, 2002, and is immediately effective. The container itself, while identified as "hardened," is in fact a soft-sided design that uses advanced Telair composite material over a lightweight aluminum frame. Like other Telair equipment now in worldwide use by over 50 carriers, the HULD can be immediately put into service by purchasing airlines.

"This Technical Standard Order is the final step in a very long process. We have made many attempts to pass the FAA test and to design and manufacture a practical blast proof container. Finally, we have all the required documentation and test results and can now offer a much-needed additional measure of security to the world's airlines and to the security conscious traveling public," Staver concluded.

Telair International 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.

Teleflex Incorporated (NYSE:TFX) is a diversified industrial company with annual sales of more than $1.8 billion. The company designs, manufactures and distributes quality engineered products and services for the aerospace, medical, automotive, marine and industrial markets worldwide.

Additional information is available at www.teleflex.com or www.telair.com.

CONTACT: Telair International
Dennis Staver, 310/898-2211
or
Teleflex Incorporated
Janine Dusossoit, 610/834-6301
or
Freeman/McCue Public Relations
714/557-3663