

**AVIATION WEEK**  
& SPACE TECHNOLOGY

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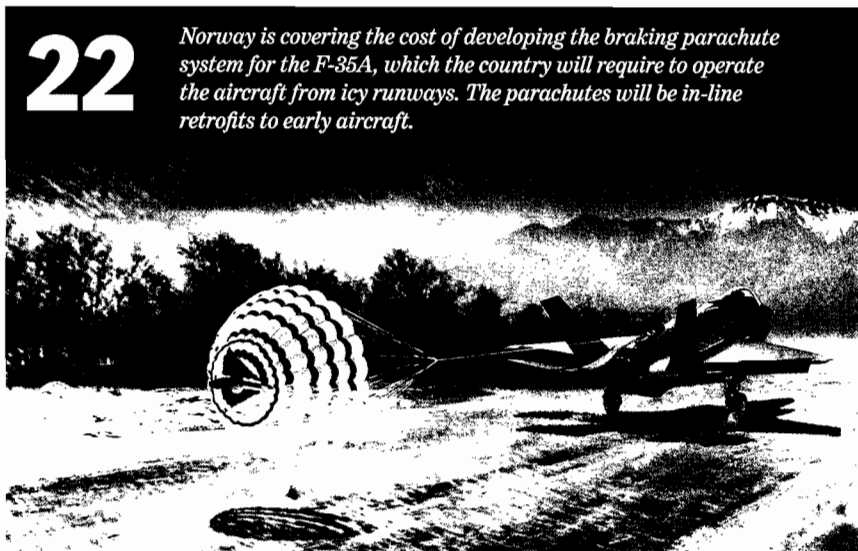
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**THE WORLD**

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- 14 **Swiss startup** helicopter manufacturer Marenco has first flight of its SKYe SH09 single
- 14 **Proton M/Briz M** heavy-lift launcher returns to flight, sending Russian miltat to geosynchronous orbit

**DEFENSE**

- 22 **F-35 proponents** in Norway working to ensure the country reaps all that it can from the procurement
- 23 **Norway believes** it has found a niche in the market for F-35-compatible weapons and ammunition
- 24 **Canada postpones** retirement of its CF-18A/B Hornets until 2025 but will continue support of the F-35



**22**

*Norway is covering the cost of developing the braking parachute system for the F-35A, which the country will require to operate the aircraft from icy runways. The parachutes will be in-line retrofits to early aircraft.*

- 25 **South Korea's** proposed KF-X wins conditional approval for full-scale development from defense ministry
- 26 **Lockheed Martin** reverts to using grid to conceal the engine face from radar for its Uclass contender
- 54 **Poland steps up** efforts to provide a strike capability that can hit targets deep in enemy territory

**ROTORCRAFT**

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**SPACE**

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- 33 **Commercial Earth-imaging** startup faces technical and operational marketing setbacks in exploiting ISS

**BUSINESS**

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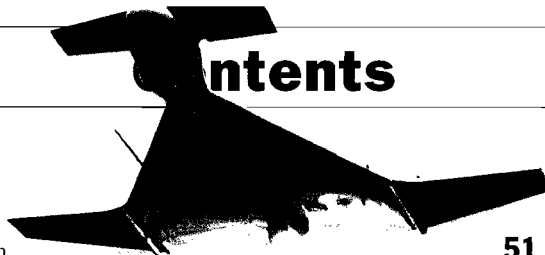
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- 39 **787-9 flight-test** discoveries to help Boeing prepare for developments of follow-on derivatives

**ON THE COVERS**

*This week, Aviation Week publishes two editions. On the lefthand cover, Sikorsky's first S-97 Raider sits on the ramp at the company's development test center in West Palm Beach, Florida, ahead of the Oct. 2 rollout of the industry-funded, high-speed armed scout helicopter prototype (see page 52). Sikorsky Aircraft photo by Tom Winter. Elsewhere in both editions are reports on certifying the Airbus A350 (page 38), Norway and the F-35 (page 22), new directions for Southwest Airlines (page 46) and offshore helicopter safety (page 31). The cover of our MRO Edition shows laser drilling of a high-pressure V2500 turbine blade at MTU. That edition contains an additional section with coverage of maintenance, repair and overhaul.*





**40 Vietnam Airlines'** quest for foreign investors to support fleet plans draws interest from ANA

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**41 Commercial aviation** routinely takes backseat to military airspace in China, despite worsening delays

**42 SkyWest:** The more anonymous it remains, the greater its success in supporting its major partners

**51 Frontier Airlines** transforming into an ultra-low-cost carrier, taking on the likes of Spirit Airlines

### VIEWPOINT

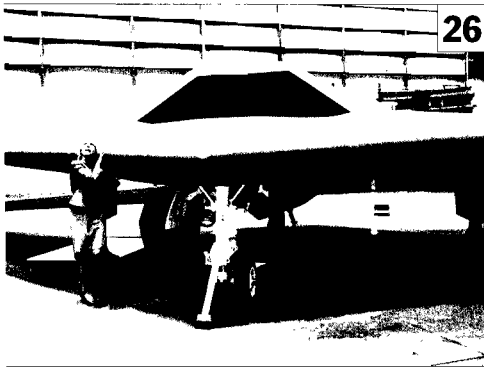
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**44 United's ops** center leverages technology to gain efficiencies and improve customer care

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**48 Virgin America** preparing to go public, but many analysts skeptical due to route network



## On the Web \*

A roundup of what you're reading on [AviationWeek.com](http://AviationWeek.com)

Sept. 29 marked the Senior International Military Editor Bill Sweetman's recollections and link to our original reporting —then listen to our editors discuss last month's airstrike debut of the F-22  
[ow.ly/Ca5yg](http://ow.ly/Ca5yg)

Read

All five Airbus A350-900 test aircraft took to the skies Sept. 29 for a formation flight over southern France, just ahead of EASA's certification of the type the next day. Read our article on page 38 and see more photos at [ow.ly/Ca4DI](http://ow.ly/Ca4DI)

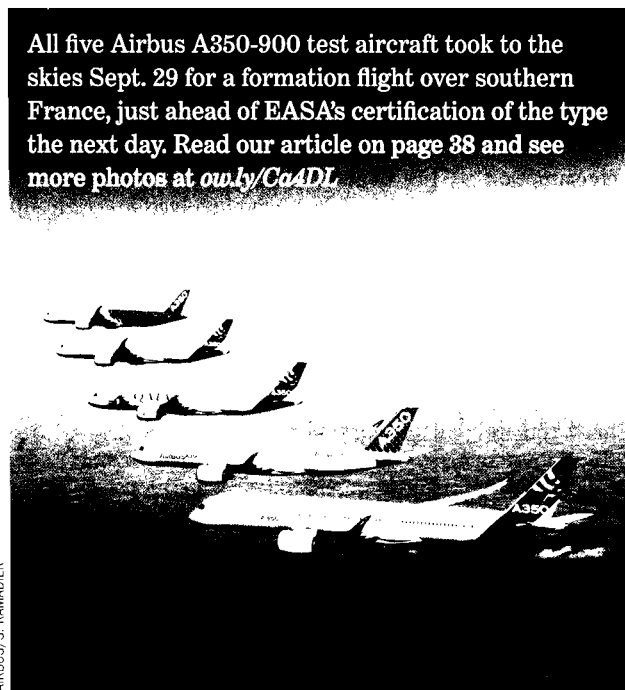
## MRO EUROPE

Meet the Aviation Week team and \_\_\_\_\_ during this week's MRO Europe conference and exhibition in Madrid.

## CHINA TENSIONS

Does \_\_\_\_\_ and the resulting street protests raise the risk of China eventually trying to \_\_\_\_\_? See what Beijing Bureau Chief Bradley Perrett thinks. [ow.ly/Ca6Ie](http://ow.ly/Ca6Ie)

Responding to last week's editorial about \_\_\_\_\_, Jajno wrote: "I had to smile when I read the phrase, 'To say China is not a model world citizen is an understatement.' Many people in the world, including our most trusted friends and allies, might as easily substitute the USA for China, and say this editorial is \_\_\_\_\_."  
[ow.ly/Ca9g8](http://ow.ly/Ca9g8)



AIRBUS/S. RAMDIER