

MEDIA RELEASE

Stans, Switzerland, May 11th, 2015

THE PILATUS PC-24 TAKES OFF ON ITS MAIDEN FLIGHT!

The first ever PC-24 Super Versatile Jet took off on its maiden flight today at 10.00 local time from Buochs airport. Just under 1800 Pilatus staff, all of whom are directly or indirectly involved in the PC-24 project, were there to applaud the business jet as it taxied for takeoff. Prototype P01, call sign HB-VXA, flew across central Switzerland for a total of 55 minutes. The flight went exactly as planned with no problems whatsoever.

The PC-24 is capable of exceptional performance, and this maiden flight was a first opportunity to showcase some impressive credentials: the twin-engine business jet took off from runway 07 in just under 600 m and climbed to 10,000 feet (approx. 3000 m) in around three minutes, where the two pilots completed a series of meticulously planned tests. The maiden flight followed a route across central Switzerland – from Altdorf to Brünig via Engelberg.

Test pilot Paul Mulcahy, who has some 11,000 hours under his belt, flew the PC-24 as pilot in command. He has already test flown countless aircraft types and has acquired a wealth of experience on twin-engine business jets. "Everything looks great so far! Beautiful handling – the PC-24 flies just as expected – a real Pilatus aircraft!", reported our second experienced test pilot, Reto Aeschlimann, by radio from the cockpit.

Throughout the flight the PC-24 was accompanied and monitored by a PC-21. As is normal on maiden flights, the PC-24 landing gear was not retracted on this occasion. Twelve flight test engineers watched the flight from the ground as they kept an eye on a stream of real-time flight data received from the PC-24. Had the need arisen, these experts could have given the pilots crucial decision-making information: another means of ensuring the safest possible conditions for the entire maiden flight.

In recent months, the PC-24 handling characteristics had been trialled and refined during numerous tests using simulators and models placed in a wind tunnel. As part of the development team, our two pilots were involved in these tests; their role during the maiden flight was to verify the accuracy of the theoretical assumptions.

The first Swiss business jet

"It's an emotional moment for sure, and another major milestone in the Pilatus and Swiss aviation history", says Oscar J. Schwenk, Chairman of the Board of Directors. "Seeing our new business jet take off on its

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maiden flight is something we've worked very hard for, and dreamt about for a long time. Today, at last, that 'Swiss Dream' became a reality!" Like the other members of the test crew, Schwenk's face is a vision of delighted enthusiasm.

The onlookers burst into another round of applause as the wheels of the PC-24 gently came into contact with the tarmac. Paul Mulcahy earned more applause as he left the cockpit, saying to the crowd that this is "a real Pilatus aircraft!".

Challenging test flight programme

A total of three PC-24 prototypes will be built and used to complete a rigorous test programme of some 2,300 hours over the next two years. Fewer than half those hours will actually be flown in Switzerland, the remainder will be flown elsewhere. Certification and initial deliveries of the first aircraft to come off the production line are planned from 2017.

Pilatus sold 84 PC-24's in the space of just 36 hours at last year's European Business Aviation Conference & Exhibition (EBACE) in May.

The PC-24 is the world's first business jet to be equipped with a cargo door as standard, with takeoff and landing performance that allows the use of very short and even unmade runways. The jet also boasts a spacious cabin with an interior which can be customised to accommodate individual customer needs. This is indeed a "Super Versatile Jet" – an aircraft designed for a wide variety of missions in line with specific requirements.

High-resolution photos of the maiden flight and raw video footage can be downloaded now from www.pilatus-aircraft.com.

Further information for the media is available from:

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Die 1939 gegründete Pilatus Flugzeugwerke AG ist die einzige Schweizer Firma, welche Flugzeuge entwickelt, baut und auf allen Kontinenten verkauft: vom legendären Pilatus Porter PC-6 über das meistverkaufte einmotorige Turbopropflugzeug PC-12 bis hin zum PC-21, dem Trainingssystem der Zukunft. Aktuell entwickelt Pilatus den PC-24 – den weltweit ersten Businessjet, der auf kurzen Naturpisten operieren kann. Die Firma mit Hauptsitz in Stans ist nach ISO 14001 zertifiziert und zeigt ein hohes Umweltbewusstsein. Drei selbstständige Tochtergesellschaften in Altenrhein (Schweiz), Broomfield (Colorado, USA) und Adelaide (Australien) gehören zur Pilatus Gruppe. Mit über 1600 Mitarbeitenden am Hauptsitz ist Pilatus einer der grössten Arbeitgeber in der Zentralschweiz. Pilatus bildet über 100 Lernende in elf verschiedenen Lehrberufen aus – die Förderung von jungen Berufsleuten hat bei Pilatus einen hohen Stellenwert.