

Press Release

For Immediate Publication

## **GippsAERO releases aggressive plans for North American distribution and support network**

**July 25, 2011, Oshkosh:** GippsAERO, the Australian manufacturer of the GA8 Airvan, has launched an aggressive dealership program for North America at the Annual EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh. The company has set an objective of securing in the next 12 months an effective dealership network able to support our increased demand across the North American continent.

The dealer initiative has been established as a response to increased awareness and interest in the GA8 throughout the general aviation community. General Manager for North America, Mr Randy Juen said “The Airvan and GippsAERO has been general aviation’s best kept secret. North America has 75% of the GA aircraft fleet worldwide. Only 16% of the GA8 fleet is in North America; a striking imbalance that we’re keen to remedy. The Airvan is roomy and performs like a large single engine turbo-prop, but it has flight characteristics similar to a light bush plane. Over the past 6 months we have exposing the aircraft to markets requiring low operating expenses, high useful load and STOL capabilities, and the response has been overwhelming! Today we have un-met demands across multiple states in the USA and provinces of Canada”.

Certified in 2000 in Australia and FAA certified in 2003, there are currently 26 GA8 Airvans active in North America, working across tourism, air charter, freight, law enforcement and private operations.

The company has established a new dealership program, and is inviting dealers with strong history of Sales, with Maintenance facilities, and a reputation for excellent customer service to apply for dealership status with the company.

GippsAERO already has plans underway for GA8 product developments to meet the market demand, including skis, floats, bush tyres and tundra winterization. The company is also well underway in certification programs for both a 10 seat turbo-prop (first flight 2011, certification early 2013) and an 18 seat twin turbo-prop aircraft (certification 2014).

### **About GippsAERO**

GippsAERO, the Australian manufacturer of the GA8 AIRVAN, is the aircraft manufacturing division of Mahindra Aerospace. The company has manufactured in excess of 200 aircraft, which fly in 34 countries around the world, including USA, Australia, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Mahindra Aerospace is the aircraft and aero-structure manufacturing division of Mahindra Systech, and a new global player in the delivery of aircraft, aero-structures and aircraft development services. With its acquisition of two Australia-based aviation companies, Aerostaff Australia – producer of aerospace components for the world's OEMs – and GippsAero – producer of the Airvan family of utility aircraft – Mahindra Aerospace has laid the foundations towards achieving its goals.

## About The Mahindra Group

The Mahindra Group focuses on enabling people to rise. Mahindra operates in the key industries that drive economic growth, enjoying a leadership position in tractors, utility vehicles, information technology and vacation ownership. Mahindra has a presence in the automotive industry, agribusiness, aerospace, components, consulting services, defence, energy, financial services, industrial equipment, logistics, real estate, retail, steel and two wheelers.

A US \$12.5 billion multinational group based in Mumbai, India, Mahindra employs more than 119,900 people in over 100 countries.

In 2011, Mahindra featured on the Forbes Global 2000 list, a listing of the biggest and most powerful listed companies in the world. Dun & Bradstreet also ranked Mahindra at No. 1 in the automobile sector in its list of India's Top 500 Companies. In 2010, Mahindra featured in the Credit Suisse Great Brands of Tomorrow. Its flagship company Mahindra & Mahindra Limited is the only Indian automobile manufacturer to feature in the top 10 list of the Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index in India - 2010, created by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).

For further information, please visit [www.mahindra.com](http://www.mahindra.com)

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