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LAS VEGAS--The first five companies passed a stringent accreditation for managing and handling used aircraft parts and assemblies. The Aircraft Fleet Recycling Association (AFRA) accreditation, designed to increase the performance of aging aircraft fleet management, covers 45 best practices in seven categories: facility, training, asset and parts documentation, tooling, parts management, environmental controls and recycling planning.

The first companies to pass the AFRA accreditation are Air Salvage International, an aircraft decommissioning and disassembly company in the Hampshire, U.K.; Europe Aviation, an MRO in Paris and Chateauroux, France; P3 Aviation, a distributor based in Hertfordshire, U.K.; Southern California Aviation, an MRO in Victorville, Calif.; and Volvo Aero Services, a global aftermarket services provider headquartered in Sweden.

The disassembly process is not regulated currently, said Bill Carberry, deputy director of AFRA and Boeing's project manager of aircraft recycling. AFRA believes the accreditation will help aircraft owners ensure their assets retain the maximum financial value, while their service providers operate according to sound, environmental and business practices.

As Martin Fraissignes, AFRA's executive director and general manager of Chateauroux Air Center, said, "The standard brings the industry to a higher standard of quality."

He pointed out that AFRA has grown to 33 members from 10 countries since its launch two years ago. The association hopes to grow its membership to 50 members in the next few years.

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