

# Dearth of business left Singapore show 'subdued'

By Howard French

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If a single word could describe the recently concluded Singapore Airshow, that might be "subdued."

East Hartford-based Pratt & Whitney did manage a substantial bit of business: a \$1 billion-plus contract from Vietnam's Vietjet Air for geared turbofan engines to power the carrier's new fleet of 63 twin-engine Airbus A320neo and A321neo aircraft.

Deliveries of the first of more than 126 engines overall are expected to begin in 2017.

Even so, that order came two days into the show, and only after Pratt President Robert Leduc saw fit to defend his company's new commercial engines, which have experienced some teething pains in development and subsequently some delivery delays. One major Pratt customer, Qatar Airways, went as far as to threaten cancellation of its order for Pratt's geared turbofans if there were any further delays.

Leduc said problems affecting the engines are being addressed and should be resolved by the end of this year. But overall, the show was "certainly subdued from the standpoint of order activity," Ray Jaworowski, senior aerospace analyst with Newtown-based Forecast International, said Friday.

Singapore does tend to be a platform for mostly Asian orders, Jaworowski said, while the larger air shows, like Paris and the Farnborough show in England held in July, generally feature larger global contracts.

"Combined with the tepid global economy, the huge amount of orders by airlines in recent years, and the fact that low fuel prices give carriers an incentive to hold onto older aircraft longer, rather than buy new, it is not a surprise that Singapore was rather subdued this year," he said.

This summer's Farnborough show should see more order activity than did Singapore, Jaworowski said, but even it will likely be down compared to Farnborough and Paris shows of the recent past.

Organizers of the Singapore Airshow told The Associated Press that \$12.3 billion in total aerospace deals were signed at the event this week, down sharply from \$32 billion in total sales announced at the 2014 show.

Source: [http://www.journalinquirer.com/business/dearth-of-business-left-singapore-show-subdued/article\\_05565c08-d74a-11e5-b7a1-1bbdc5fa9616.html](http://www.journalinquirer.com/business/dearth-of-business-left-singapore-show-subdued/article_05565c08-d74a-11e5-b7a1-1bbdc5fa9616.html)