

FREE SUPPLEMENT! **MRO AMERICAS 2025**

www.Key.Aero

Airliner World

INCORPORATING **airports** of the world THE GLOBAL AIRLINE SCENE

ENGINE MAINTENANCE

NO POWER, NO FLIGHTS

PARTS AND COMPONENTS

Ensuring effective supply

EFFECTIVE AVIONICS

Maintenance in the spotlight

MRO SOFTWARE EVOLUTION

With a little help from AI



More than the sum of its parts

Ensuring high quality parts and components are in the right place at the right time is a complex task. AJW Group is one of the leading exponents of the art

The supply of parts and components, whether new or returning to service after maintenance or repair, is a crucial element of keeping aircraft airworthy. Looked at from a 'first-principles' perspective, this sector is a cornerstone of the industry and demands expertise.

AJW Group has been a leading parts supplier to airlines for more than 90 years, but it is only recently that the Group established AJW Technique in Montreal as its component MRO centre of excellence. Its president, Louis Mallette, related the background to the company's creation and how it is continuing to develop, including

founding AJW Technique Europe: "A downturn in the airline industry led to AJW Group acquiring the assets of the struggling Aveos in 2012. The business emerged to become an important player in the international component repair market. Our 220,000sq ft facility is now a global hub for the Group's repair activities and has the capability

BELOW: **AJW Group**
UK headquarters in
Slinfold, West Sussex
ALL IMAGES AJW





to repair 35,000 units a year across 6,000 separate part number lines.

"Montreal is one of the top three aerospace hubs in the world. Being part of the significant aerospace cluster linking industry, government and education ensures a strong training network for future technicians, availability of a wide subcontract base and access to research and new technologies. Geographically, we can serve multiple airline customers, offering competitive pricing and expertise across a wide range of aircraft and components service capabilities. This flexibility positions us well to capitalise on growing demand, particularly as airlines increasingly seek cost-efficient, outsourced

maintenance solutions to streamline their operations."

Mallette pointed out that in establishing the Montreal operation and later expanding this facility to Europe to serve customers in that region, the Group took control of its own component maintenance: "This has helped to reduce customers' maintenance costs by offering in-house MRO services capabilities undertaken by our experienced workforce of expert engineers and technicians. We are continually investing in and expanding our services, from adding new capabilities at AJW Technique to forming partnerships with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to drive cost

and service efficiencies. We invest in the latest aircraft assets to meet the needs of our global customers, thereby maintaining our reputation for customer service excellence."

To aid the industry's growing preference for repairing rather than replacing, investments are constantly being made in the latest repairs and repair technologies: "AJW Technique has recently invested in the latest advanced turbine engine company automated test equipment to add Honeywell Air Data Inertial Reference Unit (ADIRU) capabilities to its portfolio. Working in partnership with Honeywell, we are now an OEM-approved facility for the HG2030 series ADIRUs and will be adding the latest generation >>





HG2030 and HG2050 series later this year. As one of the few OEM-approved MROs for this product line, and in conjunction with AJW Aviation's exclusive distribution agreement with Honeywell, we can offer unique purchase, repair, loan and exchange solutions to our airline customers

worldwide. We continue to add new products across our portfolio, with the addition of [Airbus] A220 safety slides and Boeing 787 LED lighting products now on our recent capability additions.

"With a focus on flexibility and customer service, we are working to introduce component inspection

and repair activities for a number of quick engine change (QEC) parts as a bespoke solution for one of our local engine MRO customers."

Supply chains have been providing challenges time in recent years and Mallette offered his view on the Group's position and how problems

ABOVE: *An inspector at AJW Technique in Montreal*



LEFT: *The Montreal warehouse*



RIGHT: *Louis Mallette,*
president of
AJW Technique

“AJW Group has been a leading parts supplier to airlines for more than 90 years”

can be overcome: “Despite the current position of the global MRO sector, [our] operations are thriving due to high industry demand, our meticulous inventory strategy and efficient operations. While the industry may be experiencing supply chain pressures, our resilience and business strategy have allowed us to navigate the situation and retain a positive outlook.

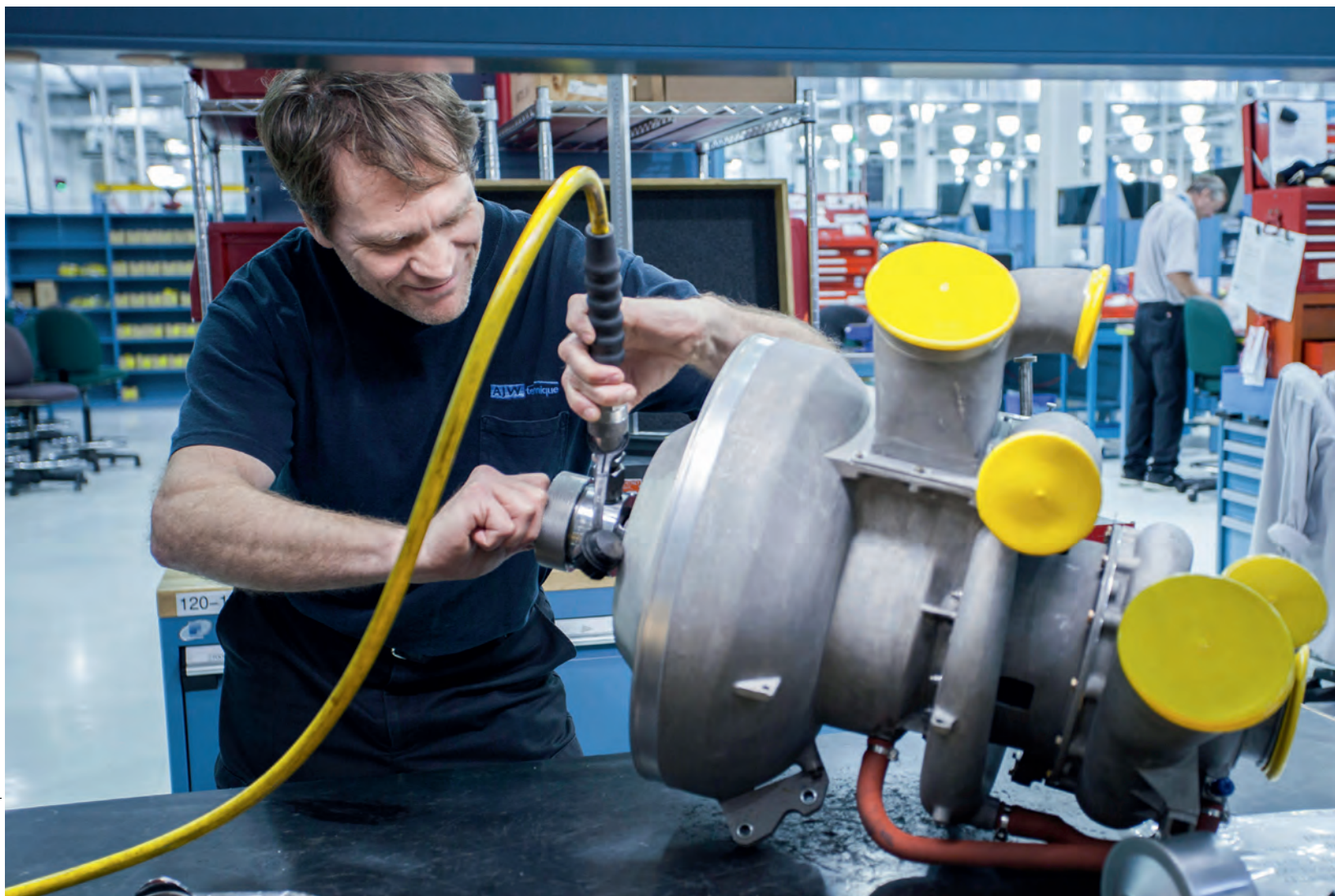
“The airline industry has returned to profitability and air traffic has caught up with 2019 levels. However, the challenges of the last five years, in general, remain and the pace of improvement in 2025 is likely to slow down. Capacity is still affected by ongoing labour and aircraft delivery issues, and volatile oil prices mean an increase in the cost to airlines, which will naturally be transferred to the passenger.

“Looking forward in 2025, AJW Group will continue its multifaceted approach to its global operations, investing in inventory and strengthening its business partnerships it has worked so hard to develop over the past nine decades. We have plans for the further >>



BELOW: *Servicing
aircraft escape slides*





“Despite the current position of the global MRO sector, AJW’s operations are thriving due to high industry demand, our meticulous inventory strategy and efficient operations”

ABOVE: *AJW Technique was founded in 2012 when AJW Group took over the MRO facility operated by the struggling Aveos*

expansion of AJW Technique Europe and the headquarters warehouse facilities in the UK, and will continue to support the growth of our global support hubs.”

Although pleased with AJW Group’s overall performance when facing recent challenges, Mallette noted that while the disruptions exposed vulnerabilities, they also highlighted opportunities to build greater resilience: “For us, it is critical to have robust inventory planning in place. By strategically locating our components and parts across global hubs, we can better support our customers, reduce lead times and ensure our service excellence, even in the face of disruption. We remain agile and diversify our supply chain sources to mitigate risks, where possible.

“Our pooling and flight hour agreements provide our customers with unprecedented supply chain and cost stability during uncertain periods, ensuring they have consistent

access to inventory when needed, while maintaining costs at a stable level. The disruptions have also highlighted the value of collaboration across the aviation network. By developing stronger partnerships and transparent communication between manufacturers, service providers and logistics networks, we can ensure a more unified response to challenges.”

In almost every industry, digitalisation programmes are being implemented to increase effectiveness. As a market leader, AJW Group has gone down this route to aid MRO and supply chain processes: “We’re proactively reinforcing our operational improvements by focusing on digital innovation, as technologies like predictive maintenance/analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) help to optimise inventory and enhance our responsiveness. Predictive maintenance and analytical tools are helping us in our demand management processes to predict expected volumes of components

requiring repair. The associated pre-planning of inventory levels at a detail part level ensure we can process repairs in the most efficient manner, minimising unplanned material holds. In addition, we are piloting the use of AI tools at our AJW Technique facility to aid the knowledge transfer to the new generation of technicians and to speed up the process of report writing and parts selection for our most experienced technicians.”

While investment in the latest technologies continues, Mallette noted another important factor for AJW Group’s continued success: highly trained personnel, in which the company will also make considerable investment: “The rapid advances in aviation technology demand the continuous upskilling of our existing workforce and staying current with evolving systems, such as advanced avionics and next-generation engines. That requires a blend of hands-on experience and theoretical training.” ●●●