

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **ExecuJet Australasia becomes the first fixed wing operator in the world to obtain BARS accreditation with zero findings**

ExecuJet Australasia has officially been accredited as the first Basic Aviation Risk Standard (BARS) fixed wing operator in the world with zero findings and become the second operator worldwide to be registered without restriction against the new risk based standard.

The BARS Program has been developed by the Australian office of the Flight Safety Foundation, the global independent body for aviation safety in conjunction with some of the world's leading resource companies, including BHP Billiton, Lihir Gold, MMG, Rio Tinto, Shell and Xstrata to make flying safer for personnel employed in the resource sector, lifting the global aviation safety standards.

Rio Tinto's principal adviser for Aviation Safety, Geoff Want, said he was delighted that Rio Tinto could partner with the FSF to develop the standard and take aviation safety to new heights. "The BAR Standard Program is significant step forward for the mining and onshore industry and will help progress standards similar to those in other industries such as gas and oil."

Until now individual resource companies had used a variety of aviation standards, impacting on aircraft operators with duplicated efforts and mixed messages. Due to the variety of operation types, geographic diversity and differences in national aviation authorities' regulatory oversight, the Flight Safety Foundation identified an opportunity to standardise the manner in which independent safety audits are conducted.

The BARS program is a common aviation safety standard for the resource sector, supplementing existing national and international regulations. Based on best-practice aviation safety principles, BARS will make flying safer for those in the resources industry by introducing a standardised safety audit across the sector replacing multiple audits with one review conducted to a rigorous international standard.

"Based on leading aviation industry risk management principles, I am confident that it will improve aviation safety for everyone - companies, operators, employees, their families and supporting communities." Geoff Want added.

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“We are very proud to have achieved a zero findings audit and to be the first fixed wing operator globally to do so. Our operations, maintenance and quality teams have done a tremendous job in ensuring our operational and safety standards are maintained to such high standard.” stated Darren McGoldrick, Managing Director ExecuJet Australasia.

Cameron Ross, Group Manager Aviation Safety at BHP and Chair of the BARS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), said that having a single common standard with the provision of additional safety initiatives will play an important role in raising aviation safety standards across the resource sector. “Together with our industry colleagues, we have been pleased to work with the Foundation to help develop this important standard which can be used to support aviation operations worldwide. Ensuring the ongoing safety of our people remains BHP Billiton’s key priority, and we are delighted to continue our support of the Flight Safety Foundation and particularly their mission of increasing global aviation safety through this standard”.

ExecuJet’s fleet of aircraft is expected to be utilised heavily as the momentum of this new paradigm in aviation standards grows. ExecuJet are experienced in working with resource companies’ particularly in Australia and Africa and also into mine sites in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Russia and China.

“We have been a supporter of the common standard and believe in the benefits it will deliver the resource sector and the aviation companies who service them” Darren added.

### **The ExecuJet Aviation Group**

The ExecuJet Aviation Group is a leading global business aviation organisation offering a diverse range of services including pre-owned and new aircraft sales, aircraft management for private and commercial registered aircraft, aircraft charter, aircraft maintenance, aircraft completions management and fixed base operations. Headquartered in Zürich, Switzerland, ExecuJet has operations in six regions – Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, embracing a workforce of over 830 experienced staff.

The ExecuJet Aviation Group manages 150 business jets worldwide under the most stringent safety standards. Its commercial fleet is operated under the regulatory umbrella of eight regional civil aviation issued air operating certificates (AOCs). ExecuJet has many authorised maintenance facilities throughout four regions, certified to work on most Business Jets. The ExecuJet Aviation

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Group operates 10 world class FBO facilities in Berlin, Zurich, Paris, Valencia, Ibiza, Palma, Gerona, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Dubai.

The ExecuJet Aviation Group offers considerable experience in new and pre-owned aircraft sales worldwide and has a large inventory of business aircraft to suit all budgets with an international team of sales directors offering local knowledge and expertise.

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