

## Swedish Air Force accepts first G120TPs

SWEDEN'S DEFENCE Materiel Administration (FMV) revealed on April 4 that it had delivered the first of ten new Grob 120TP (G120TP) basic trainers to the Swedish Air Force, marking the first time in 11 years that the FMV has handed over a new aircraft to the air arm. Designated the SK40 in Swedish service, the G120TPs will be used to partially replace the ageing fleet of Saab 105

(SK60) trainers. Sweden acquired the G120TP in May 2021, when the FMV announced it had signed a procurement contract with Grob for seven aircraft, plus options for an unspecified number of additional airframes. The first G120TP was delivered for testing purposes in May 2022, before Sweden exercised its option to acquire a further three in

December. While the G120TP forms the core part of this acquisition, Sweden has procured a complete training system that includes a digital planning system, flight safety equipment, simulators and training for flight instructors. All ten G120TPs will be modified to allow flight operations in icy weather and delivered to the Swedish Air Force

before the end of 2023. With the platform set to fill the basic pilot training role, instructors will also carry out a so-called type approach on the new system to help further develop it and complete a training plan for students. At present, the Swedish Air Force plans for this new system to be ready to receive its first batch of students in mid-2024.



A pair of G120TPs (SK40s), registrations D-ETPU '00' and D-ETPT '99', in formation before being handed over to the FMV and Swedish Armed Forces Grob Aircraft

## Centenary colours for Italian Air Force U-208A



This SIAI-Marchetti U-208A (S-208M) from the Aeronautica Militare's 60° Stormo (Wing) in flight over Forlì in northern Italy, sporting a special livery to celebrate the air arm's centenary. This sortie was the first aviation culture course of 2023. Such courses are held around Italy every year to promote the AM and provide insight into aviation careers for young people. The AM was founded on March 28, 1923, and to mark the centenary, four U-208As from 60° Stormo at Roma-Guidonia Air Base were given the new livery Simone Ba

## France receives 11th upgraded ATL2

FRANCE'S DIRECTORATE General of Armaments (DGA) recently accepted delivery of the 11th modernised Breguet Br.1150 Atlantique 2 (ATL2) after the maritime patrol aircraft (MPA) was modernised and upgraded to Standard 6 configuration by Sabena Technics under subcontract from Dassault Aviation. The ATL2 (serial unknown) was formally handed over to the DGA on April 6 and returned to the French Fleet Air Arm's Flottille 21F/23F at Lorient/Lann-Bihoué Air Base, Brittany.

Breguet's ATL2 formally entered operational service with the French Navy in 1989, with 28 aircraft delivered to the naval air arm. One example was damaged beyond economical repair following a landing accident on January 22, 2007, and a further five airframes have been held in reserve storage, leaving just 22 available for operational use.

On October 4, 2013, the DGA contracted SIAé to upgrade 18 ATL2s to Standard 6 configuration, to improve their ability to deal with new and emerging threats in all weather conditions. The upgrade includes the installation of the Thales-developed Searchmaster X-band multi-mode surveillance radar and L3 WESCAM MX-20 electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) sensor turret. The process will also integrate new technologies, such as sensor subsystems, tactical mission systems and display consoles.

The final aircraft of the 18 being upgraded is slated to complete modernisation in 2023, in an effort to keep the French ATL2 fleet operational until at least 2032.