

Capital Lease Aviation Public limited Company

14 December 2007

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## **CAPITAL LEASE AVIATION PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY**

### **ADMISSION AND FIRST DAY OF DEALINGS ON AIM**

Capital Lease Aviation Public Limited Company (AIM: CLA), ("CLA" or the "Company"), an aircraft leasing company, today announces its admission to trading on AIM of the London Stock Exchange plc. CLA was incorporated by Avation plc ("Avation") on 6 June 2007.

While CLA currently owns two Fokker F100 passenger jet aircraft both of which are under lease to Skywest Airlines Pty Ltd ("Skywest"), a major regional airline operating in Western Australia, the Directors intend that CLA's customers in the future will not be restricted to a particular geography or type of customer. CLA shall adopt a flexible approach to the type of aircraft it purchases driven principally by the requirements of its customers.

In July 2007, the Company raised a total of £11,450,001.36 (before costs) through the issue of 47,708,339 new Ordinary Shares at a price of 24 pence per Ordinary Share.

W.H. Ireland Limited is acting as nominated adviser and broker to CLA.

#### **Key point summary**

The Admission Price has been set at 75 pence per Ordinary Share.

Based on the Admission Price, the market capitalisation of CLA on Admission is approximately £73.4 million.

Admission of the ordinary shares to trading on AIM will become effective and dealings will commence under the symbol "CLA" at 08.00 (GMT) today, 14 December 2007.

A copy of the Admission Document is available from Speechly Bircham LLP, 6 St Andrew Street, London EC4A 3LX for a period of one month from today.

Jeff Chatfield, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of CLA, commented today,

**"The admission to AIM represents a major milestone in the development of CLA. I wish to thank our shareholders for their continued support and we are confident we have the right board and strategy to build a material aircraft leasing business."**

#### **Enquiries:**

Capital Lease Aviation PLC  
Jeff Chatfield,  
Executive Chairman

07783 942 553

www.capitalleaseaviation.com

Nominated Adviser, W.H. Ireland Limited      0207 220 1666  
James Joyce/David Porter

Stockbrokers, W.H. Ireland Limited      0207 220 1690  
Philip Haydn-Slater

MEDIA      020 7562 3350  
Maxine Barnes, Nick Rome, Sophie Davis  
Bishopsgate Communications

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Avation**

Avation was incorporated by Skywest Airlines Ltd (formerly known as Advent Air Ltd), in 2006, with the purpose of, amongst other things, acquiring and leasing passenger aircraft to Skywest which it has done through its wholly owned subsidiary F100 Pty Limited. F100 Pty Limited currently owns four Fokker F100 passenger jet aircraft all of which are under lease or subject to lease to Skywest. Avation owns 51.22% of the share capital of CLA.

Avation plc's share capital is admitted to trading on the PLUS-quoted Market (code AVAP).

### **About Skywest**

Skywest is a major regional airline in Western Australia, providing scheduled services to sixteen destinations covering Albany, Argyle, Bali, Broome, Carnarvon, Darwin, Esperance,

Exmouth, Geraldton, Kalbarri, Kalgoorlie, Karatha, Kununurra, Monkey Mia, Newman and Port Hedland. The airline operates a weekly service linking Port Hedland and Broome to Bali in Indonesia. Skywest operates a fleet of 12 aircraft, comprising Fokker F50 and Fokker F100 jet aircraft.

Skywest Airlines Ltd has its share capital is admitted to trading on AIM (code SKYW).

### **About CLA**

CLA was incorporated by Avation on 6 June 2007 with the purpose of owning and leasing a portfolio of commercial jet aircraft to a wider customer base of regional and international airlines.

The Directors have identified a trend in the commercial aviation sector towards “leasing-in” capacity whereby airlines lease part of their fleet rather than purchasing aircraft, and the Directors intend that CLA will exploit this trend in the future.

## **Strategy**

The Company's strategy is to continue to expand its aircraft leasing business by:

*Capitalising on continued growth in the aircraft leasing market by acquiring additional aircraft:* the Company intends to exploit the current growth dynamic in the aircraft leasing market by identifying and acquiring additional aircraft. The Company will adopt a flexible approach to the type of aircraft it purchases and this will depend principally on the requirements of its customers.

*Leasing aircraft to regional and international airlines:* the Directors expect CLA's customer base to comprise both regional and global airline companies. CLA's customer base will not be restricted to a particular geography or type of customer.

*Efficiently raising capital to execute its growth strategy:* the Company expects to fund its growth strategy through a mix of retained cashflow, debt and equity financing in order to maintain an efficient capital structure. The Company may utilise a broad range of funding options to support its growth strategy. The Company expects to use appropriate financing and hedging strategies to manage interest and exchange rate volatility.

## **Management and Board**

Robert Jeffries Chatfield (*Executive Chairman*) age 43

Mr Chatfield is chairman of Avation and has been instrumental in establishing and growing the Company. He is also the Executive Chairman of Skywest Airlines, and Chairman of Skywest. Mr Chatfield has managed and been a director of a number of companies involved in the airline industry, data distribution, electronics, investment, broadcasting and manufacturing sectors. He is the author and registered holder of a variety of patents. He has a Bachelor of Engineering and a Masters in Engineering Science from the University of Western Australia. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Singapore Institute of Directors. He was born in Perth, Australia and is a permanent resident of Singapore.

Richard Headon Sinclair (*Chief Executive Officer, Finance Director*) age 37

Mr Sinclair was formerly Finance Director of Avation where in addition to having responsibility for the finance function, he played an active role in securing aircraft purchases and in negotiating lease transactions for Avation. Mr Sinclair has worked in large listed public companies such as Allco (Singapore) Ltd and Westfield Ltd, a public company which leases commercial real estate. He has a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Adelaide and is a member of the Certified Practising Accountants of Australia.

Peter Anthony Freeman (*Non-executive Director*) age 48

Mr Freeman is a Director and Compliance Officer of Loeb Aron & Company Limited, a corporate finance firm authorised and regulated by the FSA. He spent time at IMRO and gained experience as a financial services regulator. At OFEX he was responsible for overseeing all regulatory aspects of OFEX's business (the OFEX Market and its relationship with its issuers and members) and ensured that the OFEX Rule Book was properly maintained and administered. He also liaised with external bodies on UK and European legislation and policy. He was the Compliance Officer and Money Laundering Reporting Officer for OFEX. Mr Freeman was a director of both OFEX plc and its parent company

OFEX Holdings plc (now PLUS Markets Group plc) when the latter was admitted to AIM. He gained a Bachelor of Science degree from Reading University and an MBA.

Olivier Pierre-Yves Garrigue (Non-executive Director) age 42

Mr Garrigue is a senior executive with extensive strategy and corporate finance experience. He is the Managing Director of Mapesbury Capital Partners and was formerly an investment banker with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Bear Stearns International, and brings significant experience and expertise in executing M&A, financing and advisory transactions. Mr Garrigue has also served on the boards of both private and public companies including Aptix ASA where he was a Non-Executive director and member of the audit committee and BBC Resources Limited where he was Director of Strategy. Mr Garrigue currently holds three other non-executive directorships with Mapesbury Communications Limited, Guava Limited and Nuera Limited. Mr Garrigue is a graduate of ESCE Paris and holds an MBA from Cranfield School of Management.

Soeren Eric Ferré (Non-executive Director) age 39

Mr Ferré has been the Head of Europe, Middle East, Africa & Asia-Pacific Region of AerCap since June 2006. He joined AerCap in September 2003 as Vice President of Marketing for the Asia-Pacific region. He started his career at Airbus in 1990 and was based in Toulouse, France. In 1995, he moved to China and became the head of the marketing team covering China, Hong Kong and Macau for Airbus prior to becoming a Sales Director in 1999 in charge of the major Chinese airlines. In 2001, Mr. Ferré moved to Sydney to become the Director of Sales for the Pacific region for Airbus where he was in charge of the major airlines in that region. Mr. Ferré holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from the ENAC - Ecole Nationale d'Aviation Civile.

For further information on CLA, please visit [www.capitalleaseaviation.com](http://www.capitalleaseaviation.com).

Defined terms in this announcement have the same meaning as set out in the admission document.