BUYING A Thinking of purchasing your own jet? From order to acquisition, here's an informative breakdown of the steps involved. PRIVATE JET

A thought-leadership white paper from AirSprint.

04 / 2022







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Buying A Private Jet | Thinking of purchasing your own jet? From order to acquisition, here's an informative breakdown of the steps involved. April 2022 | Produced by AirSprint Inc. | AirSprint.com | FlyASP@AirSprint.com | 1.877.588.2344 | Cover photo credit: Franklyn Wilson

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EXECUTIVE **SUMMARY**

Pre-pandemic, only 10 per cent of those who could afford to fly privately were actually doing so, according to specialized aviation services provider ARGUS¹.

Now, whether driven by health considerations associated with COVID-19 or frustration with reduced airline service, many people are turning to private aviation to get where they want to go. Whether it's an executive who needs that timely face-to-face meeting to seal an important deal, or a successful entrepreneur and their family who are planning a quick long-weekend getaway, private aviation offers both the flexibility and the capability to address every travel need.



Embraer Praetor 500 | C-FASV departing Sint Maarten (TNCM) - photo credit: Franklyn Wilson.

In fact, industry analysts at ARGUS's TRAQPak division reported² that the North American market recorded more than 321,000 flights in March 2022—representing a yearly gain of 18.2 per cent over the same month last year. This March, activity in Canada and the Caribbean showed a combined increase of 30.4 per cent compared to February 2022's numbers. Across all private aviation segments, numbers were trending positively, and analysts expect that climb to continue.

With all of this demand, newcomers to private aviation must start somewhere, and most of them begin by testing their wings with on-demand aircraft charters. Once they realize the many benefits that come with flying private, they're ready to consider buying their own plane.

At that point, they have two choices: whole or fractional aircraft ownership.

Just as it sounds, whole ownership involves an individual or a company purchasing their own aircraft, which will be reserved solely for their use. On the other hand, fractional ownership delivers all of the benefits of whole ownership, while buying only a share in a private jet—with access guaranteed in as little as eight hours.



Whole Ownership



Fractional Ownership

While each model enables you to travel wherever and whenever you desire, there are significant differences between whole and fractional aircraft ownership. Many of those differences will become evident as soon as you take the first steps towards acquiring an aircraft.

This paper examines the initial phase of sourcing, acquiring and onboarding an aircraft through the lens of the experts at <u>AirSprint Private Aviation</u>, Canada's largest and leading provider of fractional aircraft ownership solutions.

^{1.} ARGUS International, "New Charter Flight Customers: Why Travelers Are Making the Change to Private Flights," February 2022, https://www.argus.aero/new-charter-flight-customers/

^{2.} ARGUS International, "TRAQPak Global Aircraft Activity Repor," March 2022, https://www.argus.aero/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/TRAQPak-Global-Aircraft-Activity-Report-3-2022.odf

DEMAND **RISING**

According to James Elian, President & CEO of AirSprint, the company's fleet of Cessna Citation and Embraer Praetor and Legacy jets has grown by 50 per cent since the pandemic began in 2020.

"The onset of the COVID pandemic has seen a lot of people who could always afford to fly privately, but couldn't justify it, to move towards private aviation," he confirmed. "Airlines were hit hard due to government restrictions and because of that we've seen a real impact on airline frequency and route structure. It made a lot of travel more inconvenient. The private aviation market has expanded by around 30 per cent overall in Canada."

O C-FASTI



Top Image | Cessna Citation CJ3+ positioned at Calgary, Alberta (CYYC) - photo credit: Adriana Bernal. Bottom Image | Embraer Praetor 500 departing Calgary, Alberta (CYYC) - photo credit: Hamza Hasnat. With such high demand for both new and used aircraft, Elian said AirSprint must carefully forecast its future needs.

"For the last few decades, you could often get an aircraft within six months. Today, the wait can be in excess of two years. It varies, with each OEM [original equipment manufacturer] being a little bit different."

In the past, pre-owned aircraft presented a viable and affordable option for operators who needed another jet quickly. But Elian said that prices for used aircraft have skyrocketed due to high demand. In some cases, pre-owned airplanes are priced higher than comparable new machines—simply because they are available now.

He explained that prospective owners must be wary of paying too much in today's hot market. In a cyclical environment such as aviation, it's absolutely essential to do your research and obtain expert advice before proceeding with any purchase.

Elian said AirSprint, which has 22 years of fractional ownership experience, is planning to acquire at least seven aircraft over the next 18 months. Currently, five aircraft are pre-sold and waitlists for two more are filling up.

"It basically doubles our fleet over a four-year period," he said of the increased demand.

ACQUISITION TIMELINE

Here, AirSprint's James Elian breaks down the onboarding process for a new Cessna Citation or Embraer Praetor jet.

How does AirSprint forecast demand and order aircraft accordingly?

James Elian: Forecasting has always been a critically important part of AirSprint operations. Companies can get into trouble if they order aircraft and demand is not there. We look at several factors: How big is our waiting list? What is our average closing ratio? What interactions are we having through our website and sales people?

In general, how long is the window between placing the order and bringing the jet online at AirSprint?

JE: From the time we order the plane until delivery, the wait depends on the type. Today, Citations are about 12 months from order to delivery. The Embraer products are closer to two years. Normal timelines are usually around half of that.

How are you involved, step by step?

JE: We are constantly looking forward. I'm working with the sales team to understand what our demand is, and working with the finance team to understand financial commitments we have. I work with suppliers and manufacturers to understand aircraft availability and pricing. Together, we put forecasts together with various assumptions. We want to understand the financial risk involved with ordering an airplane. Then, I get board approval for the purchase.

What kind of relationship does AirSprint enjoy with OEMs and how does this benefit the company in the current business climate?

JE: If we are forecasting well and have built the orders in with OEMs, owners can get aircraft more quickly. In today's environment, there is a long lineup. It's less about getting preferential slot timing and more due to the fact that we simply do this a lot. We can move guickly because we order several jets at once. We've done this 40 to 50 times in our 22 years.

How would this process compare to an individual ordering their own jet?

JE: We have had individuals reach out to us before and we are always happy to provide some quidance. We have heard some stories about single owners who expect to show up and take their jet home immediately. OEMs do their best to walk everyone through the process, but some challenges can come up. From a regulatory standpoint, when trying to bring an aircraft into Canada, you can buy it but you might not be able to fly it for a while. Understanding the regulatory process is critical. Our team brings a level of expertise that can really streamline the process.



Cessna Citation CJ3+ | Perfect combination of range,



Embraer Praetor 500 | Flight crew departing YYC - photo credit: Adriana Bernal









Build

Acquire

DELIVERY DAY (a) It can take years to prepare for the arrival.

It can take years to prepare for the arrival of an aircraft, all leading up to one of the most exciting days for any new owner—delivery day. But what many don't realize is that the process of accepting an aircraft can take as long as a week. In AirSprint's case, a purchase involves every department in the company, from sales to finance and flight operations to maintenance.

When it's time to take delivery of a new jet, it's a team effort at AirSprint. And, the team goes to the jet—not the other way around.

Chris Foley, Director of Maintenance, said the process is complicated and begins long before the aircraft is ready for pickup.

"There are lots of variables between new and used aircraft, or if it's the first of a type at the company," he said. "If it's a new type for us, the first step is to make sure it's eligible to be imported into Canada. We check to see if the aircraft meets all requirements on what's called a type certification data sheet."

"Next, from an AMO (aircraft maintenance organization) standpoint, we need to apply to Transport Canada to add the aircraft type to our AMO, so we are approved to work on it. That means having the right equipment and trained personnel to provide maintenance services—buying tooling, obtaining spare parts, booking approved staff training. We work closely with Transport Canada during this time."

When all of this advance work has been done, Foley said it's time to acquire the aircraft. If it's used, the AirSprint team will do a thorough pre-purchase inspection. If it's new, it's a waiting game for it to be built. When the OEM says it's ready, the AirSprint acceptance team generally includes three representatives who travel to the manufacturer's facilities.

Adam Fallwell, Director of Flight Operations, is usually one of the team members travelling with Foley.



Chris Foley, Director of Maintenance | An aircraft purchase involves every department in the company, from sales to finance and flight operations to maintenance.

"The first thing I think about is that I'm not accepting this aircraft for myself or AirSprint," said Fallwell. "I'm accepting it on behalf of our fractional owners. I want to be sure it meets their expectations."

He described how the aircraft acceptance process works at the OEM facility.

"We do a walk-around when we get there, looking for any big issues. Then we take it for an acceptance flight. We look at every aspect of the plane, running through every single system individually to make sure it works. Basically, I start at the left side of the cockpit and work right, testing every single function. There are people in the back looking at cabin amenities, testing the sound system, chairs, table trays, flushing the toilets, going through it with a fine-toothed comb."

While the OEM generally provides an in-flight checklist, AirSprint has developed its own list for acceptance flights. Post-flight, Fallwell said the group returns to the hangar, where AirSprint completes a thorough ground inspection.

From a maintenance perspective, Foley said the team checks paint, placards, looks for small defects and ensures everything meets Canadian requirements. continued >

"We make sure it's airworthy, all systems work, there are no issues from an airworthiness perspective. We oversee the C-registration for Canada, reprogram the avionics, subscribe to all necessary subscriptions, register the ELT on the correct site, and start the importation process."

Anything that is found lacking is added to a list for the OEM to fix before the team departs.

"It's about a three-day process if things go well," said Fallwell. "We have to get the aircraft registered with Transport Canada, put it on our operating certificate, ensure it's registered with lots of authorities—some things take a bit longer to do."

In the case of a pre-owned aircraft, Foley said the team checks all documentation to ensure modifications and repairs were done according to the correct regulations. They look at airworthiness directives, time limited components and the entire maintenance history, building an airworthiness data package for Transport Canada approval. All together, the importation process involves a checklist of perhaps 150 items.

> "I don't know how many planes I've imported, so I'm comfortable with it now," said Foley. "You get used to it. But the first time I did it, I was stressed."

Fallwell has also onboarded multiple aircraft. Each time, he sits down in the customer's seat and simply looks around.

"I'm looking for imperfections. An owner accepting their own aircraft will look hard, but they are typically not flying the jet themselves. You have to have some repetition there in terms of being efficient—we are practised. The senior team at AirSprint has been here for a long time."

Both Foley and Fallwell agree that an individual owner would have a difficult time acquiring all the necessary knowledge to import their aircraft.

"I think they would take it to a management company, but that company still needs to go through all these steps with the Owner," noted Foley. "It's a crazy amount of work. Our knowledge, expertise and industry relationships help us to do things very efficiently and safely."

Added Fallwell: "If you're doing it on your own, you can hire people to manage it. But again, the advantage we have is the fleet experience. We know these aircraft and have more hours on them than many of the OEM test pilots. Some of our pilots have 3,000 hours on these types."

When a new addition to the AirSprint fleet does fly home to the company's Calgary headquarters, it is customized with special touches, such as curated commissary supplies. After that, the jet is finally ready to welcome its owners aboard.



Top Image | Embraer Praetor 500 positioned at Toronto, ON (CYYZ) - photo credit: Nathan and Daniel Graham Bottom Image | Cessna Citation CJ3+ departing Calgary, Alberta (CYYC) photo credit: Hamza Hasnat.



FRACTIONAL ATTRACTION

Fractional ownership offers all the conveniences of private flying—including customized schedules, destinations and services—combined with the turn-key aspect of simply showing up for a commercial airline flight.

"At AirSprint, you have nothing to do," said James Elian. "You sign a contract, book a flight and off you go. You show up and there are pilots. If you buy a whole aircraft, you can hire pilots or you can find a management company. Even then, interactions between an owner and their management company can be quite frequent. In a fractional model, you never hear about the many small decisions that go along with aircraft ownership."

Elian pointed out some additional differences between whole and fractional ownership.

 $\sqrt{}$ Cost of Ownership: If you own the whole aircraft, you pay for all of the related costs, including the initial purchase price and all of the fixed costs. If something breaks, the owner is on the hook, although that risk can be somewhat mitigated by parts and engine programs. With fractional, there is no risk associated with big maintenance bills—if a part breaks, owners don't even know about it. It's all included in their fixed contract fees.

 $\sqrt{\text{Volume Discounts:}}$ A large fractional operator like AirSprint enjoys significant volume discounts for things like aircraft insurance and fuel purchases. With 24* jets currently in operation, AirSprint can pass those savings along to its Owners. To illustrate, Elian pointed out that AirSprint logged 30,000 hours of flying in 2021, while most single-owner aircraft average around 250 hours per year.

 $\sqrt{\ No\ Downtime:}$ Single owners may be frustrated when their aircraft has to go into the shop for lengthy inspections or scheduled repairs. However, AirSprint Fractional Owners are simply booked on a similar company aircraft and their travel plans continue uninterrupted.

 $\sqrt{\text{Substitutions Allowed:}}$ AirSprint Fractional Owners can switch to a larger aircraft or downsize to a smaller platform when needed.

 $\sqrt{}$ Empty Leg Exclusive for AirSprint Fractional Owners: Take advantage of empty leg flights (where a jet is operating with no one on board) at a special flat rate within Canada and the continental U.S.—with absolutely no deduction from your annual package of hours.

*As of April 26th, 2022



Safety Is Our First Priority | Fractional aviation has one of the best safety records in the aviation industry.



Foreseeable Cost Structure



Operator Volume
Discounts



No Aircraft Downtime



Aircraft Substitutions
When Needed



Exclusive Empty Leg Flights



OEM Q & A:

TEXTRON AVIATION

Jason Goeken is VP, Customer Accounts & Delivery, with Textron Aviation. The Textron Aviation family of aircraft includes the Cessna Citation line, which is a pillar of the AirSprint fleet.

Goeken oversees the aircraft delivery teams for Textron Aviation and is uniquely positioned to shed light on the order and delivery process from the OEM perspective.

How would you sum up today's market trends?

Jason Goeken: The demand has grown post-COVID. From the pre-owned side, there has been very little availability. It has been unprecedentedly low. When that happens, demand increases on the new side. We've seen an uptick across all models and time to delivery is based on how much availability we have. We are operating in a larger backlog environment, which allows the customer more time to decide how they want their aircraft configured—such as adding specific equipment, making changes to the interior finishes and material selections, and/or adding custom stripes.

Tell us about the role you play in assisting AirSprint with bringing on a new Cessna Citation.

JG: Our sales director is tied in with James Elian and they work on the timing for the new aircraft. The sales director then works with my team to identify the appropriate aircraft for that time frame, when they want the aircraft to enter into service, along with any differences in equipment specifications this time around. We look at our schedules to find a serial number that fits that timeline, and then we enter the specifications into our system. When the contract is signed, we assign a Customer Account Manager (CAM) and they keep James and the AirSprint team posted on milestone events, such as selecting special equipment, interior configuration or finishes, and paint. We also provide build updates along the way. AirSprint has taken delivery of over 20 aircraft from us and we have a great understanding of their needs.

What happens on delivery day?

JG: AirSprint sends a team to Wichita, Kansas, and they are greeted by a Textron Aviation delivery team to support them, led by the CAM, Aircraft Delivery Manager (ADM) and Delivery Coordinator (DC). Upon arrival, the aircraft is staged in the delivery hangar. The ADM then assists AirSprint with the ground review and acceptance flight of the aircraft, while also reviewing the interior furnishings and cabinetry. Once the reviews are complete, the ADM works to address any discrepancies identified and presents the aircraft back to AirSprint for final review and acceptance. The DC presents the aircraft's loose equipment and subscription information to ensure the equipment is activated in AirSprint's accounts. The CAM continues to support the AirSprint team during the delivery process with any other questions that arise. The CAM will also initiate the Export Certificate of Airworthiness as well as coordinate and finalize the delivery documentation to allow the AirSprint team to take possession of the aircraft and clear customs in Wichita, as they make their ferry arrangements for the trip into Canada. continued >

We've established a relationship with AirSprint over the years; they have high expectations and we want to exceed them.



Acceptance of Cessna Citation CJ3+ | Wichita, Kansas - photo credit: Textron Aviation.

"The demand has grown post-COVID. From the preowned side, there has been very little availability. It has been unprecedentedly low. When that happens, demand increases on the new side." - Jason Goeken



Cessna Citation CJ3+ | The Textron team prepping for new paint job - photo credit: Textron Aviation.



Cessna Citation CJ3+ | Carefully-crafted seats and surroundings for up to seven passengers - photo credit: Textron Aviation.

How does Textron assist with importation into Canada?

JG: We will work with our certification team to provide the documents and letters that AirSprint must present to Transport Canada to get the aircraft on the Canadian registry. The full delivery process can take anywhere from two to five days, depending on any discrepancies, documentation and weather.

How do you continue to support the jet after it is delivered?

JG: Our customer support team, Team CJ, supports the aircraft after entry into service. AirSprint also has a dedicated Field Service Representative.

What is different, from an OEM perspective, about working with an operator like AirSprint versus an individual buyer?

JG: For starters, they know exactly what they want. They come in just as prepared as we are for them, and they know what they need and where they need it. We've established a relationship with them over the years; they have high expectations and we want to exceed them. Whereas, sometimes a concept customer or repeat individual customer can present variables throughout the purchase, specification and delivery process, which can make the experience more complex.

OEM Q & A:

EMBRAER EXECUTIVE JETS

Mark Van Zwoll is VP, Fleet and Special Missions Sales, with Embraer Executive Jets. Embraer manufacturers the second aircraft family in the AirSprint offering: Praetor and Legacy jets.

Tell us about the role you play in assisting AirSprint with bringing on a new Praetor or Legacy jet.

Mark Van Zwoll: Every AirSprint delivery begins with a sales dialogue many months in advance. As AirSprint's sales executive, I work with the company's leadership to craft each aircraft order, balancing pricing, delivery schedule and payment terms to provide a deal that is mutually beneficial to both parties. I remain engaged as AirSprint's high-level point of contact throughout each aircraft's production, delivery and beyond.

From the moment an order is placed by AirSprint, how do things progress step by step?

MVZ: A portion of the process is actually conducted ahead of the formal agreement to purchase the aircraft. During the sales dialogue, we make specialists available from our Configuration and Design teams. They assist our prospective customers with initial choices that will be incorporated into the formal purchase agreement. The aircraft deal is struck on this initial understanding of the configuration and equipage of the aircraft. After the purchase agreement is signed, we will review and confirm every selection with the customer prior to its being incorporated into the aircraft. Once the sale is official, a Customer Account Manager, or CAM, is assigned. These specialists act as the customer's concierge throughout the process, providing a seamless point of contact leading up to delivery. The CAM helps the customer manage the primary decision points, including configuration and interior finishing selections; exterior finishing; and registration marks and transponder codes. As delivery nears, a dedicated Delivery Specialist is assigned to handle all logistical and technical aspects of delivery.

How do you keep the customer apprised of progress?

MVZ: The process flows smoothly through the decision checkpoints, keeping the customer engaged at every juncture. We take a highly personalized approach to the process, and our specialists are continuously accessible.

Describe the delivery process.

MVZ: The delivery process spans three to five days, depending on each customer's specific needs. It occurs at Embraer's Global Customer Center in Melbourne, Florida. This facility is separate from the production centre, affording private surroundings and a solitary focus on the delivery process. Our customers are provided with their own suites from which they can comfortably manage their delivery. The suites overlook the customer's aircraft in the hangar below, affording a fantastic view of the proceedings. The delivery is such a highly anticipated event and we build on that excitement by creating a special "wow moment" while unveiling the aircraft to the customer for the first time. After that, we conduct a flight to allow the customer to experience and verify all features and continued >

We take a highly personalized approach to the process, and our specialists are continuously accessible.



Acceptance of Embraer Praetor 500 | Melbourne, Florida - photo credit: Embraer Executive Jets.

"AirSprint is a highly experienced buyer, and they come to the table with a very refined perspective of their operational needs based on many thousands of hours flying our aircraft." - Mark Van Zwoll



Embraer Praetor 500 | Sets the standard for mid-size aircraft, striking and elegant - photo credit: Embraer Executive Jets.



Embraer Praetor 500 | Fresh from the factory, ready for pick-up - photo credit: Embraer Executive Jets.

amenities onboard the aircraft. Next, the Delivery Specialist hosts a documentation review to ensure that all paperwork is in order, and paint and components are inspected. Once the inspections and paperwork are complete, we achieve aircraft technical acceptance, which signifies customer satisfaction. We also arrange meetings with third-party suppliers, such as airborne communications providers and engine manufacturer representatives, allowing customers to conveniently consolidate these important dialogues into the delivery process. Toward the end of the process, the Export Certificate of Airworthiness is issued to assist with Canadian registration, and the process concludes with the final acceptance of the aircraft and financial closing.

How do you continue to support the jet after it is delivered?

MVZ: From our perspective, the delivery is simply the commencement of decades of service to the operators of our aircraft. Embraer offers a broad network of company-owned and -authorized service centres around the world, providing our customers flexibility to utilize facilities most convenient for their operations. Our Services contact centre provides 24/7 support, and our Field Service Representatives provide on-site support around the globe. Our Services division also cares for Embraer-built commercial airliners, military and agricultural aircraft, and we leverage the strength of that sizeable network to provide robust support to our Executive Jet customers.

What is different, from an OEM perspective, about working with an operator like AirSprint versus an individual buyer?

MVZ: We have enjoyed this experience with AirSprint over the course of numerous deliveries. Their representatives are so well versed in this process that it's almost routine for them, though we aim to make every delivery to AirSprint even better than the last. AirSprint is a highly experienced buyer, and they come to the table with a very refined perspective of their operational needs based on many thousands of hours flying our aircraft. An individual buyer will typically spend more time weighing the many trade-offs inherent to outfitting the aircraft—interior material appearance versus durability, optional equipment weight and cost versus benefit to the mission, etc. While AirSprint's experience affords them the clarity to make these decisions swiftly, we tailor the process to buyers of all experience levels to ensure that their specific needs are met.

"We have an excellent relationship with Cessna and Embraer. They produce great airplanes all the time. AirSprint has very high standards, and my understanding is that both OEMs have added additional steps to the process for us. This results in an even higher-quality aircraft." - James Elian



Cessna Citation CJ2+ | Sunset departure for C-FASW from Calgary, AB (CYYC) - photo credit: Hamza Hasnat.



Embraer Legacy 450 | C-GASE flying over Hawaii - photo credit: Adam Fallwell.

CONCLUSION

Buying a private aircraft, especially in today's hot market, is no trivial matter.

When considering your ownership options, think about the amount of time you want to devote to managing your new asset. Do you prefer to be involved in routine decisions about maintenance, operations and crew hiring? Or, would you rather take a hands-off approach, merely calling ahead and then showing up at the airport for your flight?

Whole aircraft ownership and fractional aircraft ownership both allow you to travel safely and privately according to your own schedule. But there are many differences. Whole ownership involves more decision-making and greater financial risk, while fractional ownership guarantees access to your aircraft and shields you from some of the unexpected high costs that can come with an aircraft.

No matter which way you go, take the time to research and find experts who can assist you with the process. Acquiring an aircraft is definitely not a do-it-yourself endeavour!

AirSprint is the pioneer of fractional aircraft ownership in Canada, bringing 22 years of experience to the table to help you make the decision that is best for you.

Contact the AirSprint team to begin your journey.

AirSprint Private Aviation AirSprint.com FlyASP@AirSprint.com 1.877.588.2344

LIVING OUR VALUES

Safety >

Safety is our first priority; nothing is more important.

People >

We foster relationships with all stakeholders through respect and fairness.

Service >

We deliver exceptional customer service through a passionate pursuit of excellence in everything we do.

Integrity >

Our actions are guided by integrity, as the long-term rewards are incalculable.

Humility >

We are our own toughest critic and strive to improve in everything we do.

Community >

We will be a good corporate citizen and give back to the communities in which we work and live.

Questions about Fractional Jet Ownership?

WE'RE HERE TO HELP:

AirSprint Private Aviation

AirSprint.com

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