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FAA approves Guam air ambulance

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Guam now has a dedicated air ambulance service that can provide service to critically ill patients that need immediate off-island care.

The new “CareJet” service, operated by the Guam-based Aviation Concepts Inc., has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, according to Terry Habeck, president of CareJet.

CareJet brings the first-ever non-military service for medical transports, the company said.

For the first time, Guam-based patients in need of highly specialized medical transport can be flown to hospitals overseas.

Aviation Concepts Inc., operates a Westwind II twin-engine jet at its base facility at A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport. The service is available today and is the first time that a non-military air ambulance is based on Guam.

“The FAA approval marks a milestone for Guam and Micronesia. We can begin transporting those in need today. We have been training our medical and flight team and today the FAA certification allows us to begin serving those in critical need of transport. Our training and investment has been in the very best

aircraft, technology, support systems, and aviation and medical professionals for CareJet,” Habeck stated. The Westwind II is specially designed and configured for expert emergency medical care and transport. Its fuselage sits low to the ground, making it ideal for patient transport as it allows for easy access from the runway.

In addition, the plane’s twin jet engines are highly fuel efficient, making it especially well-adapted for extended range distances.

The jet has a maximum range of 2,600 statute miles and maximum cruise of 480 miles per hour. From its base in Guam, CareJet will be able to reach Manila in 3.3 hours, Tokyo in 3.4 hours, Hong Kong in 4.4 hours, and Cairns, Australia in 4.9 hours.

CareJet’s flight crewmembers are veteran pilots operating under the FAA Part 135 Air Carrier Certificate of Aviation Concepts, Inc., which has worldwide flying authority and now includes air ambulance service.

In-house teams of certified A&P aircraft mechanics will oversee the aircraft’s maintenance and adherence to federal safety guidelines. Maintenance will be conducted at CareJet’s 50,000-square-foot operations center which features direct access to the Guam airport’s restricted Air Operations Area.

The jet can accommodate one patient, a flight crew of two, a medical crew of two and an accompanying family member. It is installed with the highest standard of medical equipment to ensure the patient is well cared for while in-flight.

CareJet’s medical team consists of a U.S. board-certified surgeon serving as medical director and a team of highly-skilled Registered Nurses and EMT’s with extensive experience in advanced life support in

hospital emergency rooms and intensive care units.
“CareJet is designed to meet and exceed world-class standards of patient care and medical aviation transportation,” Habeck said.