



Multi-platform Aviation Services

Reclamation services at Ascent.
All photos: Ascent

Ascent Aviation Services (Ascent) is one of the largest aircraft maintenance operations in the world providing fully integrated aviation maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO), line maintenance, storage, reclamation, paint, and interior services to owners, operators, and lessors of wide body, narrow body, and regional aircraft. With outstanding reliability and service that delivers, Ascent is ideally situated as a one-stop-shop for all aircraft fleet service, storage, and end of life needs.

Ascent Aviation Services is privately owned and operates in multiple facilities across the arid southwestern United States, providing an ideal year-round climate for aircraft maintenance, repair, overhaul, and storage. With an average of 350 days of sunshine annually and very low humidity, there is no better location

in North America, and possibly the world, for storing and maintaining your aircraft. Ascent operates two facilities located just 40 miles apart and near vibrant Tucson, AZ with expansion planned to Roswell, NM in 2021 incorporating additional hangar and storage space to support their growing customer base.

Solutions

Ascent is located on more than 1,200 acres of land between two sites on Tucson International Airport (TUS) and Pinal Air Park (MZJ) and occupies over 300,000 sq. ft of enclosed hangar, shop and storage space. The large footprint and flightline area make Ascent one of the largest lease transition, storage, and reclamation facilities in the world.

With more than 40 years in continuous operation and over 1,000 maintenance

visits to date, Ascent specializes in heavy maintenance of nearly every commercial aircraft type. Ascent has heavy check capabilities for most major aircraft in operation from Boeing, Airbus, Embraer, and Bombardier. The hangars and experienced team can accommodate anything from an ERJ to a B777 and most everything in between. Ascent is a Class IV 14 CFR Part 145 certified Repair Station and maintains approvals & certifications from regulatory authorities globally, including FAA, EASA, BDA/AMO, TCCA, NCAA, and 2-REG to offer customers multiple solutions.

In September 2020, Ascent announced it had signed a Letter of Intent with the State of New Mexico to build a hangar at Roswell International Air Center. The new hangar will be capable of housing a B777x and is estimated to be completed in Q3 of 2021. Ascent is investing significant fi-



MRO services on various aircraft types including 747s.

financial and management resources and is partnering with local and state agencies to bring more than 360 new jobs to Roswell by 2026. "The Roswell Airport is an incredible facility with a large volume of aircraft already stored there as a result of COVID-19 and other factors limiting operations. Sometimes those planes have limited options for heavy maintenance and service and must be ferried out. This facility will provide an option to keep those jobs and revenue in New Mexico," said David Querio, President of Ascent Aviation Services.

P2F Conversion

In October 2020, Sine-Draco announced their selection of Ascent Aviation Services in Tucson for the modification and completion of its prototype A321 passenger to freighter conversion. FAA approval of the A321-200 SDF is anticipated for late 2021 / early 2022.

"The selection and partnership with Ascent Aviation Services to perform the conversion of Sine-Draco's prototype A321-200 airplane is a significant milestone for our conversion program," said Sine-Draco's Chief Executive Officer, Alex Deriugin in

their press-release. "Ascent Aviation Services is known as an international leader in aircraft modification, repair, and overhaul and we are excited to add their expertise to our global team."

Ascent Aviation Services will be performing the modification of the aircraft by completing the touch labor, modification planning, and inspection requirements. Ascent will also be completing a heavy check during the modification, painting the new customers' livery, and providing maintenance support during the ground and flight test program following conversion.

COVID-19

While the COVID-19 global pandemic has proven especially devastating for the aviation industry in 2020, Ascent has been able to weather the storm, and even expand, during the crisis. Attributed to its long history and large footprint in the storage business, Ascent proved an ideal location for storage and transition of aircraft in the Western Hemisphere.

Ascent offers a one-stop-shop for lessors' aircraft as it adds heavy maintenance,

paint, interior reconfiguration, and back-shop capabilities to its vast storage and reclamation space. The COVID-19 crisis has expanded this offering and Ascent currently maintains aircraft from over 40 countries and 6 continents for dozens of customers.

"While there's great uncertainty in the current environment, our customers are looking for proven solutions and commercial options to better position themselves as the recovery continues," said Scott Butler, Chief Commercial Officer at Ascent. "Our significant heavy maintenance capabilities, end of life solutions, and over 400 mechanics give our customers a lot of options while they focus on their fleet strategies. We're able to quickly accept aircraft for storage and transition them to new operators, heavy maintenance, or reclamation when the market permits."

Ascent has hired more than 100 additional mechanics at a time when Airlines and MROs are shrinking the sizes of their workforce. "We've been able to transition dozens of highly skilled team members straight from the airlines and in turn, of-

COMPANY SPOTLIGHT: ASCENT AVIATION SERVICES



SineDraco selected Ascent for A321 freighter modification and completion.

fer our customers seamless service with mechanics who are already familiar with their aircraft and maintenance programs," Butler said. "It feels good to be a beacon of light in this dark time for our industry."

New Frontiers

Ascent continues to expand its offerings to serve their large customer base. "We're always interested in expanding our back-

shop capabilities by offering solutions for all areas of the aircraft," said Butler. "The more components we can keep on the airfield, the more cost-effective it is for our customers."

Ascent is looking towards the future of aviation maintenance by partnering with robotics and artificial intelligence start-up Rizse. The Rizse drone platform will bring

safer, consistent, and more efficient automated aircraft inspections allowing Ascent to deliver actionable analytics to our customers in 2021.

Ascent Aviation Services is dedicated to embracing the highest standards of safety. Ascent was one of the first MROs to voluntarily enter into SMS program in North America. Their Safety Management System (SMS) is the formal, top-down, organization-wide approach to managing safety and assuring the effectiveness of safety risk controls. It includes systematic procedures, practices, and policies for the management of safety risk. SMS introduces an evolutionary process in system safety and safety management and is a structured process that obligates Ascent Aviation Services to manage safety with the same level of priority that other core business processes are managed. This applies to both internal (FAA) and external aviation industry organizations. Ascent is in development of their SMS processes with full implementation of the program scheduled for 2021.

President David Querio commented "The safety of our people, and the safety of our customers' assets is always our top priority and we are committed to this at all levels in Ascent."

