Williams International completes successful flight test of 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

14 April 2021. Williams International has completed a successful flight test of its FJ44-4 engine using 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) on Williams’ experimental flying testbed. The flight was conducted from Williams’ flight operations center in Pontiac Michigan, and flew to points in northern Michigan with a total of 3.5 hour flight time at a cruise altitude of FL450. This flight test follows extensive material compatibility and endurance testing that validated engine performance and durability using 100% SAF. Chief Test Pilot Robert Lambert noted “The flight was uneventful and the engine performed flawlessly – it did not even seem to notice that it was burning sustainable fuel.”

This successful flight marks another step in the Williams Blue Planet initiative to significantly reduce the environmental impact of business aviation by relentlessly driving to a carbon-neutral product lifecycle. “We have shown that Williams’ engines can utilize 100% SAF to decarbonize business aviation,” said Gregg Williams, Chairman, President and CEO of Williams International, and copilot of the flight test, “The next critical step is to accelerate the production of SAF to make it more widely available and affordable.”

Headquartered in Pontiac, Michigan, Williams International is the world leader in the design, manufacturing and support of small gas turbine engines. In addition to its world class reputation for customer support, Williams is also well known for establishing the most highly integrated and automated manufacturing facilities in the world to support high quality, high volume production of its rapidly growing family of commercial and military products. Ingot and other raw materials enter one end of these facilities and finished engines exit the other. For more information about the company, its products, and support, please visit www.williams-int.com.

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