



## Elysair Begins Operations Under New Brand; Has Expansion Plans

About three weeks after its initial launch date of December 15, new French all-business class airline, Elysair (now called L'Avion), has started flying between Paris Orly Sud and Newark's Liberty International Airport near New York. Service frequency will be six times a week.

L'Avion operates a leased Boeing 757-200 reconfigured with low-density seating for up to 90 passengers (normal capacity: 200). In the cabin, the carrier has chosen the digEplayerXT as its portable in-flight entertainment (IFE) system. Supplied by Springville, Utah-based digEcor, the XT is preprogrammed with movies (domestic and foreign), TV shows, cartoon, videos, music and games. It also has an eight-inch TFT screen for 30% more viewing area than a seven-inch screen. Built-in credit card or a prepaid card and wireless technology provides for in-flight shopping.

L'Avion's 757 maintenance will be provided by Lufthansa Technik (LHT) under a five-year Total Technical Support contract covering line maintenance at both Orly and Liberty. In addition, LHT will provide component repair and overhaul, component pooling as well as Maintenance Management Services.

L'Avion chairman, Marc Rochet, said most of the investors who have put up the airline's 25 million euros (\$31 million) capital were French, but he did not give details about their identities.

The airline's first 757 has been leased from German Operating Aircraft Leasing (GOAL), which is joint venture backed by KGAL (KG Allgemeine Leasing GmbH & Co.) and Lufthansa. L'Avion's business plan calls for a second aircraft to be leased in 2007, either to beef up frequencies on the Newark route or to serve other destinations in the U.S. L'Avion's also hopes to expand into Southwest Asia, the Persian Gulf region and eastern Europe.

