



Caption

The Legend Lives On

Few would dispute the label 'iconic' being applied to the Viking Twin Otter, one of Canada's most prolific and recognisable utility aircraft.

The fact that in July this year the Twin Otter celebrated its 50th-Anniversary, adds weight to the claim that it must be one of aviation's most successful and durable aircraft designs.

In January this year Stephen Pembro, founder and Managing Director of Utility Air Pty Limited, was appointed an exclusive distributor for Viking Aircraft's Twin Otter 400 series for the Pacific Region, joining a global sales and support network that now reaches from Calgary in Canada, East to Fukuoka in Japan.

The Series 400 Twin Otter is a development of the original de Havilland Series 300 Twin Otter and includes upgraded Pratt & Whitney PT6A-34 engines, a fully integrated Honeywell Primus Apex digital avionics suite and internal and external LED lighting. Almost 800 additional modifications have also been incorporated to enhance the design, user experience and flying characteristics. Despite the design base having been significantly upgraded, the Series 400 Twin Otter still retains the ability to operate economically, safely and reliably.

Stephen Pembro has embraced the opportunity given to represent the Twin Otter 400 series aircraft. 'I am proud that Utility Air has been chosen by Viking to distribute the Twin Otter Series 400 in the Pacific, and intend to work tirelessly to deliver results to the broad target market in the region' he says. 'The Twin Otter is an iconic aircraft that has served this territory well in its previous iterations.'

In February this year, Utility Air completed its first sale to Lang Walker's Walker Corporation. The 'Premiere' edition Series 400 aircraft will be configured with a 19-passenger interior, air conditioning, and amphibious floats for both runway and

UTILITY AIR 

water-based operation. The aircraft will be used to transfer guests to and from a new six star luxury resort being built on Yaukuve Island in Fiji. 'The sale to Walker Corporation is evidence of the respect the design has and its appeal as a versatile and functional utility aircraft' says Stephen Pembro. 'It's the best-selling turbo-prop aircraft in its class and I'm sure Mr Walker acknowledged that.'

Available on standard land gear, optional straight or amphibious floats, skis, wheel skis, or intermediate flotation gear ("IFG"), with multiple quick-change interior configurations available, the Series 400 Twin Otter is a versatile aircraft with multiple mission capability. A Special variant, the Twin Otter Guardian 400, has also been developed for ISR operations. According to Viking Aircraft, it will be offered as a versatile airframe that can be customized for unique configuration requirements. 'The Guardian 400's low acquisition cost and flexible architecture allows operators to mix and match sensors and interior layouts to meet their specific mission profiles' the company says.

To date, Twin Otter Series 400 aircraft have been sold to commercial, corporate, government and private operators in 24 countries around the world so the prospects look bright for Stephen Pembro and Utility Air. 'We're looking forward to playing our part in maintaining the De Havilland legacy and increasing the worldwide fleet of owners and operators' he says.

