

**NEWS RELEASE**

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### **First G1000-equipped TBM 850 delivered to an Australian customer**

- Australia's leading financial planning licensee will use the very fast turboprop for corporate transportation

**Melbourne, Australia, March 1, 2010** – DAHER-SOCATA today announced the delivery of its first G1000-equipped TBM 850 very fast turboprop aircraft to an Australian customer.

Receiving the TBM 850 was Warwick and Katrina Hawksworth of Capstone Financial services. This independently owned and operated organization was formed in July 2002 and has rapidly grown to become one of Australia's leading financial planning licensees today.

“We selected the TBM 850 after several years of marketing research, which determined that DAHER-SOCATA's very fast turboprop was the best in speed, low operating costs and short-field operations,” Hawksworth said. “A meeting with DAHER-SOCATA representatives at the 2009 Avalon Air Show ensured us of the company's commitment to support and reliability.”

The TBM 850 for Hawksworth is a model year 2010, equipped with the Garmin G1000 avionics suite, which replaces traditional instruments with large liquid crystal display (LCD) screens. It integrates the primary flight, navigation, weather, traffic, ground proximity and technical information on the aircraft, and is fully associated with a digital autopilot. This reduces pilot workload and eases maintenance – making the TBM 850 one of the world's most advanced light business aircraft. The Garmin G1000 avionics suite has been integrated as standard equipment on the TBM 850 since 2008.

Hawksworth flew his new TBM 850 from DAHER-SOCATA's production facility in France to Australia. This 10,850 naut. mi. trip was accomplished in 37 hours 15 minutes, with stopovers in Kerkira (Greece), Hurgada (Egypt), Dubai, Ahmedabad and Kolkata (India), Bangkok (Thailand), Singapore, Bali Den Pasar (Indonesia), Darwin, Mt Isa and Melbourne (Australia).

Capstone Financial Services provides its financial advisers with one of the broadest approved product lists in the Australian market. Starting with an initial five offices, the company today has more than 70 locations in Australia. This fast growth generates a significant travel requirement across Australia from its Melbourne headquarters, which ultimately created the need for a new aircraft.

“The recognition of the TBM 850’s efficiency and operational attributes by a company such as Capstone Financial Services is a real endorsement of our aircraft’s value for entrepreneurs.” said Nicolas Chabbert, Senior Vice President of DAHER-SOCATA’s Airplane Division. “We expect further growth of the TBM fleet in Australia – a large country that is well suited to our very fast turboprop’s capabilities in corporate transportation.”

The TBM 850 is available in Australia through Executive Airlines – which provides area sales, parts and support center services, and the aircraft is supported across the country by an extensive network that also includes PremiAir in Western Australia, Marker Aviation in the Northern Territory, Air Gold Coast in Queensland and Winyre Aviation in New South Wales.

As the world’s fastest single engine turboprop, the TBM 850 has a maximum cruise speed of 320 KTAS at 26,000 ft. (in ISA conditions). The TBM 850 is an 850-shp version of SOCATA’s proven six-seat TBM 700 turboprop business aircraft, and it combines the cruising speed and travel times typical of light jets with economical direct operating costs, while offering the range and excellent payload capacity of turboprop aircraft.

## **About DAHER-SOCATA**

DAHER is a European integrated equipment and services supplier.

In addition to aerospace, DAHER specializes in three other sectors: nuclear, defense and industries. DAHER is developing in three fields of expertise: manufacturing, services and transport, which enable it to offer a comprehensive package.

DAHER-SOCATA is one of the world’s leading general aviation manufacturers, with more than 17,000 aircraft built since its creation as Morane-Saulnier in 1911. Current products include the TBM 850 high-speed turboprop aircraft, aerostructures for Airbus civil airliners, the A400M military transporter, Dassault Falcon jets, Eurocopter helicopters and Embraer regional jets.

DAHER-SOCATA is expanding its customer service activities to support its growing fleet of TBMs and offer its light aviation expertise for aircraft below 19,000 lbs (8.6 metric tons) through avionics modernization, maintenance, repair and overall package offers.

Founded in 1863, DAHER is an exclusively family-run, independent international group, with 12 international installations (four in Western Europe, three in Eastern Europe, two in North America, two in Africa and one in Australia).

For more information, visit [www.daher.com](http://www.daher.com) and [www.tbm850.com](http://www.tbm850.com)