

**NEWS RELEASE****Contact for the media:**

General Aviation - Philippe de Segovia

Tel +33 (0)6 70 21 70 47 - p.de-segovia@socata.daher.com

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**DAHER-SOCATA appoints National Airways Corporation as its TBM 850 distributor in Southern Africa**

- **Leading African aviation company will market DAHER-SOCATA's very fast turboprop aircraft on the continent**

**Johannesburg, South Africa, February 24, 2009** – DAHER-SOCATA today announced the appointment of National Airways Corporation (NAC) as its exclusive distributor for Southern Africa.

Offering a full range of aviation services and products to the fixed wing and helicopter markets, NAC specializes in aircraft sales, aircraft maintenance, avionics, parts sales, charter, international operations and pilot training.

NAC Chief Executive Officer Martin Banner said the African market offers excellent sales opportunities for the TBM 850, which is the world's fastest single-engine turboprop aircraft.

"It is the perfect answer for dynamic entrepreneurs who enjoy flying fast across the vast open ranges of Africa, and the TBM 850's range is ideal for covering most destinations in Southern Africa," Banner explained. "Combined with jet-like performance and turboprop efficiency, the TBM 850 will offer the most economical solution available in our market."

"NAC is a highly experienced partner, and we were looking forward to entering the African business aviation market through our cooperation," said Nicolas Chabbert, DAHER-SOCATA's Senior Vice President. "The TBM 850 is the best choice and the right alternative for business transportation needs of medium and small companies, and DAHER-SOCATA is totally committed to backing this aircraft with the world-class customer service offered by NAC throughout Southern Africa."

Established in 1946, NAC created one of South Africa's first air charter services. The company has spread its wings over the years, becoming the largest general aviation company in Africa, and one of the largest of its kind in the world.

From its headquarters at Lanseria Airport in Johannesburg, NAC operates a South African network of offices in Cape Town, Durban, Rand Airport in Johannesburg and Pretoria. NAC also has branches in Botswana, Angola Kenya and Nigeria, and it established NAC Makana Aviation – a Cape Town-based helicopter company that is a joint venture partnership with Makana Investments (Pty) Ltd. Additionally, NAC has operations on other continents:

Awesome Flight Logistics in Perth, Australia, and Specialized Aircraft Services in the United States at Wichita, Kansas.

The TBM 850 is the world's fastest single engine turboprop, with a maximum cruise speed of 320 KTAS at 26,000 ft. (in ISA conditions). An 850-shp version of SOCATA's proven six-seat TBM 700 turboprop business aircraft, the TBM 850 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 more than 7,200 employees and 12 international installations (four in Western Europe, three in Eastern Europe, two in North America, two in Africa and one in Australia). DAHER will exceed a €930 million turnover in 2009.

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