



*Aeronautical Engineers, Inc.*

## **Media Release**

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**For Immediate Release**

### **AEI LAUNCHES MD-80 P to F CONVERSION PROGRAM**

MIAMI, FL., --February 8, 2010-- Aeronautical Engineers, Inc. (AEI), is pleased to announce that it has formally launched an MD-80SF Passenger to Freighter Conversion Program. The program, which has been in work for six months, will focus on the modification on four DC9-80 aircraft, MD-81, MD-82, MD-83 and the MD-88. The program development costs are being fully funded by AEI including the purchase of prototype aircraft. The modification touch labor will be performed at AEI's leading Authorized Conversion Center, Commercial Jet, which is located at Miami International Airport.

AEI, a Boeing Licensed 3rd Party 737 STC provider, will initially convert the MD-80SF's in Miami, Florida but plans to make the conversion available to its worldwide network of Authorized Conversion Centers within one year of certification. AEI expects initial certification by the summer of 2011 and plans to certify the program with the FAA, EASA, and CAAC.

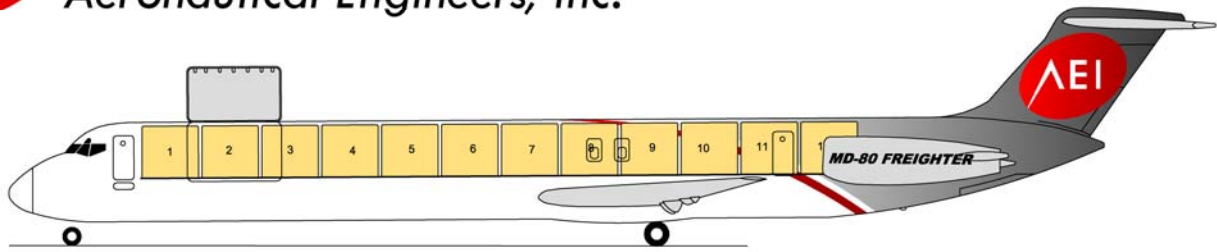
Mr. Robert T. Convey, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Aeronautical Engineers, Inc stated, "AEI has been studying the MD-80SF passenger to freighter conversion for over 10 years and made the decision to launch the program based upon the low asset value. Historically, narrow body passenger aircraft have only been converted in large numbers when they have reached the zone of conversion, which is around 15 years of age and at or close to scrap value. The MD-80 now meets both these criteria and will be converted in large numbers in years to come." Mr. Convey goes on to say that, "AEI has converted more than 225 Boeing 727 passenger aircraft to freighters over a 20 year period, more than any other conversion supplier. I am confident that the MD-80 will follow this conversion pattern simply due to the low asset and conversion cost."

The MD-80SF will offer the operator industry leading cargo capacity and ULD flexibility. The initial design includes the following;

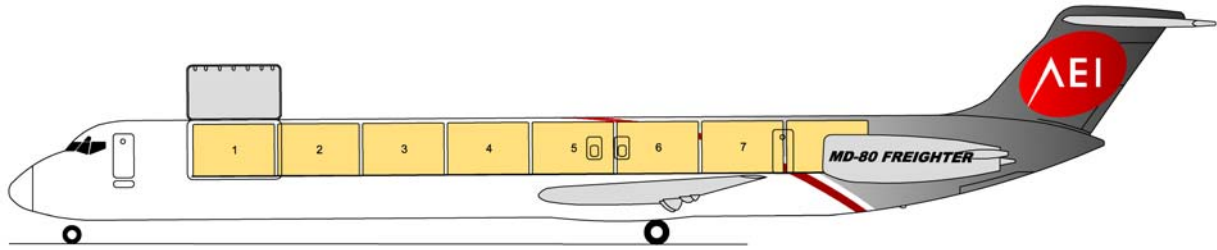
1. Twelve 88" x 108" ULD's which will include a custom 108" Container
2. Eight 88" x 125" ULD's, netted pallets
3. Eight 96" x 125 ULD's netted pallets
4. Up to 47,000 lbs of upper deck cargo
5. Up to 4,400 cubic feet of main deck volume
6. 75 day conversion time
7. AEI will incorporate common design features of its 727 and 737 conversion including;
  - A. Ventura Aerospace 9G barrier
  - B. Independent 28 volt hydraulic panel mounted on the 9G barrier
  - C. 86" x 140" main cargo door
  - D. Dual vent door system
  - E. Low profile cargo loading system
  - F. Cabin windows replaced with light weight aluminum window plugs
  - G. Formed fuselage skins



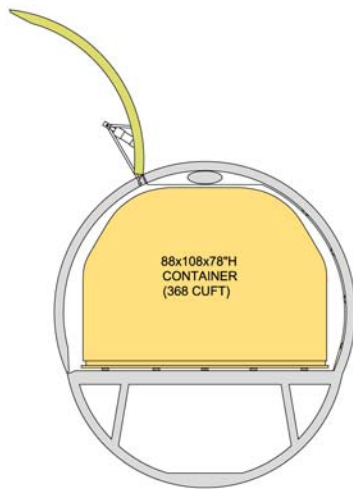
Aeronautical Engineers, Inc.



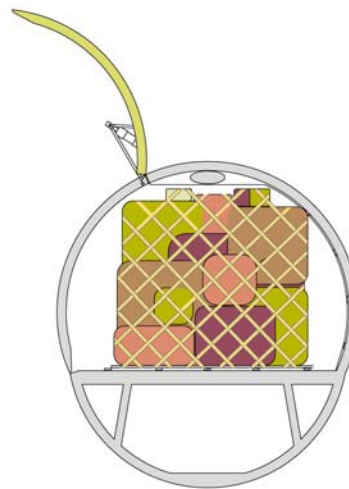
TWELVE 88"x108" CONTAINERS



EIGHT 125"x88" OR 125"x96" NETTED PALLETS



 MD-80 FREIGHTER CROSS SECTION  
TWELVE 88X108" CONTAINERS



 MD-80 FREIGHTER CROSS SECTION  
EIGHT 125"x88" OR 125"x96" NETTED PALLETS

### About AEI

Formed in 1958, Aeronautical Engineers, Inc. (AEI) is the oldest conversion company in existence today. For more than 50 years AEI has provided advanced engineering solutions to aircraft owners and operators. Today the company is a global leader in passenger to freighter conversions for a wide array of aircraft, helping customers extend the life of the aircraft and increase the value of their asset. AEI has developed over 120 Supplemental Type Certificates (STCs) and 350+ aircraft have been modified with AEI STCs – more than any other conversion provider.

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