

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Brazilian plane maker sets up in Ormond Beach

## Hangar at city's airport to initially be North American assembly/distribution plant

By [Clayton Park](#)  
[clayton.park@news-jrn.com](mailto:clayton.park@news-jrn.com)

Published: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 11:03 a.m.

ORMOND BEACH — A newly formed affiliate company of a Brazilian manufacturer of light sport airplanes has made Ormond Beach its North American base of operations.



The company, Super Petrel USA Inc., recently leased a 6,000-square-foot hangar at Ormond Beach Municipal Airport where it has opened an aircraft assembly/sales/distribution and parts center.

Brian Boucher, a Spruce Creek Fly-In resident who works as a commercial airline pilot, teamed up with the founder of Rio Claro, Brazil-based Scoda Aeronautica and another Brazilian businessman to form Super Petrel USA on Jan. 1.

The company is the exclusive distributor of Scoda Aeronautica's light sport planes, which can take off and land on both land and sea, and which retail for \$155,000, Boucher said.

"I fell in love with the aircraft four years ago," he said, adding that when he learned that the Brazilian company did not have a distributor for the United States and Canada that he quickly signed up to become that person.

The company recently signed a three-year lease for Hanger 24 at the airport from the hangar's owner, Betner Construction, which was using the facility for storage after selling off its aircraft, according to Steven Lichliter, the airport's manager.

"We were contacted by telephone and by email in October" by the owners of Super Petrel, said Lichliter, who was told they were also considering other general aviation airports in the area. "They came for a visit and were impressed with the general atmosphere. One of the execs was already familiar with one of the tenants here. The people from Super Petrel were made to feel at home."

Joe Mannarino, the city's economic development director, said he was told that Super Petrel's principals also liked the close proximity of the airport to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach.

Mannarino said Super Petrel, which will start off with four employees at its Ormond Beach facility, are not seeking economic incentives at this time, but added that could change if at some point they decide to expand their operations to include manufacturing.

The parts and components for the planes will be shipped to Ormond Beach from the Scoda Aeronautica plant in Brazil for now, he said.

Scoda Aeronautica produced its first Super Petrel amphibious biplanes in 2001. Since then, it has manufactured and sold more than 350 Super Petrels and exported them to 23 countries. Ten were sold in the US in the last six months of 2015, according to a news release from the city and company.

Boucher, who is a pilot for Airbus Americas in Miami, also owns a separate company called Florida Light Sport Aviation, which was the initial distributor for Super Petrel planes in North America prior to the formation of the new affiliate company. He said he intends to continue operating Florida Light Sport Aviation as well.

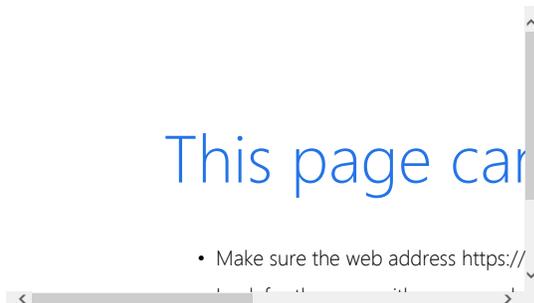
"We are pleased that the Ormond Beach Municipal Airport was selected by Super Petrel USA for their North American headquarters and look forward to working with the company in assisting and supporting their success," Mannarino said in the news release.

Dan Johnson, a Port Orange resident who is president and chairman of the Light Aircraft Manufacturers Association, said "Super Petrels are part of a class (light sport aircraft) approved (in the U.S.) 12 years ago by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) that's become by far the fastest-growing segment in aviation around the world."

Johnson, who makes his living running a website called ByDanJohnson.com devoted to light sport planes, light kit planes and ultra light aircraft, said Super Petrel "is a well-established airplane in the marketplace. ... It's a great little airplane. It's unusual in that it's a biplane that has two sets of wings."

Johnson noted that another Brazilian sport plane maker, Paradise Aircraft, also recently established its North American operations in Florida, at the airport in Sebring.

*Staff writer Bob Koslow contributed to this report.*



Copyright © 2016 News-JournalOnline.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.