

Business Aviation

**Ex-JetBlue staff in charter venture**

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A group of former [JetBlue Airways](#) executives has formed a very light jet operation that pays the owners of the aircraft in return for allowing the company to charter their aircraft during any downtime.

**JetSuite**, founded by Alex Wilcox, has 50 Embraer Phenom 100 VLJs on firm order, with options on an additional 50 in the Phenom family it will also pay \$25,000 a month to Phenom owners for the right to charter their aircraft on one-ways and other deadhead flight segments.

Wilcox, who served as president of India's [Kingfisher Airlines](#) after leaving [JetBlue](#), says **JetSuite** will offer simplified pricing with no hidden fees or charges. It will offer one-way pricing with no repositioning charges.

Wilcox says that **JetSuite** will be the first and only private-jet fleet operator with airline-level standards for engine-condition trend monitoring, and will be certified under FAR Part 135.

The **JetSuite** operation will be based at Hawthorne airport near Los Angeles International, with additional operations at Henderson Executive in Las Vegas. It will limit itself to the western and south-western states of the USA. The company has begun informal discussions with its Federal Aviation Administration flight standards district office on certification, with the first revenue charter service planned for June 2009.

**JetSuite** pilots will be directly employed and trained by the company's vice-president of flight operations, who is a former [United Airlines](#) McDonnell Douglas DC-10 fleet captain.

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