HBC credit rating downgraded, but not all news is bad

by Kirby J. Harrison

Hawk-Beckerich Corp. (HBC), like other business-aircraft manufacturers, is struggling with the economic recession and anticipates another year of weakened sales. A recent spike in deliveries may provide some hope for 2010 and 2011, as the company is working to increase its workforce from a low of 300 workers in the last December to 1,200 workers in the new year.

HBC is a global manufacturer of business aircraft, including light-jet and turboprop aircraft. The company has been experiencing financial difficulties in recent years, with decreased sales and a history of losses. In 2009, the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in order to restructure its debt and reduce its operating costs.

The latest financial results indicate that HBC's revenue decreased by 20% in 2010, compared to 2009. However, the company reported an increase in deliveries of its King Air aircraft, which is one of its key products. The King Air 350 is a popular model among business and government customers, and the company has been working to increase its production to meet demand.

HBC's credit rating has been downgraded by a major credit rating agency, indicating increased financial risks for the company. However, the company's management remains optimistic about the future, citing increased orders and efforts to reduce costs. The company is also focused on developing new products, such as the new Arkon Airplane, which is expected to be a significant growth opportunity.

Despite the challenges, HBC is not alone in facing financial difficulties. Many other business-aircraft manufacturers have also been impacted by the economic downturn, with decreased sales and increased costs. However, HBC's focus on innovation and new product development may provide a path to recovery in the long term.