

CESSNA CITATION M2 GEN3 TAKES FIRST FLIGHT, ADVANCING NEXT-GENERATION LIGHT JET PROGRAM



WICHITA, Kan. (June 2, 2026) — [Textron Aviation Inc.](#), a [Textron Inc.](#) (NYSE: TXT) company, reached a major development milestone in its next-generation light jet portfolio as the [Cessna Citation M2 Gen3](#) prototype successfully completed its first flight. The aircraft will now enter an expanded phase of flight testing as the company works toward Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification and a planned entry into service in 2027.

“The aircraft systems and software performed as intended throughout the flight, with all validation checks completed successfully, contributing to a smooth and uneventful flight,” said Tanner Towns, flight test engineer. “This flight confirms the strong foundation we’ve built as we move into the next phase of testing.”

The initial flight, piloted by Andrew Thorson and Towns, lasted 2.7 hours and focused on evaluating aircraft handling and key systems. The M2 Gen3 reached a maximum altitude of 41,000 feet and a maximum speed of 263 knots.

“This milestone reflects the dedication and expertise of our team and highlights our commitment to designing, certifying and delivering the best aircraft for our customers,” said Chris Hearne, senior vice president, Engineering & Programs. “With this prototype now in our flight test program, we are continuing rigorous evaluation as we move steadily toward certification.”

The first flight underscores continued momentum across Textron Aviation’s next-generation Cessna Citation lineup and reinforces the company’s ongoing investment in the light jet segment. Designed with confidence and ease of operation in mind, the Citation M2 Gen3 brings Garmin Emergency Autoland technology to the cockpit, offering added peace of mind for pilots and passengers.

Paired with the Garmin G3000 avionics suite and autothrottle capabilities, the M2 Gen3 reflects growing customer demand for intuitive flight deck technology and a seamless flying experience, while maintaining the performance and reliability expected from the Citation family.

About the Cessna Citation M2 Gen3

With the introduction of the new Cessna Citation M2 Gen3, Textron Aviation invested in enhancements that focus on comfort and productivity for both pilot and passengers. The M2 Gen3 interior incorporates premium styling, ambient lighting, illuminated cupholders and an optional folding side-facing seat that doubles as extra cargo space. Cabin technology includes wireless charging and both USB-A and USB-C ports, supporting passenger productivity.

The Citation M2 Gen3 boasts a maximum range of 1,550 nm and a maximum payload of 1,510 pounds. Featuring a seating capacity for up to eight occupants and a baggage capacity of up to 725 pounds, the M2 Gen3 is an entry-level jet with a focus on passenger confidence, comfort and productivity.

To learn more about the Cessna Citation M2 Gen3, visit <https://cessna.txtav.com/en/citation/m2-gen3>.

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We have been inspiring the journey of flight for nearly 100 years. Textron Aviation Inc., a Textron Inc. company, has empowered our collective talent across the Beechcraft, Cessna, Hawker and Pipistrel brands to design and deliver the best aviation experience for our customers. With a range that includes everything from business jets, turboprops, light and high-performance pistons, to special mission, military trainer and defense aircraft, Textron Aviation has the most versatile and comprehensive aviation product portfolio in the world and a workforce that has produced more than half of all general aviation aircraft worldwide. Customers in more than 170 countries rely on our legendary performance, reliability and versatility, along with our trusted global customer service network, for affordable, productive and flexible flight. For more information, visit www.txtav.com.

About Textron Inc.

Textron Inc. is a multi-industry company that leverages its global network of aircraft, defense, industrial and finance businesses to provide customers with innovative solutions and services. Textron is known around the world for its powerful brands such as Bell, Cessna, Beechcraft, Pipistrel, Jacobsen, Kautex, Lycoming, E-Z-GO, and Textron Systems. For more information, visit: www.textron.com.

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