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Airbus in Hong Kong

Airbus' relationship with Hong Kong dates back to October 1989, when Cathay Pacific Airways placed its first order for the A330-300. This was the beginning of a successful partnership that has seen Hong Kong grow to become one of the most important markets for Airbus in the Asia-Pacific region, with airlines in the territory having ordered nearly 200 aircraft from the manufacturer.

Today Cathay Pacific together with its sister airline Dragonair is the world's largest operator of the A330, with a total of 61 now in service. Since its first delivery of the A330 in 1995, Cathay Pacific's Airbus fleet now comprises 42 A330-300s while Dragonair flies 19 A330-300s.

In addition Cathay Pacific operates 5 four engine A340-300s. The airline takes full benefit from the unique commonality offered by Airbus aircraft, operating its A330/A340 fleet as a single type with the same pool of pilots. Cathay Pacific flies its A330s on medium range regional routes, as well as on longer sectors to Australia, while the A340s are deployed on long haul non-stop routes linking Hong Kong with destinations in Europe and North America.

In the single-aisle category Dragonair is a major Airbus customer, with its all-Airbus fleet currently comprising 15 A320s and 8 A321s. The aircraft are operated on an extensive network linking Hong Kong with destinations across mainland China, as well as to selected destinations in India, Japan and South East Asia.

September 2010 marked a new milestone in the relationship between Airbus and Cathay Pacific when the airline signed a purchase agreement covering the firm order of 30 A350 XWBs. Since then the carrier has increased its firm order for the type to 46 and finalised an agreement with a third party leasing company for two more. The first A350-900 XWB was delivered to Cathay Pacific in May 2016 and the new aircraft entered into service in June 2016. Today, the airline operates two A350-900s. The all-new airliner will form the backbone of the airline's future mid-size widebody fleet, flying primarily on non-stop routes from Hong Kong to Europe. Burning 25% less fuel than similar sized aircraft flying today, the A350 XWB will bring unrivalled levels of efficiency to the airline's operation.

In the freight market, Air Hong Kong, jointly owned by Cathay Pacific and DHL Worldwide, is also an Airbus operator with a fleet of 10 A300-600F Freighters currently flying on its regional network.

In June 2007, Hong Kong Airlines became a new customer of Airbus when it placed its first order for single aisle A320s and A330-300s. Since then the carrier has ordered a total of 63 Airbus aircraft, comprising 30 A320s, 18 A330s and 15 A350 XWBs. The carrier took delivery of the first of these aircraft - an A330-200 - in May 2010 for operation on its new long haul services. The airline now operates a total of 26 Airbus aircraft. It's sister company, a low-cost carrier, HK Express now operates an all-Airbus fleet with a total of 15 A320ceo.

In 2016, the airline set up Hong Kong Air Cargo Carrier to serve the freight market. The carrier now operates an all-Airbus fleet of 5 A330-200Fs.

In February 2015, Airbus entered into a long term strategic agreement with HAECO Group to provide maintenance and engineering training in mainland China and Southeast Asia. Through the collaboration HAECO deploys the 'Training by Airbus' standards and teaching techniques to provide aircraft maintenance training capabilities to its personnel and third party personnel in the region.

In April 2016 Cathay Pacific Airways and Airbus signed an A350 XWB Flight Hour Services (FHS) components support agreement. The long-term agreement covers guaranteed spare parts availability, maintenance and logistics services at Cathay Pacific's main base and selected outstations as well as flight simulator support. The agreement also covers Integrated Material Services (IMS) – whereby the purchasing and planning of the airline's A350 XWB expendables inventories are outsourced to Airbus' dedicated materials management subsidiary, Satair Group.

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