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## Airbus in Thailand

### A long-standing partnership with Thailand

European aircraft manufacturer Airbus has an enduring relationship with Thailand where Airbus aircraft are currently flying with all the major carriers. Operating on everything from short domestic hops to flights in Asia and to Europe, the aircraft include the best-selling single aisle A320 Family, the popular widebody A330 and the quietest cabin in the sky, the A380 superjumbo.

Airbus' relationship with Thailand dates back to April 1977 when Thai Airways International (THAI) placed its first order for the original A300B4. In doing so, the airline became one of Airbus' earliest customers. Over the years the airline ordered and operated a total of 33 A300s.

In May 1990, the carrier placed its first order for the twin-engine wide body A330-300s, with the first aircraft entering service on regional routes in December 1994. Since then the airline has ordered 27 such aircraft, of which 17 are currently being operated.

THAI took another major step in its long-term fleet expansion plan in December 2004, by placing an order for six A380s. The airline took delivery of its first flagship aircraft in September 2012. All six A380s have to date been delivered to the airline and are flying on routes from Bangkok to Paris, Tokyo, Osaka, Frankfurt and London.

In August 2011 THAI selected two new aircraft types from Airbus to meet its future requirements when it signed contracts covering the firm order of four A350-900s and five A320 aircraft. In addition to the aircraft ordered from Airbus, the airline will lease eight additional A350-900s. THAI also received all of its 5 A320s. Thai Smile, THAI's regional subsidiary currently operates 15 A320s on key domestic services and a destination in China.

In September 2004, Bangkok Airways became the second Airbus operator in Thailand when it began to operate A320 Family aircraft. Today the carrier's Airbus fleet has grown to 20 aircraft, operating twelve A319s and eight A320s.

Thai AirAsia X currently operates 6 A330s. The airline has recently received an additional A330 on 7<sup>th</sup> March and began operations between Seoul, Narita, Osaka and Shanghai, starting from 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2015.

In October 2007, the A320 was delivered to Thai AirAsia. The Bangkok-based branch of the low-cost AirAsia Group is now operating 47 A320s on its domestic and regional network.

In January 2015 we opened our new Airbus Flight Operations Services Centre in Bangkok. The centre produces electronic versions of the standard flight operations manuals for all Airbus aircraft types, as well as data customisation services for individual airlines.

In September 2015 we announced a new spare parts service agreement with Triumph Aviation Services Asia, based in Chonburi Province, Thailand.

The contract covers the inspection, test, repair, overhaul and modification of proprietary airframe structures for A320, A330 and A340 aircraft operated by carriers in the Asia-Pacific region. These include structures such as rudders, elevators, wing tip devices, flaps and slats. The work will be undertaken at the Triumph Aviation Services Asia facility near Bangkok.

We hope to develop our industrial partnerships in Thailand – with a skilled talent pool, competitive environment and a centralised location in South East Asia, we believe that Thailand has great potential to develop further its aerospace sector.

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