

## **Airbus in the Philippines**

### *A long-standing partnership*

European aircraft manufacturer Airbus has been especially successful in the Philippines, where it is the leading supplier of aircraft in the above 100 seat passenger aircraft category.

From the best-selling single aisle A320 Family to the popular widebody A330 and A340, the manufacturer's aircraft are flying with all the major carriers in the country, operating on everything from short domestic hops to the longest intercontinental services to the US.

In recent years Airbus has once again recorded several high profile orders from airlines in the country. These have included contracts from Philippine Airlines (PAL) covering a total of 60 of A320 Family aircraft and 23 A330s. And in 2011, Airbus was pleased to finalise a major new order with Cebu Pacific for 30 of the latest generation A321neo, reaffirming the fast-growing carrier's all-Airbus fleet status in the jet category.

Airbus's relationship with the Philippines is long-standing. It dates back to the manufacturer's early days, when in 1978 PAL placed an initial order for the original A300B4 - the world's first widebody twinjet airliner. Affectionately dubbed the "Lovebus" by PAL, the first aircraft arrived in Manila in 1979, marking the start of an extremely successful partnership between the European manufacturer and the Philippines.

Today, PAL operates 26 A320 Family aircraft on its domestic and regional network, 15 A330s on services across the Asia Pacific and the Middle East; and six A340s on long-range routes to the United States. Meanwhile, PAL Express operates 16 A320 Family aircraft on its domestic and regional network. In 2016, PAL finalized a purchase agreement with Airbus for the order of six A350-900s, the first of which is expected to be delivered in 2018.

The country's leading low cost carrier Cebu Pacific became a customer for Airbus in 2004, when it selected the A320 Family to replace its existing fleet of DC-9 and B757 aircraft. Altogether, the airline has now placed firm orders for 73 aircraft including a recent order for two A330s. Cebu Pacific is currently operating 43 A320 Family aircraft on its fast-growing pan Asian network.

In 2013, Cebu Pacific took delivery of its first widebody aircraft – an A330-300. The carrier is currently operating six A330s on its long haul services to the Middle East, as well as on high capacity domestic and regional routes in Asia.

In addition to the PAL Group and Cebu Pacific, AirAsia Philippines also currently operates 12 A320s.

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