



AIRSHOW-PHILIPPINE AIR NEARS DEAL TO ACQUIRE AIRBUS A350S -SOURCES

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Philippine Airlines Inc (PAL) is close to announcing a deal to secure about half a dozen wide-body Airbus jets to serve U.S. and Europe long-haul flights, several people familiar with the matter said.

The deal for Airbus A350-900 jets, likely to be announced at this week's Singapore Airshow, would be valued around \$1.8 billion at list prices based on an outright purchase, though other deal structures may be considered, said the people who were not authorised to speak to the media.

One source said this could involve PAL leasing the planes.

PAL and Europe's Airbus declined to comment.

"We do not comment on discussions we may or may not be having with our customers," an Airbus spokesman said.

"PAL will announce in due time its fleet orders which will add to its existing roster of aircraft," the airline said in an emailed statement responding to a query from Reuters.

"These will be utilised for international routes. It is a choice between an A350 and (Boeing) 787, as stated by PAL President Jaime Bautista last year."

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SOURCE: REUTERS

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