“DISCOVER AIRLINES SHARK” TAKES TO THE SKIES AS FIRST AEROSHARK-ENHANCED AIRBUS BEGINS SCHEDULED OPERATIONS

News / Maintenance / Trainings

A Discover Airlines Airbus A330 has become the first Airbus aircraft worldwide to enter regular commercial service after undergoing a full-scale AeroSHARK retrofit, marking a significant milestone for the drag-reducing technology developed by Lufthansa Technik and Surfantis. Registered as D-AIKP, the long-haul aircraft operated its first scheduled flight to Florida last Thursday.

AeroSHARK is a transparent surface film featuring a microscopic ribbed structure inspired by sharkskin. Installed on the aircraft’s fuselage and engine nacelles, the technology reduces aerodynamic drag, helping cut fuel consumption and lower CO? emissions by approximately one percent.

The A330 received the AeroSHARK modification at **Dresden Airport** in late August before undergoing an extensive flight-test campaign. Analysis of the resulting performance data confirmed that the technology meets all requirements for safe and reliable use in commercial flight operations.

Sascha Unterbarnscheidt, Chief Operating Officer at Discover Airlines commented: “With D-AIKP, we have not only added our first AeroSHARK-equipped aircraft to the fleet, but also reached an

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important milestone: For the first time ever, an Airbus with AeroSHARK modification is operating in regular scheduled service. We are very proud of this achievement, together with our colleagues and partners both within and outside the Lufthansa Group. We are delighted that the ‘Discover Airlines Shark’ will carry our guests to their vacation destinations in the future.”

AeroSHARK is supported by Mastercard in the current project phase. As part of a strategic partnership between Mastercard and the Lufthansa Group, both companies are jointly driving innovations intended to contribute to more efficient and more sustainable aviation.

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