ATR MAKES ITS COMEBACK TO THE US

News / Manufacturer

ATR announces its first deal of 2018 which sees the introduction of the ATR -600 series in the US, to be operated by Silver Airways.

The airline will introduce 20 ATR -600 aircraft into its fleet, of which 16 will be ATR 42-600s and four will be ATR 72-600s. This follows a deal between ATR and Nordic Aviation Capital (NAC) for the purchase of 15 ATR -600s, of which 12 will be ATR 42-600s and three will be ATR 72-600s. These aircraft, along with five from an existing order between ATR and NAC, will be leased to Silver Airways, making them the first operator of ATR -600 series aircraft in the US.

The aircraft order is also particularly significant given that it commemorates the 100thnew aircraft order that NAC has placed with the world's leading regional aircraft manufacturer. It is further testament to the lessor's commitment to strengthening its position as the global leader in the regional aircraft leasing space.

The delivery and subsequent entry into service of the first -600 aircraft under the livery of Silver Airways will take place in March of this year. The aircraft, an ATR 42-600, will be configured with 46 seats in a 2-2 seating configuration, with a pitch of up to 32 inches. The

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remaining deliveries are expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2020. Crew training will be conducted by ATR at its new training facility in Miami, which is home to a Full Flight Simulator (FFS) for the ATR -600 series aircraft.

The brand new ATR -600s will replace Silver Airways' existing fleet of 21 Saab 340B turboprops, while increasing the frequency of main routes and opening new air services to destinations in Florida, the southern United States and Caribbean. There are currently 250 turboprop aircraft aged over 15 years old operating in the US which will need to be replaced. The ATR -600 series, with a market share of 75%, the most modern, comfortable cabin in regional aviation and unbeatable economics is the ideal aircraft for airlines to modernise their fleets.

Martin Møller, Chairman of NAC, declared: "The ATR aircraft is firmly established as a cornerstone of NAC's portfolio of modern regional aircraft. This aircraft type allows us to offer our customers a significant reduction in fuel consumption and one of the most comfortable cabins in its class, through our tailored leasing solutions. We warmly welcome Silver Airways as a new customer and are grateful for the opportunity to have worked closely with the airline to provide an optimal solution to meet their fleet modernisation requirements".

Christian Scherer, ATR's Chief Executive Officer declared: "It is pleasing to celebrate the New Year by announcing a deal that marks ATR's comeback to the United States and we welcome Silver Airways to our fleet of operators. We also extend our congratulations to NAC with whom we can celebrate another deal. We are excited that passengers in the US will now be able to enjoy flying in a modern turboprop and experience the comfort of the ATR cabin. With the US having lost some 400 regional routes in the last decade we are confident that Silver Airways' passengers will certainly appreciate the pleasure of flying onboard the ATR -600 instead of the alternative of a very long drive!"

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