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FAA proposing £1 million penalty against Pinnacle



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is proposing civil penalties against Pinnacle Airlines amounting to \$1,042,500, for allegedly operating two aircraft on a total of 63 flights, when they were not in compliance with the appropriate regulations.

The first allegation concerns a Canadair jet which Pinnacle operated on 23 flights between “April 30 and May 4, 2009 on which flight crew members performed procedures that should have been performed by maintenance employees, after FAA inspectors had denied an airline request to make the work an operations task instead of a maintenance task. The airline’s general maintenance manual requires maintenance workers to install and remove a cable kit when operating an aircraft with an inoperative or missing wheel assembly for the passenger door. Instead, flight crew members performed the procedure on the flights in question”.

In the second allegation “Pinnacle failed to complete inspections of the low-pressure turbine case on a Canadair Regional Jet. The inspections were to identify and track growth of a crack in the case to make sure the crack did not grow to exceed the maximum allowable length. The inspections required by the airline’s continuous airworthiness maintenance program must be done every 300 to no more than 600 operating hours. The FAA said Pinnacle let 640 operating hours pass between a May 22, 2010 inspection and a subsequent inspection on Aug. 31, 2010. During that time, a 3.5-inch crack grew to four inches in length. The FAA alleges the airline operated the aircraft on 40 passenger flights between Aug. 25 and 31, when it was not in compliance”. Pinnacle has 30 days from receipt of the FAA’s enforcement letters to answer the allegations.

Norwegian posts “best ever quarterly results”



Norwegian Air Shuttle has posted its third quarter operating performance, claiming it's the "best ever quarterly results" in the company's history. Turnover rose 19.4 per cent to NOK3.38 billion, year on year, although operating expenses grew to NOK 2.17 billion, an increase of nine per cent. The overall result was a net profit of NOK494.9 million, a six per cent fall from the year ago NOK528 million. Last year the company received a NOK175 million as a result of the successful damages claim against SAS.

Norwegian's CEO Bjørn Kjos commented "We are very satisfied with our best ever quarterly results. Lower cost is key to increased competitiveness. This quarter alone we have reduced our overall costs by as much as 10 percent. Even excluding the high fuel prices, we manage to reduce our cost, thanks to our growing fleet of new and more fuel-efficient aircraft. We are now significantly starting to reap the benefits of having a new, greener, and more cost effective and unitary fleet. Even with the introduction of larger aircraft with more capacity, the load factor increased by 4 percentage points to 84 percent".

Thai Airways planning Ultra Low Cost Carrier



Thai Airways is planning to launch an ultra low cost carrier in July 2012. Speaking to MediaCorp, the Singapore news corporation, Thai's president Piyasvasti Amranand explained that the new airline, which will be in addition to Thai Smile, is required because extreme, low budget flying is the fastest growing segment of the market.

Second C919 order announced within week



The Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, (COMAC) has announced that it has won an order from Sichuan Airlines for 20 C919s.

Last week the manufacturer signed an agreement with ICBC Leasing for the supply of 45 of the narrow body. COMAC's back log for the C919 has now reached 165. The first flight is expected in 2014, with deliveries scheduled to begin two years later.

Ryanair looking to buy up to 300 aircraft



According to a report in yesterday's Financial Times, the UK business newspaper, Ryanair is in talks with Boeing, COMAC and Irkut of Russia, about placing an order of between 200 to 300 narrow bodied airliners. Delivery would begin 2015 through to 2021.

Piece of Aviation History for October 24



2003 - Concorde makes its last scheduled commercial flight after 27 years service. The BA flight from New York to London, cost passengers £9,000 a ticket, reached 1,350mph (2,172 kph) and 60,000 feet (18,288 metres) over the Atlantic.

Quote of the Day

There is not any memory with less satisfaction than the memory of some temptation we resisted.
James Branch Cabell (1879 - 1958)

A Bit of Light Relief

If you don't know what you're doing, at least do it neatly.

