

Thursday, 29 September 2011

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airBaltic gets extra funding from main shareholders



Latvian media is reporting that airBaltic's two main shareholders, the Government and Baltic Aviation Systems, intend to increase their stake in the flag carrier.

The actual amount is being quoted variously as between €100 million and €150 million, but it is expected that a shareholders meeting due to be held today, will clarify the situation. Among the plans that could be announced at the meeting could be the removal of chief executive Bertolt Flick, who is also head of Baltic Aviation Systems and owner of 47 per cent of airBaltic.

China Airlines becomes 15th member of SkyTeam



At a ceremony in Taipei yesterday, China Airlines became the 15th member of the SkyTeam alliance.

The carrier took the opportunity to unveil a new trademark the 'Plum Blossom' trademark and 'Chinese Seal' are now integrated, which, according to the airline, will promote its corporate identity "in a sheer simple, harmonic and modern design".

Qantas, AA gets approval for Joint Business Agreement from ACCC



A Joint Business Agreement (JBA) between Qantas and American Airlines for transpacific services, was given final approval by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) yesterday.

In a statement the Commission said that it "does not consider that the JBA will have any anti-competitive effects, as Qantas and American Airlines do not currently provide any overlapping direct services on the trans-Pacific routes. This JBA is likely to result in new and improved products and services which will benefit passengers, including improved schedules and connectivity".

Kingfisher pulling out of low cost market



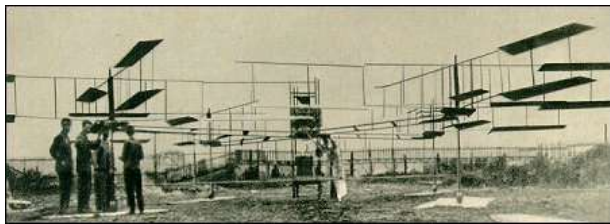
Kingfisher Airlines has announced that it is leaving the low cost market.

At a shareholders meeting in Bangalore yesterday, the airline group said that it will be dropping the Kingfisher Red brand within the next four months.

The ATR aircraft which operated under the Red branding will be reconfigured to economy class. The A320s in Kingfisher's fleet which were all economy class will now have a first class option while the A320s which had a first class section will have a number of those seats reduced and more economy class seats added.

Kingfisher explained in a statement that "Over the past 6 months, Kingfisher Class (full service economy class of service) has generated higher yields and seat factors than the no frills Kingfisher Red class of service. Following re-configuration of all Airbus aircraft, the number of economy seats across the Airbus fleet will increase by approximately 10 per cent and this capacity will be offered across the board as a Kingfisher Class full service product. Consequently, the Kingfisher Red no frills class of service will be phased out".

Piece of Aviation History for September 29



1907 - Louis Breguet and Charles Robert Richet demonstrate their Gyroplane No. 1, the first rotary-wing aircraft to lift a person off the ground.

It had to be steadied by a man stationed at the extremity of each of the four arms supporting the rotors and therefore cannot take the claim of being the first helicopter to make a free flight. Although the helpers did not contribute towards the lifting power of the rotors it was the first machine to lift itself, with a man onboard, vertically off the ground by means of a rotating-wing system.

Quote of the Day

Achievable goals are the first step to self improvement. J. K. Rowling

A Bit of Light Relief

On what side of a building does the sun always shine?
The outside.

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