

Monday, 30 January 2012

IFALPA sources the following items from a wide variety of media and they may not necessarily represent the views of the Federation. Publication in The Daily News does not infer that IFALPA endorses the views expressed.

1. **Spanair suspends operations**
2. **EC investigating AF-KLM, Alitalia and Delta venture, closes SkyTeam members probe**
3. **Alaska posts slight fall in yearly profit**
4. **Airbus to increase range of A330-300 ?**
5. **Piece of Aviation History**
6. **Quote of the Day**
7. **A Bit of Light Relief**

Spanair suspends operations

Spanair announced that it ceased operations on Saturday and all its flights have been cancelled.

Apparently the decision was made after Spanair was informed that it would not receive any more loans backed by the Catalan regional government and Qatar had withdrawn from talks about buying into the Barcelona based carrier, but this has not been confirmed.

The SAS Group, which divested most of its ownership in 2009, still retained a 10.9 per cent stake and said that “the value of these shares has already been written down and are booked at 0 value. The write down will affect the SAS Group's result as a non-recurring item and equity negatively by SEK 1.7 billion in total”. The Group added that it “will follow customary procedures as a creditor in the upcoming bankruptcy process”.

Spanair had operated a fleet of 29 aircraft, mostly A320-200s.

EC investigating AF-KLM, Alitalia and Delta venture, closes SkyTeam members probe

The European Commission has begun an investigation to assess whether a transatlantic joint venture between Air France-KLM, Alitalia and Delta, all members of the SkyTeam alliance, is in breach of EU antitrust rules. The EC will “investigate whether the partnership may harm passengers on certain EU-U.S. routes where, in the absence of the joint venture, the parties would be providing competing services”. An opening of proceedings means that “the Commission will deal with the case as a matter of priority, it does not prejudice the outcome”.

The Commission also said that it has closed formal antitrust proceedings in relation to cooperation agreements between eight other members of SkyTeam namely, Aeromexico, Air France, Alitalia, Continental Airlines, Czech Airlines, Delta, KLM and Korean Air Lines “in light of significant changes in the circumstances on the relevant markets”.

Alaska posts slight fall in yearly profit

Alaska Airlines has posted a slight fall in its annual profits. Last year the company achieved a net profit of \$244.5 million, down 2.6 per cent, compared to the 2010 result of \$251.1 million. Operating income also fell, 4.8 per cent, to \$448.9 million. Although total revenues rose 12.7 per cent to \$4.32 billion, it suffered from a 15 per cent rise in expenses. Fuel costs alone were up 44 per cent.

Airbus to increase range of A330-300 ?

According to a report in today's La Tribune, Airbus is looking at increasing the range of its A330-300 model by "nearly 750 km".

The French financial daily said Airbus is considering the move, which would challenge Boeing's B777 and B787, after it consulted with several airlines. If Airbus does go ahead with the increase in range, it would mean, said La Tribune, adding five tonnes to the maximum take-off weight. However if modifications are made by reducing the number of parts in certain areas of the aircraft, the empty weight would not increase.

Piece of Aviation History for January 30

1948 - Orville Wright dies in Dayton, Ohio, aged 76.
He was the pilot in the world's first powered, sustained and controlled flight by a heavier-than-aircraft in 1903 and in his lifetime had seen speeds increase from nothing to almost 1,000 mph.

Quote of the Day

If you aspire to the highest place, it is no disgrace to stop at the second, or even the third, place.
Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

A Bit of Light Relief

At a party, a woman walked up to Calvin Coolidge, 30th U.S. president (1923 to 1929) and said, "My husband bet me I couldn't get three words out of you."
Coolidge replied, "You lose."