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United pilots have request to stop training deadline rejected



The United Master Executive Council of the Air Line Pilots Association has had its request for a temporary restraining order to stop a training deadline due to be implemented today, rejected by a U.S Court.

Expressing disappointment at the decision, Captain Wendy Morse, Chairman of the Council, said “ Safety has always and will continue to be first and foremost for each United pilot every time we enter the cockpit, and we continue to contend that this training does not meet our safety standards and is unrealistic..... The court concluded that the requirement to show ‘actual and imminent harm’ to warrant the ‘extraordinary and drastic remedy’ of injunctive relief was not met. We point out that the judge ‘does not, in theory, disagree with (ALPA) counsel’s statement that when it comes to airline safety, that we (United) shouldn’t “operate on hope.”

The Association called on United to again delay the deadline “in good faith” and work with the Association “in establishing realistic, workable training for the United pilots to complete this training that is associated with the company’s quest for a Single Operating Certificate We continue to stand willing to work with the company in developing training and ensuring that United remains among the safest airlines in the world. We stand ready to work with the company to develop and implement the industry leading training and safety practices as was formerly the case at United to correct this unrealistic and inadequate training scheme.”

Lufthansa approves order for 12 new aircraft including two A380s



The Supervisory Board at Lufthansa has given the go-ahead for the purchase of 12 new aircraft.

The purchase includes two A380s and a single A330-300, which will be used on long haul routes “for an interim period”. The balance of the order consist of four A320s for Lufthansa German Airlines and five Embraer E195s which will be included in the airline group’s regional fleet.

Lufthansa said that the total value of the order, at list prices is approximately €1 billion.

Lufthansa CEO and Chairman Christoph Franz, commented “The moderate expansion of Lufthansa’s passenger fleet will serve primarily to ensure that we can meet short-term requirements while modernising and consolidating our European fleet until such time as new aircraft technologies are available. It is the latest step in our ongoing strategy of deploying a

modern fleet in terms of fuel efficiency, operating costs, noise and emissions. At the same time, the additional order for the Airbus A380 and A330 will underpin our plans on long-haul routes in the medium term. Along with the aircraft we have already ordered, which will join our fleet over the next few years, it will increase our ability to take targeted action and respond flexibly to fluctuations in demand or market changes.”

ATR has record year



ATR has reported a record year for the company already, with 145 firm orders together with 72 options logged since the beginning of the year and worth a total of \$4.8 billion. The previous record for the company was in 2007 when it received 113 firm orders and 26 options. The turboprop manufacturer added that its current backlog represent four years of production.

Bombardier confirms Luxair as previously unidentified customer



Bombardier Aerospace has confirmed that Luxair, the flag carrier of Luxembourg is the customer of an order for four Q400s announced last month. The order, which had previously been attributed to an ‘unidentified customer’, is worth \$126 million. Luxair has also included options on another four Q400s. *Image courtesy of Bombardier*

Piece of Aviation History for September 30



1957 - Austrian Airlines is formed from the merger of Air Austria and Austrian Airways. It commences operations on 31 March of the following year with a Vienna-London service using four chartered Vickers Viscount 779s.

Photograph courtesy of Austrian Airlines

Quote of the Day

A duty dodged is like a debt unpaid; it is only deferred, and we must come back and settle the account at last. Joseph F. Newton

A Bit of Light Relief

"Virtual" means never knowing where your next byte is coming from.

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