
Finmeccanica: Kingfisher Airlines orders 20 ATR 72-500 aircraft

ATR, the 50/50 joint venture between Finmeccanica and EADS, has been selected by Kingfisher Airlines to provide 20 firm ATR 72-500 aircraft, plus an option for 15 additional aircraft. This was announced on the occasion of a joint press conference held today in Dubai between ATR and India's first Full Service True Value carrier, Kingfisher Airlines.

The value of the contract, excluding options, is US \$350M.

The 20 firm aircraft are scheduled to be delivered between March 2006 and August 2008. Equipped with the "Elegance" cabin, incorporating all the latest developments in passenger comfort and amenities, the ATR 72-500 aircraft will also be fitted with the newest technological innovations in the field of communications and navigation aid tools, and IFE (in-flight entertainment).

The ATR 72-500s will be used as feeder aircraft on smaller domestic routes to link Kingfisher Airlines' four hubs that are Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Bangalore.

ATR currently holds a market share in India of 75% in the 50 to 70-seat regional market and of the turboprop sector the market share is 95%.

In the Asia Pacific area, 109 ATRs are currently operated by 23 airlines.

Since the beginning of the programme, ATR has sold 778 aircraft (398 ATR 42 and 380 ATR 72).