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Aircalin Extends A320 and A330 Component Contract With AFI KLM E&M

Paris, Amstelveen, 8 March 2011 – Previous fleet modernization support cemented relationship for further partnership support.

Long-standing relationship

Ever since the New Caledonian airline has started long-haul operation in 2000, Aircalin has often called on AFI KLM E&M, notably for component, engines, and engineering support for its A310 aircraft. Over the past six years, AFI KLM E&M has also supported the airline during its fleet modernization program by providing component support for its new A330 and A320. Mr. Jean-Michel Masson, President and C.E.O. of Aircalin, said “We are very satisfied with the level of service offered by AFI KLM E&M. It was therefore natural that our preference should go to an operator with which we have established a very good quality relationship.”

Availability and reduced costs

AFI KLM E&M's proven A330 family components expertise, together with access to a regional spares pool in Singapore which provides support for other airlines serving the Southeast Asia and Pacific region, were also major arguments for Aircalin to extend the contract with AFI KLM E&M. These factors enable the New Caledonian carrier to optimize its logistics program while minimizing costs and enable the airline to greatly increase the operational availability of its aircraft.

Industrial and commercial cooperation

The two airlines have also entered into strategic commercial agreements involving code-share agreements and the Flying Blue Frequent Flyer program. The partnership with the AIR FRANCE KLM group notably enables Air France to offer Paris-Nouméa flights via Tokyo, Osaka and Seoul. Franck Turner, Executive Vice President, AFI KLM E&M, said: “We are thrilled to continue the cooperation between our two groups. We have forged strong ties in both the commercial and the maintenance spheres.”

About Aircalin

Aircalin is a French airline operating international flights out of New Caledonia since its creation in 1983. From its hub at La Tontouta International Airport, Nouméa, it serves close to a dozen destinations in Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Vanuatu, Wallis, Japan, and South Korea.

About AFI KLM E&M

Air France Industries and KLM Engineering & Maintenance, which joined forces following the Air France KLM merger, are world-leading multi-product MRO (Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul) providers with a joint workforce of over 14,000, offering comprehensive technical support for airlines, ranging from engineering and line maintenance to engine overhaul, as well as the management, repair and supply of aircraft components, structured around a powerful logistics network. AFI KLM E&M supports more than 1,230 aircraft operated by 150 major international airlines.

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