

27th of January 2010

Press Release

Carpatair has commenced operations with Fokker 70 aircraft

Thus, Carpatair has joined the many airlines in Europe that operated Fokker 70 aircraft, and from this point onwards, will be the only airline in South-Eastern Europe which operates 70 – 80 seat jets. The first of the 3 freshly contracted aircraft has already flown yesterday on the Timisoara – Chisinau route.

Carpatair, the full-service airline with a HUB in Timisoara, has operated the first commercial flight at the start of this week with the new Fokker 70 aircraft on the Timisoara – Chisinau route. The first Fokker 70 aircraft has been delivered to Carpatair on Friday, the 22nd of January, following the contracting of three such aircraft in November 2009. The other two aircraft will be delivered in February and respectively March 2010. With a seating capacity of 72, of which 12 business class, the new jet aircraft combines modern technology and extra comfort with excellent flight characteristics.

“The Fokker aircraft are renowned for their comfort, technology and reliability, these being reasons why many European operators have chosen to use them. We will use the Fokker 70 on already existing destinations, and starting this spring, on tailor made direct routes from Timisoara, Bucharest and other cities in Romania” declared Nicolae Petrov, President & CEO Carpatair. “Purchasing these aircraft is part of our medium-term strategy which requires a fleet upgrade with superior aircraft so as to cover new destinations and niche markets. The aircraft will be used both for internal and external destinations, operating from the HUB in Timisoara, from Bucharest, as well as other points in the country.”

Carpatair's fleet currently consist of 12 Saab 2000 (50 seats) aircraft and 3 Fokker 100 (105 seats) aircraft, to which the 3 Fokker 70's are being added.

ABOUT THE FOKKER 70: The largest operators of Fokker 70 in Europe are KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Austrian Airlines. The latest news in the field show great operator interest in this type of aircraft for the next 10 years.

- “Austrian Airlines have signed a long-term maintenance contract with Fokker Services for its fleet of 15 Fokker 100 and 9 Fokker 70 Aircraft” (Source: Air Transport Intelligence News)
- “Peter Hartman, president & CEO of KLM has made public the company's plans for the next 10 years: 5 Fokker 70 aircraft will be added to the already existing regional fleet consisting of 22 such aircraft. The Fokker 100 aircraft will not be replaced until new, more efficient models are available. Hartman considers that the current market does not offer a superior alternative to replace these aircraft. Neither will the Fokker 50 aircraft be replaced in the next 3 years because of their fuel-burn efficiency. When they will be replaced though, the 70 seat Fokker 70 is a great alternative. (Source: KLM and Luchtvaartnieuws.nl)

ABOUT CARPATAIR:

Carpatair is the biggest regional airline in South-Eastern Europe (mainly operating on niche regional markets). Upon the successful application of the HUB&SPOKE concept (air transport node where passengers are offered connections to all the destinations in an operators route network), Carpatair has succeeded in developing the most efficient aerial HUB in Romania, at Timisoara.

Today, Carpatair operates more than 250 regular weekly flights a week, to 30 destinations in 6 countries. Carpatair is the largest operator on the market for the Romania – Italy route, offering the biggest number of destinations in both countries (10 from/to each country), as well as the largest number of flights – 94 flight a week.

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