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13
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EDITORIAL NOTE

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Despite a turbulent year globally, 2011 proved to be a record breaking year for Airbus in terms of aircraft sold and produced.

This was very much underpinned by the outstanding success of the A320neo launch.

The A320neo has proved to be the fastest selling aircraft ever - a vindication of the A320 Family's inherent design flexibility in being able to integrate the latest engine technology on the world's favourite single aisle aircraft.

Proof of the A320's continuing success was evident in the celebrations surrounding the delivery of the 5000th A320 Family aircraft to local airline, MEA. Many thanks to MEA Chairman Mohamad El Hout and all at MEA for their generous hospitality in helping us celebrate yet another fantastic A320 milestone!

Fouad Attar

2011: Another record year for Airbus, as A320neo earns the title 'fastest selling airliner in the world'

2011 undoubtedly marks one of the most successful years for Airbus over the past fourty years since its birth. To summarize the astounding achievements made globally during the past year:

- 1,608 Airbus aircraft totaling US$169 billion were placed on order (1,419 net)
- Gross unit market share for Airbus in 2011 is 64%
- In value terms, Airbus' share of total aircraft sales (above 100 seats) in 2011, is 56% gross
- The A320neo won 1,226 firm sales confirming its title as the "the fastest selling airliner ever"
- Airbus delivered 534 commercial aircraft to 88 customers (10 new)
- 10th year in a row of production increase
- December was a record month for the A380, with four deliveries in a single month

In addition, 2011 also saw excellent accomplishments Airbus made in our MENA region including:

- Sale of 150 aircraft (gross) worth over US$16.8 billion
- Unit market share of 63% in our region
- Delivery of 52 commercial aircraft (10% of global Airbus)

2011 Airbus Orders in MENA	A320 family	A320neo family	A330/A340	A350 XWB	A380	Total
ALAFCO		50		6		**56**
Qatar Airways		50			5	**55**
Saudi Arabian Airlines			4			**4**
Undisclosed customer		35				35
Total orders in MENA (gross)		**135**	**4**	**6**	**5**	**150**
Deliveries in 2011 to MENA customers	**38**	**-**	**9**	**-**	**5**	**52**

NEWS BITES

- Comlux ACJ320 took centre stage of Airbus display as Emirates showcased its A380 for the first time at the Bahrain Int'l Airshow in January
- First A350 XWB parts arrive at final assembly line in Toulouse, France

- Customers in our region received 6 new A320 family, 2 A330 family and two A380 aircraft during last December

Airbus delivers A320 MSN5000 to Middle East Airlines

On January 20th, Airbus delivered the A320 with MSN5000 to Lebanon's national carrier, Middle East Airlines (MEA).

MSN5000 completes the deliveries of MEA's total order for thirteen A320 family aircraft. It marks a significant milestone for Airbus and the A320 Family going into 2012, as production rises from 38 to 40 per month during the first quarter of the year.

"Handing MSN5000 over to MEA was a real pleasure for Airbus. The Lebanese flag carrier has shown great courage maintaining its operations successfully in the face of difficulty," said Tom Enders, Airbus President and CEO. "Airbus is particularly proud that our relationship - and our planes - endured these times and that we are now celebrating this milestone with MEA."

Since its foundation, MEA has been a trendsetter and a great ambassador for Lebanon and the region.

MEA operates one of the most modern fleets in the region with four A330-200s, four A321s and including MSN5000, now seven A320 aircraft.

To learn more about Middle East Airlines, please visit www.mea.com.lb

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