

Ahlan!

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In this month's issue we bring you the story of one of our firsts in Middle East. In fact, one of the very first carriers in our region to become an Airbus customer back in the 1970's was Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). Today and after many years of working together to serve the commercial aviation market in Pakistan, Airbus and PIA continue to build on the past achievements.

On a different note, we are about to witness yet another milestone in the realisation of the successes for the A320 family. On the 6th of March, Air Arabia is to take delivery of its latest A320 aircraft with sharklets. The 6,000th A320 family aircraft will join the rest of the airline's fleet of more than thirty A320 aircraft. Enjoy the flight, Air Arabia!

Fouad Attar

SPOTLIGHT

Pakistan International Airlines

Commercial aviation in Pakistan traces back to the 1940's, a few years after which the country witnessed the inception of its flag carrier PIA in 1955. During the same year, Pakistan International Airlines launched its first scheduled international service to Cairo, Rome, and London, and at the turn of the next decade, PIA entered the 'jet age'. Soon after, the airline managed to start services to New York.



While having been one of the first established airlines in our region, Pakistan International Airlines is also one of Airbus very first customers in Asia and Middle East. PIA started building its first fleet of Airbus aircraft on July 16th, 1978 by ordering 4 A300s. In addition, during the following years, PIA acquired a total of 12 A310 aircraft. As of today, the airline operates a fleet of A310 aircraft and flies to over 50 cities domestically and worldwide.

While Pakistan International Airlines continues to build on its rich history and its global network, we look forward to seeing PIA's successes in the years ahead.

To learn more about Pakistan International Airlines, visit www.piac.com.pk



A350 XWB makes debut in Doha

An A350 XWB flight test aircraft (MSN3) has made its premiere appearance at Doha's new Hamad international airport, on its way to the Singapore Airshow. The visit is part of the Entry-into-Service preparations between Airbus and Qatar Airways, the A350 XWB launch customer, who will take delivery of its first A350 XWB in Q4 this year.



During the visit, the aircraft was welcomed by Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker as well as government officials, eager to see the aircraft performing in Qatar's skies!

The A350 XWB (Xtra Wide-Body) is an all-new mid-size long range product line comprising three versions. The new Family, whose fuselage cross-section is optimized for full long-range passenger comfort in all classes, will bring a 25 percent step change in efficiency compared with existing aircraft in this size category. To date, the A350 XWB has won 812 orders from 39 customers worldwide.

NEWS BITES

-  Kuwait Airways ordered 25 aircraft including ten A350-900 and 15 A320neo Family aircraft
-  A350 XWB MSN3 completes cold weather testing in Iqaluit Canada
-  Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation approves A380 operations in India
-  Deliveries this month:

Air Arabia A320
Emirates A380
Etihad Airways A330-200
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