

# CCB Leasing reviews expansion opportunities

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CCB Leasing is looking at opportunities to expand its fleet, planning to grow it to “between 200 and 300 aircraft” by 2020, according to its recently appointed Dublin-based general manager Jim Liu.

The lessor now has a fleet of 73 aircraft, according to *Airfinance Journal's* Fleet Tracker.

The Chinese lessor is considering acquiring portfolios, participating on sale-and-leaseback transactions and a potential OEM order to grow its fleet.

Liu, who joined CCB Leasing's Dublin office earlier this year from ICBC Financial Leasing's Dublin office, adds that CCB Leasing is looking to hire more people for its Dublin team in legal, sales, marketing and in accounting departments. Liu is looking to expand the Dublin team to between eight and 10 people next year, he says.

Speaking to *Airfinance Journal* about a prospective aircraft order, Liu says: “Narrowbodies will likely be the priority. We will consider new technology widebodies, but first we need to find out who the potential lessees are. We are more confident in narrowbodies.”

Although Liu would not give an exact timeline as to when the lessor plans to make an order, he says that lessors with new technology narrowbodies will have a competitive advantage in the next industry cycle.

“As a lessor, I believe it's not the time to aggressively increase your portfolio; we plan to steadily increase ours.”

He adds that CCB Leasing is looking at portfolios with new widebodies in, including A350s and 787-9s, with leases attached, as a means of helping the business expand.

The lessor delivered “between 30 and 40 aircraft” to lessees this year and looks to increase this number to around 50 aircraft in 2018.

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