

Saratov Airlines AN-148 in fatal crash

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12/02/2018

A Saratov Airlines Antonov AN-148 operating Flight 703 from Moscow to Orsk suffered a fatal crash on 11 February.

[71 people](#) died in the accident, including 65 passengers and six crew members.

According to website Aviation Safety Network, the aircraft was destroyed after impacting terrain near Stepanovskoye, Russia. The aircraft took off from runway 14R at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport at 14:21 hours local time (11:21 UTC). Last contact on flight tracking website Flightradar24 was 14:27 hours. Before that loss of contact, it was in a steep descent from 6,400 feet. The aircraft impacted a snowy field and disintegrated.

This is Saratov Airlines' first fatal accident since it started operations in 1993.

Airfinance Journal's Fleet Tracker indicates that Ilyushin Finance Corporation owns the aircraft. The company was not immediately available for comment outside Moscow business hours. Fleet Tracker shows that Ilyushin leases a total of six AN-148s to Saratov Airlines.

Saratov Airlines also operates seven self-owned Yakolev YK42Ds, three self-owned YK42s and two Embraer E195-200ARs leased from GECAS. *Airfinance Journal* reported on 23 August 2017 that these GECAS-leased aircraft were set to be delivered in January and February 2018. The carrier became an E-Jet operator in 2013 when it took a pair of E195s under lease agreements with GECAS. That pair of 2008-vintage aircraft was previously leased to Flynas, Fleet Tracker shows.

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