

European leasing giant supplies first Vietravel aircraft

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Vietnamese start-up Vietravel has received its first aircraft, a 2014-vintage former Thomas Cook Airbus A321.

The aircraft is on lease from Avolon, various sources indicate, and forms part of a larger mandate that includes a second former Thomas Cook A321, built in 2016 and also owned by Avolon.

Airfinance Journal has learnt also that Vietravel is eyeing an A321neo previously operated by Arkia. In June, *Airfinance Journal* reported that two Arkia A321neos had [entered the secondary market](#), the first of their type to do so.

“We are rapidly building our fleet as well as meeting the necessary requirements to be able to receive our AOC. All human and technical resources of Vietravel Airlines are ready for the first flight to take off as soon as possible,” said Vietravel president Nguyen Ky.

Vietravel hopes to serve one million passengers in its first year of operation.

The carrier will be based in Hue province and will serve major domestic trunk routes in its infancy, including flights between Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Da Nang, Nha Trang and Phu Quoc.

Vietravel has registered start-up capital of VND700 billion (\$30 million).

It previously said that it planned to lease four aircraft to commence operations and then expand its fleet to six aircraft in the second year, to eight to 10 units within five years, and to later increase this to 20 to 30 aircraft.

Several local banks showed interest in funding the carrier’s expansion, Vietravel said before the Covid-19 pandemic delayed its plans.

The proposed airline is a subsidiary of Vietnam’s largest travel agency, Vietravel.

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