

Volaris signs more sale and leasebacks

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Mexican ultra-low-cost carrier Volaris has closed financing for a new Airbus A320neo delivery with ALAFCO. The aircraft is the first of a four-aircraft sale and leaseback (SLB) mandate with the Kuwaiti operating leasing company.

The other three units will deliver in 2021. The lease terms are 12 years.

As part of the agreement between the parties, Volaris will also lease a pair of A320neo aircraft from ALAFCO. Both units, which are due to be delivered in the fourth quarter of 2022, are from the lessor's orderbook.

The operating lessor said the six A320neo aircraft have a \$663.6 million aggregate list price and that industry monthly lease rates, at the current market status, range between 0.27% and 0.33% of the list price.

ALAFCO said the agreements were signed in late December through tenders issued by the Mexican carrier.

Last year Volaris financed some A320neo deliveries with Aircastle and CCB Leasing, *Airfinance Journal's* Fleet Tracker shows, while the latest deal was finalised on 27 December.

Volaris aimed at closing 2020 with 86 aircraft, including six A319s, 40 A320s, 10 A321s, 24 A320neos and six A321neos.

In 2021 the carrier plans to halve its A319 fleet to three units as it takes three more A320neos and one A321neo. By the end of the year, it plans to have 87 aircraft, including three A319s, 40 A320s, 10 A321s, 27 A320neos and seven A321neos.

As a result of its agreed deferral with Airbus of 24 aircraft, originally scheduled for 2020, 2021 and 2022, into 2027 and 2028, Volaris has postponed \$200 million in pre-delivery payments.

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