

Malaysia Airlines signals Airbus fleet commitment

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Malaysia Airlines has said it will continue operating its Airbus widebody fleet for “many years”, quashing talk that the national carrier was ready to part with at least its Airbus A330s as part of its restructuring.

Malaysia Airlines has 30 Airbus widebodies, Fleet Tracker shows, split between A350-900, A330-300, A330-200 and A330F operations.

Of those, the national carrier owns 12 units while the rest are on lease from AerCap (6), ALC (6), Novus (2), Standard Chartered (2) and Jackson Square Aviation (2), the data shows.

On 8 April, Malaysia Airlines chief operations officer Ahmad Azmi signed a deal with Airbus extending its Flight Hour Services Components (FHS-C) contract for the carrier's A330 and A350 fleets “as an outcome from Malaysia Airlines recently completed restructuring exercise”.

The multi-year extension covers technical support by Airbus for the airline’s existing widebody fleet of A350s and A330s, as well as A330-200Fs operated by MASKargo.

“As we move forward as an airline and share our Malaysian Hospitality worldwide, the Airbus aircraft we fly will become a symbol of reliability and consistency,” said airline COO Ahmad Azmi.

Malaysia Airlines’ A350-900 fleet – on lease exclusively from Los Angeles-based ALC – was not included in a UK High Court judgment earlier in 2021 sanctioning a scheme of arrangement between the carrier’s leasing subsidiary – MAB Leasing – and operating lessors, as previously reported by *Airfinance Journal*.

In March, [ALC said that there were “no problems” regarding its Malaysian leases](#). “Malaysia is paying us. They're totally up to date. There's no problem with Malaysia,” said ALC chairman Steve Udvar-Hazy.

In the UK restructuring, court documents stated that “the scheme relates to the company’s liabilities to the lessors under operating lease agreements in respect of 52 aircraft”. These comprised 44 Boeing 737-800 aircraft, three A330-200 aircraft and five A330-300s.

However, these are not all of the carrier's aircraft. Malaysia Airlines confirms that it has six leased A350s and six leased A330-200s in its fleet. All six A330-200s joined the Malaysian fleet in 2018 on lease from AerCap.

[Malaysian sovereign wealth fund Khazanah Nasional committed MYR3.6 billion \(\\$900 million\) of fresh capital to Malaysia Aviation Group](#), parent of Malaysia Airlines, after the UK courts sanctioned the carrier’s scheme of arrangement with respect to the aforementioned 52 leases.

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