

Toki Air unveils domestic network

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Japanese start-up carrier Toki Air is preparing to open services from the western coastal city of Niigata, some 250km north of Tokyo, early next year.

The regional low-cost carrier plans to operate domestic services to Osaka-Kansai airport, Nagoya, Sendai and Okadama.

Toki Air is a low-cost carrier jointly established by the Niigata Chamber of Commerce and Niigata Association of Corporate Executives. It is affiliated with Tokyo-based air transport training and support services company Toki Aviation Capital.

It says it will provide optimal solutions for the management of regional aviation in Japan, and work to enhance the regional aviation network and revitalise the region.

Toki Air plans to add the Niigata-Sado route in 2023. It says that at Sado airport, which is located on an island off the Niigata coast and managed and operated by Niigata Prefecture, the length of the runway is as short as 890 meters. "ATR is currently developing a turbo propeller aircraft that can take off and land even on a 860-meter runway, and the Niigata-Sado route will be materialized after waiting for this development," it said earlier this year.

Last month the carrier also committed to the ATR42-600 models. It is in 'final negotiations' with ATR for an order of two ATR42-600s from ATR, including one ATR42-600S.

In the third quarter Toki Air signed 10-year lease agreements for two new ATR72-600s which will be sourced from Nordic Aviation Capital. It will receive the aircraft in the first and second quarters of 2022.

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