

Thai Airways returns leased widebodies

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10/01/2022

Under-administration Thai flag carrier Thai Airways is returning leased Airbus A330-300 aircraft to their owners, sources at the airline confirm to *Airfinance Journal*.

Last week the airline returned a 2012-vintage A330-300 to lessor Aercap, *Airfinance Journal* understands.

The aircraft was delivered new to the airline in January 2013; it is now being stored in Tarbes, France.

Thai Airways operated up to 30 A330 aircraft in the past. The majority of the aircraft were on the carrier's balance sheet, although it did lease a small number. Some were acquired via French tax leases arranged by Natixis and Standard Chartered.

Orix Aviation is currently seeking to remarket a sistership to the A330-300 returned to Aercap last week.

Orix notes that the Rolls-Royce Trent 772B-60-powered aircraft, also manufactured in 2012, is available for immediate sale or new lease.

Another two sisterships, also from 2012, are being marketed by IBA for immediate sale.

In November, under-bankruptcy-protection Thai Airways reiterated plans to [reduce its fleet size to just 58 aircraft](#).

In a press briefing, one of the carrier's appointed administrators, former Thai Airways president Piyasvasti Amranand, said 42 aircraft would be decommissioned and sold, while 16 aircraft would be returned to lessors, reducing Thai's fleet to 58 units across four types.

Earlier this year, [Thai Airways confirmed](#) to *Airfinance Journal* that the aircraft to stay are all 12 of the airline's A350s, all eight Boeing 787s, which include -8 and -9 variants, and certain 777-300ERs and certain A320s from its Thai Smile subsidiary.

Thai Airways has agreed letters of intent with lessors to amend its financial and operating leases into usage-based contracts. *Airfinance Journal* has previously reported on those deal restructurings, also involving A350 and 787 leases.

Aercap has remaining exposure to the airline with six 787s; DP Aircraft with two 787s; BOC Aviation has four 777-300ERs; Castlake has two 777-300ERs; and Aircastle and Avenue Capital have one 777-300ER each, Fleet Tracker shows. Amedeo Air Four Plus has four A350s with Thai Airways, while Avolon and SMBC AC have two each.

Of the 20 A320s in the Thai Smile fleet, five are owned by the parent while the rest are sourced from various lessors.

The airline has outstanding orders from BOC Aviation for three new Boeing 777-300ER on operating lease agreements, as [revealed exclusively by Airfinance Journal](#) in 2021.

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