

Exclusive: Thai Airways confirms more A350 leases

Dominic Lalk

30/01/2023

Thai flag carrier Thai Airways International will lease two additional Airbus A350-900 widebody aircraft from Avolon, sources on the deal tell *Airfinance Journal*.

This confirms an [AFJ story from August 2022](#) that said a preliminary agreement had been reached.

Thai Airways is due to take delivery of two 2019-vintage A350s from Avolon. Both are aircraft that were rejected by Chinese carrier Hainan Airlines.

The incoming aircraft will be Thai Airways' 13th and 14th A350-900s. The Thai flag carrier currently operates 12 A350-900s, including four from Amedeo Air Four Plus, two from SMBC Aviation Capital and another pair from Avolon.

Thai Airways remains under state rehabilitation. Last year it told AFJ that the aircraft to remain in its fleet are all 12 A350s, all eight Boeing 787s, which include -8 and -9 variants, certain 777-300ERs and A320s from its Thai Smile subsidiary.

[The airline subsequently issued a request for information \(RFI\) for additional A320 and 787 leases](#), but later agreed to prioritise additional A350 capacity to better meet demand recovery from Europe. Separately, Thai Airways brought back stored A330-300 and 777-200ER for required capacity on regional routes.

Amedeo Air Four Plus, which leases four A350-900s to Thai Airways, extended those leases through 2035-36 as part of its deal with the airline. The Avolon and SMBC AC arrangements are said to be similar.

The Amedeo vehicle recently reported that its four A350s on lease to Thai Airways were "flown a lot" in 2022.

Thai Airways creditors last year voted in favour of a revised rehabilitation plan, which includes new borrowings of THB25 billion (\$657 million) spread over six years, as well as THB37 billion of debt-for-equity swaps.

The airline hopes to complete its capital restructuring by 2024 and that its equity will return to positive in 2024. Last November, its plan administrators approved the increase of Thai Airways' registered capital from THB21.8 billion to THB336.8 billion by issuing up to 31.5 billion new ordinary shares at THB10 each.

Back at Avolon, the lessor had 17 A350-900s in its owned, managed and committed fleet of 835 aircraft by the end of last year. Of those and following the Thai Airways top-up deal, two additional units – also ex-Hainan – remain available for new lease, Fleet Tracker data shows.

Avolon is 70% owned by an indirect subsidiary of Bohai Leasing and 30% owned by Orix Aviation Systems, a subsidiary of Orix Corporation.

Thank you for printing this article from Airfinance Global, your essential intelligence resource for aviation finance. If you have been given this article by a subscriber, you can contact us through email at accountmanager@airfinanceglobal.com or call us on +44 (0)20 7779 8015 to discuss our subscription options.