

Indigo seals additional finance leases

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14/02/2024

Singapore-based, Hong Kong SAR-listed aircraft lessor BOC Aviation has entered into a finance lease transaction involving four Airbus A320neo aircraft with Interglobe Aviation, the parent of India's Indigo Airlines.

The aircraft are all powered by CFM Leap-1A engines. All four aircraft are scheduled for delivery in 2024.

This deal follows another agreement between BOC Aviation and Indigo, sealed in 2023, for 10 A320neo finance leases.

BOC Aviation had a fleet of 684 aircraft owned, managed and on order as at 31 December 2023, spread across 91 airlines in 45 countries.

"We are pleased to be closing another four finance leases with IndiGo. We continue to work closely with our long-time customer to support its expansion strategy as it builds a fleet of latest technology fuel-efficient aircraft," said Steven Townend, chief executive officer and managing director of BOC Aviation.

"This is our first transaction in the year of the dragon, and it sets the tone for the year as we continue growing our fleet by investing in latest generation aircraft and partnering with high quality customers," Townend added.

"We are pleased to announce that we have extended our partnership with BOC Aviation through a lease agreement for four Airbus A320NEO aircraft. These aircraft will be instrumental in supporting our expansion plans and strengthening our position in both domestic and international markets," said Riyaz Peermohamed, chief aircraft acquisition and financing officer at Indigo.

Indigo Airlines parent Interglobe Aviation has reported a profitable third quarter for fiscal year 2024 despite more than 70 of its A320neo-family aircraft being grounded owing to Pratt & Whitney GTF engine issues.

Indigo achieved a net profit of INR29.98 billion (\$361 million) for the three months to 31 December, up 110% on a net profit of INR14.22 billion posted in the year-ago quarter.

Indigo's fleet had grown to 358 aircraft as at 31 December 2023, up from 302 a year earlier and 334 three months earlier.

Of those, 26 were owned or on finance lease, 319 were on operating lease and 13 were on damp lease. Indigo added 12 owned and finance lease units in the nine months to 31 December.

Indigo's most significant lease providers, with net book exposure of over \$500 million each, are Avolon, Jackson Square Aviation, AerCap, BOC Aviation, SMBC Aviation Capital, DAE Capital and Aircastle (in that order), *Airfinance Journal* Fleet Tracker data shows.

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