

Nauru Airlines acquires 737-800

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Nauru Airlines has purchased a Boeing 737-800 to expand the reach of its passenger operations across the Pacific.

This expands its fleet to seven Boeing narrowbodies.

AviaAm Leasing facilitated the sale of the aircraft, *Airfinance Journal* can confirm, with AFJ's Fleet Tracker showing Saudi National Bank as the last known owner of the 21-year-old 737-800 aircraft.

"It has been a long journey from -5 degrees celsius in Kaunas, Lithuania, via Egypt and Sri Lanka to Australia, but today, we're thrilled to announce a momentous occasion at Nauru Airlines!

"Standing proudly as the first Boeing 737-800 series passenger aircraft owned and operated by Nauru, VH-AN2 represents our collective effort and vision," said Nauru Airlines' chief executive officer, Brett Gebers.

"We now have seven aircraft in our fleet - four passenger and three freighter aircraft. With its extended range, this latest aircraft can fly basically anywhere in the Pacific," Gebers added.

This is the carrier's only 737-800 passenger aircraft. It joins a 737-800SF cargo aircraft financed by Tokyo Century-backed HALO Airfinance, a 737-700, two 737-300s and two 737-300SFs.

"The Nauru Airlines team have done a great job in getting this aircraft so quickly onto our AOC (Air Operators Certificate) and into service in record time. This is definitely a record for us, where we settled the purchase of this aircraft on the 14th of December. After some initial engineering work done in Europe, it was ferried across and arrived in Brisbane on 23 January,"

Fleet Tracker reveals that the aircraft was delivered to now-defunct US carrier ATA Airlines in 2003, and was eventually placed with India's Spicejet before joining the fleet of South Korean carrier T'way Airlines.

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