

Airbus targets US market with A350F

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10/01/2025

European manufacturer Airbus aims to secure orders for the Airbus A350F model from the US market, according to Benoit de Saint-Exupery, Airbus executive vice president sales, commercial aircraft at Airbus.

“The one market that we have not cracked is the US market. This is definitely one of our objectives this year and to penetrate the big US carrier fleets with this aircraft,” he told *Airfinance Global* during Airbus's media call about 2024 commercial aircraft orders and deliveries.

Earlier this week Starlux Airlines placed a firm order with Airbus for five more Airbus A350 Freighters after entering the freighter market last year with an initial order for five units. The Taiwan-based airline doubled its A350F order by exercising its options secured in February 2024 at the Singapore air show.

Including this latest order, the new widebody freighter has won 60 orders from 10 aircraft operators.

The A350F is currently under development with the first aircraft expected to be delivered in 2026. Airbus said the A350F will enter the final assembly line for the model at the end of this year.

The aircraft has a payload of up to 111 tonnes and can fly up to 8,700 km. It also has the largest main deck cargo door in the industry, according to Airbus.

“I am confident that 2025 will be an important year for the A350F. We see demand around the world. I am back from China and there is lots of demand for freight transportation, but this also applies to Asia in general,” said de Saint-Exupery.

Different orderbook

The A350F customer base includes European operators such as Air France for four units, CMA-CGM for eight units, Martinair for four units and Turkish Airlines for five units. Turkish Airlines will become the first operator to operate the A330-200F and the A350F.

But A350F sales also include Asian operators with Cathay Pacific Airways for six units, Silk Way West Airlines for two units, Singapore Airlines for seven units and Starlux Airlines for 10 units.

Middle East carrier Etihad Airways has placed orders for seven units.

Air Lease's order for seven units also means the lessor will have exposure to the A330-200F and the A350F models.

Airbus's previous widebody production freighter, the A330-200F, recorded 38 net sales in Europe, Middle East, Asia, Latin America, while within the leasing community BOC Aviation placed an order for six units and Aircastle ordered three units.

Avianca, Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways ordered five units each, while Malaysia Airlines ordered four aircraft of the type. Turkish Airlines ordered nine units and is the largest operator with 10 aircraft. Another Turkish carrier, MNG Airlines, ordered one unit.

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