Thales selected by Airbus for its new flight management system

- Thales has been selected by Airbus to equip its commercial airliners with the most powerful and innovative flight management system on the market.
- This new fully connected flight management system from Thales provides secure access to open-world data and offers airlines an array of new possibilities.
- The new flight management system, which is based on the PureFlyt product and has been adapted to meet the specific requirements of Airbus, will process and share vast amounts of data to optimise flight operations, enhance interoperability and reduce environmental impact.

The new flight management system (FMS), which is based on the PureFlyt product and has been adapted to meet the specific needs of Airbus, will be developed by Thales to equip Airbus commercial airliners, and in particular the A320, A330 and A350, with service entry planned for the end of 2026. The new system will improve interoperability for airlines and pilots and optimise flight paths to help reduce the carbon footprint of airline operations.

With its expertise in avionics, connectivity and cybersecurity and air traffic management, Thales is the only European company to offer end-to-end onboard and ground-based solutions that help to meet the ambitious objectives of optimising flight operations in terms of the air transport sector's carbon footprint.

The FMS is the “brain” of the aircraft. It is used to prepare flights, calculate and provide the crew with the information they need, set flight parameters and ensure aircraft guidance throughout the flight and during approach and landing procedures, based on fuel efficiency factors and instructions from air traffic control. Designed from the outset to be connected and cybersecurity, the system maximises the
benefits of access to open-world data including real-time weather information. By linking the new FMS with non-avionics systems — such as the pilot’s Electronic Flight Bag and airline operational control centres — the solution makes it quicker and easier to analyse flight plan revisions, providing the pilot with the best route and simplifying interaction with air traffic control. It will help to ease airport congestion, cut fuel consumption, decrease noise pollution and reduce pilot workload.

PureFlyt draws on 40 years of experience in flight management systems and over 100 million flight hours with Thales’s current generation of FMS systems, enabling airlines to benefit from an optimal combination of flight safety, operational efficiency and fuel savings. This comprehensive solution includes navigation and performance databases for precise calculation of optimal flight paths and flight times. Airbus’s choice of a system that is compatible with all its aircraft will enhance fleet interoperability for airlines and make it easier for pilots to make the transition from one Airbus aircraft type to another. The new system, which is based on the PureFlyt product and has been adapted to meet the specific needs of Airbus, will also be available as a retrofit option for aircraft currently in service.

“As the only player in flight management technologies in Europe, Thales is proud to contribute to the digital transformation of the airways with our flight management system, and delighted to have this opportunity to continue to support our partner Airbus. Our connected and cybersecure solution will improve interoperability for airlines and pilots and optimise flight paths to help reduce the carbon footprint of airline operations.” Yannick Assouad, Executive Vice President, Avionics, Thales.

About Thales

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global high technology leader investing in digital and “deep tech” innovations — connectivity, big data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and quantum technology — to build a future we can all trust, which is vital to the development of our societies. The company provides solutions, services and products that help its customers — businesses, organisations and states — in the defence, aeronautics, space, transportation and digital identity and security markets to fulfil their critical missions, by placing humans at the heart of the decision-making process.

Thales has 81,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2021, the Group generated sales of €16.2 billion.