



Strategic Airlines brings new options to WA with A320

8 February 2010

Emerging Australian carrier, Strategic Airlines, touched down in Perth today with the maiden flight of its third Airbus A320 - the first in Western Australia - to service both the corporate charter and commercial travel markets.

The 180-seat A320, which is the first aircraft Strategic Airlines has launched in Perth, will initially service the expanding WA resources sector with return flights from Perth to Derby (Curtin Airport), three days a week. It will operate in a full economy-class configuration, offering a full service product and business class seating on future services.

Strategic's A320, which joins the airline's existing fleet of two A320s and an A330, will also be available for charter services and other regular commercial flights, representing a new standard in aviation charter for WA.

Strategic Airlines' Head of Commercial, Damien Vasta, said the Perth A320 launch was a major milestone for the company, which was planning further local expansion as early as March this year.

"We are pursuing charter contracts within the mining sector and believe there is huge opportunity for the type of services we can offer – not only in mining, but in the broader corporate and consumer WA sectors that will reap the flow-on effects of mining growth," Mr Vasta said.

"This is a pivotal time for Strategic as we are building a genuine Australian-owned airline that offers a full service to the charter and commercial travel markets, while prioritising value, efficiency and safety for all customers," he said.

"We are now part of a new era in Australian aviation where demand for charter and regular public transport (RPT) services has returned."

Mr Vasta added that Strategic Airlines brought the A320 to Perth because of the comfort and cost benefits it would offer fly-in fly-out (FIFO) customers in the resources sector.

"We can carry 180 passengers on the A320 for less cost per passenger than operating two 100-seat jets, while reducing congestion at Perth Airport and lowering Greenhouse Gas Emissions," he said. "Lower operating costs will ultimately help ensure competitive pricing for all of our customers."

Strategic is also applying to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) for approval to have the aircraft land at "3C" categorised airports, which allows for operations into most FIFO airfields.

"The continued growth of the WA mining industry has triggered increased enquiries for the aircraft to operate into dedicated mining airfields."

"We are planning to introduce a second A320 into Perth from March this year to meet the rising demand." Mr Vasta said.

www.flystrategic.com

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Strategic's short-term plans also include a Perth to Bali (Denpasar) RPT service commencing as early as June 2010, for which Strategic representatives are meeting with associated travel wholesale and retail companies in Perth this week.

Strategic is also considering the possible introduction of services from the east coast of Australia to the Pilbara and Kimberley areas. These services are being considered to cater for mining and resource companies operating in regional WA requiring connections to Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

Strategic's Perth – Derby flights depart Perth every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5.30am and arrive in Derby 8.10am. The same-day return flights will depart Derby at 9.30am and arrive in Perth at 12.20pm.

About Strategic Airlines

Established in 2001 and headquartered in Brisbane, Strategic Airlines is Australia's newest international carrier. It forms part of the diverse Strategic Aviation Group, which provides regular airline services, as well as contract and ad hoc charter services, aircraft brokering, and logistics and cargo handling. Considerable growth in the company's lease and contract charter agreements over recent years has seen bases established in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin, Paris and London. Strategic Aviation currently employs more than 120 people, and expects to more than double its employee numbers worldwide over the next 12 months. For further information go to www.flystrategic.com

About the A320

The Airbus A320 is a short to medium range airliner, widely used on domestic and short haul operations by commercial airlines throughout the world. Designed to incorporate exemplary comfort standards and high performance reliability, the single aisle aircraft is an undisputed class leader for its spacious cabin, operational efficiency and cargo capacity – making it an economical option for both charter and commercial services.

The A320 is able to land at smaller aerodromes than other aircraft of its type and size. Presenting running costs that are comparable to a 100 seat jet, with added passenger and cargo capacity, the A320 has the ability to provide greater loads to remote areas and strips.

This is the first Airbus A320 to be based in Western Australia, and offered for charter alongside commercial passenger services.

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