

Thales AVANT IFE system selected by Gulf Air for fleet renewal programme

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At the Farnborough Airshow, Thales announces that Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, has selected the AVANT In-Flight Entertainment system on their new fleet of B787-900, A320 NEO and A321 NEO, totaling 39 aircraft. The first B787-900 and A320 NEO deliveries are scheduled for 2018 and the A321 NEO delivery will start in 2020.

Gulf Air expects the new cabin to be the pride of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Thales is committed to providing a premium passenger experience on Gulf Air's new fleet with the AVANT state-of-the-art Android-based IFE solution. AVANT offers a highly customisable passenger experience with a wide selection of features and applications.

Mr. Maher Salman Al Musallam, Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer, said: *"We are delighted to introduce an enhanced product and service offering onboard Gulf Air's newest aircraft - further appealing to passengers across the globe. We are committed to*

> Key Points

- AVANT IFE system for its complete fleet renewal programme, totaling 39 aircraft.
- Thales AVANT IFE solution provides Gulf Air a fully customisable passenger experience.
- The B787-900 and A320 NEO entry into service will begin in 2018. The A321 NEO delivery is scheduled to start in 2020.

ongoing investment in the Gulf Air offering, to elevate our passenger experience. With Thales AVANT IFE system passengers now have greater entertainment options onboard, ensuring their comfort."

Gulf Air recently announced restructured aircraft orders in January this year at the Bahrain International Airshow 2016, geared towards facilitating long-term expansion capabilities for the airline's future network requirement.

The orders comprise 45 aircraft in total, 39 of which will be equipped with the latest AVANT full high definition monitors, the most lightweight ever deployed. The business cabin will be equipped with the award winning Thales Touch Passenger Media Unit providing the opportunity to multi-task on a second screen, which greatly enhances passenger experience.

Today's announcement follows the recent release of Gulf Air's 2015 financial and operational results, which showed the airline's ongoing positive development as it realises full commercial sustainability and increasingly focuses on managing and further investing in its ongoing growth and development.

➤ Notes to editors

Today, AVANT is available to all new generation Boeing and Airbus platforms. 300,000,000 passengers a year across 75 partner airlines use Thales InFlyt Experience systems, making Thales a leading provider of IFE and connectivity solutions in the world.

➤ About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Aerospace, Transport, Defence and Security markets. With 62,000 employees in 56 countries, Thales reported sales of €14 billion in 2015. With over 22,000 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design and deploy equipment, systems and services to meet the most complex security requirements. Its exceptional international footprint allows it to work closely with its customers all over the world

About Gulf Air

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain,

"Thales is very proud to have been selected by Gulf Air, a longstanding airline carrier in the Middle East. We are honoured to support the airline in their goal of excellence in passenger experience. This selection represents a major win for Thales in the region, reinforcing our presence within the Kingdom of Bahrain."

Dominique Giannoni, CEO, Thales InFlyt Experience

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commenced operations in 1950, becoming one of the first commercial airlines established in the Middle East. Today, Gulf Air is a major international carrier serving 40 cities in 23 countries spanning three continents. The airline operates one of the largest networks in the Middle East, with double daily flights or more to 10 regional cities, in addition to select destinations in the Indian Subcontinent and Europe, from its hub at Bahrain International Airport. Gulf Air serves all its destinations with a combination wide and narrow body fleet totalling 28 modern aircraft. Renowned for its traditional Arabian hospitality, evidenced by the airline's signature family and business friendly products, Gulf Air is committed to being an industry leader and developing products and services that reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of its passengers.

Gulf Air connects Bahrain to the world and, as such, is a key national infrastructure asset, serving as a powerful driver for the economy and supporting the Kingdom's on-going economic growth.

Gulf Air has been the Title Sponsor of the FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX ever since it made history as the first Formula 1 Grand Prix to be held in the Middle East in 2004. In addition, the airline has been Official Carrier of the biennial Bahrain International Airshow since it was first held in 2010.