

NEWS AND EVENTS

ACTING AIR NIUGINI CEO SAYS NEW AIRCRAFT WILL MAKE FLYING MORE AFFORDABLE



Air Niugini is moving ahead with its fleet renewal strategy, a plan which includes the acquisition of 13 new, state-of-the-art aircraft over the next five years.

Two Boeing 737-800s and four Dash-8 Q400 turboprops will arrive by September. This is apart from 11 Airbus A220-100 and A220-300 aircraft that have been envisaged as replacement aircraft for Air Niugini's current Fokker fleet. The Airbus aircraft are expected to join Air Niugini's fleet from 2025 onwards, while two Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft are also on their way.

“The Airbus A220 can operate both domestic and international routes with more capacity. It burns 27 percent less fuel than the current fleet for the same sectors and has greater comfort and operating efficiency.” said Hon. William Marra Duma, the Minister for State Enterprises, Papua New Guinea.

“This remarkable aircraft stands as the epitome of modern airliners in its category, specifically tailored for the 100-150 seater segment. It boasts an impressive range of up to 6,400 kilometres; and together with a spacious cabin, seats and windows, passengers can enjoy a high level of comfort during the flight.”

Gary Seddon, acting CEO, said recently that the newer, fuel-efficient aircraft would help efforts to reduce expenditure. “We need more seats on more efficient aircraft to help us reduce airfares”, he added.

However, Seddon has also said that the airline's strategy is heavily dependent on the development of domestic airport infrastructure in Papua New Guinea, and the lengthening and strengthening of certain runways.



Meanwhile, Air Niugini is also focusing on raising customer service standards with a special skills training program. The carrier has committed about \$11 million over the next three years for training frontline employees, ground staff and cabin crew. There is also an active recruitment drive for pilots and cabin crew that is currently underway.