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Norwegian and Virgin Atlantic with Dreamliner cooperation

Norwegian Long Haul has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Virgin Atlantic. The agreement enables Norwegian to tap into Virgin Atlantic's expertise on long-haul operations, while Virgin Atlantic's instructors will receive pilot training on board Norwegian's brand new 787-8 Dreamliner. Norwegian's first Dreamliner is due for delivery at the end of June.

The cooperation with Virgin Atlantic will enable Norwegian's long-haul pilots to make use of the airline's vast long-haul experience. Virgin Atlantic will

make all its training material available to Norwegian.

Virgin Atlantic's pilots to train on board Norwegian's 787 Dreamliner

At the same time, Virgin Atlantic's 787 instructors will conduct the final part of their pilot training on board Norwegian's Dreamliners. Virgin Atlantic's most experienced instructors will continue flying on board Norwegian's aircraft until the airline receives its first 787 Dreamliner in September 2014, just over a year after Norwegian's first Dreamliner delivery.

"Introducing a new aircraft type to an airline is an extensive affair. It is therefore important that we learn from each other," says Director of Flight Operations Norwegian Long Haul, Torstein Hoås.

"A great advantage to both parties"

"Virgin Atlantic is a successful long-haul airline with almost 30 years of Trans-Atlantic experience. It will be very beneficial for us to receive this support. At the same time, we are looking forward to helping Virgin Atlantic introduce the 787 Dreamliner to its fleet. The cooperation will be a great advantage to both parties," he continues.

Virgin Atlantic will be the launch customer in Europe of the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, a slightly bigger version of the 787-8 Dreamliner. In the agreement signed on Friday, Virgin Atlantic states that it will train a number of Norwegian pilots on board its future Dreamliners.

"Virgin Atlantic are delighted to announce our training partnership with Norwegian. Our combined experience is being effectively utilised to ensure the safe and efficient introduction of the Boeing 787 aircraft to our fleet. We have much in common with Norwegian, having similar high quality training requirements, which has allowed our partnership to take shape," says Captain Dave Kistruck, GM of Flight Operations for Virgin Atlantic.

Contact:

Norwegian's Press Office, telephone number: +47 815 11 816

Director of Flight Operations Norwegian Long Haul, Torstein Hoås, telephone number: +47 90 09 34 65

Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA, commercially branded "Norwegian," is a public

low-cost airline noted on the Oslo Stock Exchange. The company is the second largest airline in Scandinavia, and has a route portfolio that stretches across Europe into North Africa and the Middle East. In May 2013 it will even commence long-haul flights from Scandinavia to the US and Asia. With competitive prices and customer friendly solutions and service, the company has experienced significant growth over the previous years. With 17.7million passengers in 2012, Norwegian is the 3rd largest low-cost airline in Europe. Norwegian currently operates 73 aircraft on 330 routes to 120 destinations and employs approximately 3,000 people. Norwegian's fleet has an average age of 4,6 years and the company currently has 280 aircraft on order.

Contacts



For journalists only

Press Contact
Norwegian Press Office
press@norwegian.com
+47 815 11 816



Marketing/sponsorship requests: marketing@norwegian.com

Press Contact
Marketing/sponsorship requests: marketing@norwegian.com