

Toulouse, 3 May 2013

## Aer Arann gets its first ATR 72-600

The airline will operate its fleet in the livery of Aer Lingus Regional

Aer Arann has successfully taken delivery of its first ATR 72-600 turboprop aircraft. The aircraft is the first of eight ATR 72-600s ordered by the airline in a contract valued at some US\$ 187 million. Seven other planes are scheduled to be delivered in 2013 and 2014. These eight brand new airplanes will replace the older existing fleet of ATR 72-200s and ATR 42-300s. With 3 ATR 72-500s currently in service the new planes will bring to 11 the total fleet of ATRs operated by Aer Arann. The first plane starts service this month, with the remaining aircraft expected for delivery over the next 11 months. The aircraft will fly in the livery of Aer Lingus Regional, based on a franchise relationship between Aer Arann and Aer Lingus.

Combined with the existing routes operated from airline's bases in Dublin, Cork, Shannon and Knock, the airline will open up 2 new routes departing from Dublin to Manchester and Birmingham which should bring the airline's route network to 24. Together with existing Aer Lingus mainline services to Manchester and Birmingham, these new services will result in a significant ramping up of frequencies on two of the busiest routes on the Ireland to UK network. Also, Aer Arann plans to increase frequencies on its Dublin Edinburgh and Dublin Glasgow routes.

Commenting on the deal, Sean Brogan, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Aer Arann, declared: "We are delighted to be partnering again with ATR. Regional traffic is substantially developing and we aim to upgrade our regional aircraft fleet with the new ATR -600s. These aircraft offer high economic efficiency, optimum performance and exceptional passenger comfort. We are convinced that these new airplanes will bring very interesting business opportunities, while further developing air traffic in the region".

Filippo Bagnato, Chief Executive Officer of ATR, declared that "ATR is honored to be associated to the growth of Aer Arann and Aer Lingus Regional. We are happy to partner with such prestigious operators. Today we are eager to further develop the presence of the new ATR -600s in Europe, a market with a strong demand for new generation ATR turboprops. This demand is driven by increasing operating costs for airlines and the fact that many fleets need to be renewed soon. Aer Arann has a strong commitment to the environment and this is exemplified by their choice of the most "Green" aircraft available today!"

### About the ATR 72-600:

Passenger capacity: 68-74 seats  
Engines: Pratt & Whitney Canada PW 127M  
Maximum power at take-off: 2,750 horse power per engine  
Maximum weight at take-off: 23,000 Kg  
Maximum payload: 7,500 Kg  
Range with full passenger load: 900 nautical miles (1,665 Km)

**About Aer Arann:**

When Aer Arann operated its first commercial flight in 1970, its ambition was to provide a friendly, reliable, value for money air service to 1,000 islanders, located in Inis Mór, off the west coast of Ireland. In the 1980's, a programme of well managed changes fuelled by Aer Arann's unyielding spirit of independence saw the airline expand its services. In order to simplify operations and maintenance procedures, and with a view to the next phase of the airline's development, the company made a key decision to partner with one aircraft supplier, ATR. Today Aer Arann operates more than 400 flights per week throughout Ireland, the UK and to seasonal destinations such as France.

**About ATR:**

Founded in 1981, ATR has become the world leader on the market for regional aircraft with 90 seats or less. Since its creation, ATR has sold over 1,200 aircraft, and has today 182 operators based in 90 countries. ATR planes have totaled over 21 million flight hours. ATR is an equal partnership between two major European aeronautics players, Alenia Aermacchi (a Finmeccanica Group company) and EADS. Its head office is in Toulouse (France). ATR is ISO 14001-certified, the international reference standard in the field for environmental friendliness.

For additional information, log on to [www.atraircraft.com](http://www.atraircraft.com).

You can also follow ATR on its official YouTube channel: [ATRbroadcast](https://www.youtube.com/ATRbroadcast) and on its [twitter](https://twitter.com/ATRaircraft) page: [@ATRaircraft](https://twitter.com/ATRaircraft).

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