



Toulouse, 30 January 2014

Irish Aer Arann renews confidence in ATR maintenance

Irish airline Aer Arann, operating regional air routes for Aer Lingus Regional, and the European regional aircraft manufacturer ATR have agreed to extend its existing Global Maintenance Agreement (GMA) covering the airline's fleet of eight ATR 72-600s and two ATR 72-500 aircraft for five more years. The original contract was signed in 2007 with the introduction of the first ATR 72-500. Since then ATR has enjoyed a long term strategic partnership with Aer Arann. The airline reiterated their confidence in 2012 by agreeing to introduce eight new generation ATR 72-600s, which deliveries started in June this year.

The GMA covers the complete maintenance of the ATR aircraft and includes services such as repair and overhaul of LRUs (Line Replaceable Units), parts provision, propellers and airframe maintenance and landing gear overhaul. Aer Arann will benefit from diverse pool supplies offering logistical and operational support to ensure the smooth running of its repairs.

"Aer Arann are delighted to extend our Global Maintenance Agreement with ATR. ATR continue to deliver a Service Quality product that matches our goal and targets. We recently welcomed our sixth new ATR aircraft which has enabled Aer Arann to further expand our regional offering and to support the addition of new routes and frequencies on existing routes. Following the purchase of eight new ATR aircraft, Aer Arann launched two new routes between Dublin - Newcastle and Shannon - Bristol, as well as increased frequencies to Aberdeen, Bristol, Cardiff and Glasgow from Dublin and Manchester and Birmingham from Cork and Shannon", Seán Brogan, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Aer Arann, said. "We look forward to further growing this important relationship with ATR in the years to come, and welcoming our passengers aboard."

Commenting on the agreement extension, ATR's Senior Vice President Product Support & Services Lilian Braylé said, "This contract renewal again demonstrates our ability to provide customized maintenance solutions to our operators. We are proud of the competitiveness of ATR's aircraft maintenance offer, the GMA, in the European market."

ATR has signed a dozen GMA contracts with European airlines recently covering over 90 ATR aircraft. The popularity of this unique maintenance offer in the regional market proves to be a great endorsement of the strong business relationship ATR has built up with these key customers. One third of the total fleet of ATRs currently in operation worldwide are covered by GMAs.



About GMA (Global Maintenance Agreement):

GMA maintenance and support contracts are tailored to the requirements of each operator and include a wide range of services to facilitate the operation of their aircraft and to reduce maintenance costs. As an aircraft manufacturer, ATR has acquired a unique expertise and offers customers the most profitable solutions to outsource their maintenance. The main advantages of GMAs are: the guarantee of part availability, reduced maintenance costs and the simplification of logistics due to the unique interface offered by ATR.

About Aer Arann:

Aer Arann is the operator of Aer Lingus Regional Ireland's regional airline, operating 550 flights per week across 25 routes throughout Ireland, the UK and France. Aer Lingus Regional is operated by Aer Arann under a franchise agreement between Aer Arann and Aer Lingus. Aer Arann and Aer Lingus recently announced the expansion of this franchise agreement until 2022.

Aer Arann aims to continue to improve and develop the Aer Lingus Regional franchise focusing on increasing passenger numbers and new route development. With headquarters located in Dublin, the airline is renowned for its customer service. Its bases are located in Dublin, Cork and Shannon. For more information, log on to <u>www.aerlingus.com</u>

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 1 300 aircraft. ATR planes are represented in the fleets of 180 operators 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 the Airbus Group. Its head office is in Toulouse. ATR is ISO 14001 certified.

For additional information, log on to <u>www.atraircraft.com</u>. You can also follow ATR on its official YouTube channel: <u>ATRbroadcast</u> and on Twitter: <u>@ATRaircraft</u>.

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