

## PRESS RELEASE

# Air Calédonie receives its first ATR 72-600

**As part of the successful fleet renewal initiatives, the ATR 72-600 will help the airline to meet the region's booming travel business**

**Toulouse, November 25, 2016** – Air Calédonie today took delivery of its first of 4 ATR 72-600 aircraft at a ceremony at ATR facilities in Toulouse, France. Air Calédonie's ATR 72-600 will seat 68 passengers in all-economy configuration and will be used on the New Caledonia domestic network.

Air Calédonie and ATR started a long-term partnership in 1986, when the first ATR 42 began operations to develop inter-island services. Today, 30 years later, with the entry into service of the latest generation ATR 72-600 turboprops, the airline will complete and gradually replace the existing ATR fleet, increasing the passenger capacity while offering the highest level of comfort to its customers.

Samuel Hnepeune, Chief Executive Officer of Air Calédonie, stated: "Today's delivery represents another important step in the company's strategy to build strong foundations for the future. The decision to continue with ATR for our short-haul inter-island operations underpins Air Calédonie's plan to outfit a fleet of the most fuel-efficient and reliable aircraft. The ATR -600 series family's outstanding operational effectiveness and comfort make it the right choice for our airline."

"We are proud to support Air Calédonie in its period of growth," said Christian Scherer, Chief Executive Officer of ATR. "With the introduction of these modern ATR-600 series airplanes, Air Calédonie is, again, demonstrating its confidence in our product which has proven to be a reference for airlines around the world. Air Calédonie is undertaking a major change and we are pleased to watch the ATR 72-600 becoming an integral part of the airline's success."

The new ATR 72-600 is planned to open up its first commercial service on December 7<sup>th</sup>, departing from Magenta Airport to Koné Airport in New Caledonia, then to conduct on average 26 return flights per week.

### **About Air Calédonie :**

Air Calédonie is the main airline which operates a regular service within New Caledonia's domestic network. Its major vocation is to ensure territorial continuity, to sustain economic and tourism development. Serving 9 destinations from Magenta airport in Noumea, the airline was created in 1954 by a group of airline enthusiasts. Today, Air Calédonie transports no less than 440,000 passengers per year and 1,900 tons of freight, thanks to professionalism of 368 staff. For more information please visit [www.air-caledonie.nc](http://www.air-caledonie.nc)

**About ATR :**

Founded in 1981, ATR is the world leader on the market for below-90-seat regional aircraft. Since its creation, ATR has sold over 1,500 aircraft. ATR aircraft equip the fleets of some 200 airlines in nearly 100 countries. ATR is an equal partnership between two major European aeronautics players, the Airbus Group and Leonardo. Based in Toulouse, France, ATR is well established worldwide with a large customer support and sales network, including Customer Service Centers, training centers and warehouses. For more information, please visit <http://www.atr-aircraft.com>

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