

## PRESS RELEASE

# Amakusa Airlines introduces first ATR 42-600 in Japan

**The aircraft is purchased from Nordic Aviation Capital**

**Toulouse, August 12, 2015** – Japanese regional carrier Amakusa Airlines took delivery in Toulouse of a 48-seat ATR 42-600, the first of the type to start operations in Japan. For almost 15 years, the airline has been providing regular scheduled regional services connecting the city of Amakusa off the coast of mainland Kyushu in southwestern Japan to large cities such as Kumamoto, Fukuoka, and Osaka.

This new ATR 42-600 has been purchased from Nordic Aviation Capital (NAC), the industry's largest turboprop lessor, headquartered in Denmark. It is equipped with the latest technologies in passenger comfort and navigation aid tools and features ATR's newest Armonia cabin and full-glass cockpit avionics. With the introduction of this very first ATR aircraft in Japan, Amakusa will replace their current 39-seat turboprop, thus offering larger capacity and contributing to the development of tourism and to even better service for the local population.

Commenting on the introduction of the aircraft, Takashi Yoshimura President of Amakusa Airlines, declared: "We are honored to debut the ATR in Japan, and to provide our passengers with an aircraft that has an outstanding reputation in terms of comfort, reliability and operational flexibility. The aircraft, which has an increased seat capacity, will also enable us to achieve optimized economics and seat costs, while having a very low environmental footprint."

Martin Møller, Chairman of Nordic Aviation Capital, stated: "We have a high level of confidence in the potential of the smaller ATR -600 Series as airlines around the world look to replace aging equivalent-sized aircraft, and when they look for a successor as they look to upgrade from smaller capacity aircraft. This is why we have consistently added to our ATR orderbook and we are delighted to offer various financing solutions to our customers, plenty of whom have already shown their interest in the 50-seat variant of the ATR."

Patrick de Castelbajac, Chief Executive Officer of ATR, declared: "The arrival of this first aircraft underlines the suitability of the ATR -600 series for regional operations across Japan. We are delighted to enter such a major market, one of the few Asian countries where ATR had not flown before. Japan, which has a fleet of almost 100 regional aircraft, including some 50 aging turboprops, provides us outstanding commercial opportunities. This, coupled with our aim of being as close as possible to our new operators there, explains the recent opening of an ATR representative office in Tokyo."

**About the ATR 42-600:**

Passenger capacity: 46 to 50 seats  
Engines: Pratt & Whitney 127M  
Maximum take-off power: 2400 horsepower per engine  
Maximum take-off weight: 18,600 kg  
Maximum load: 5,500 kg

**About Nordic Aviation Capital:**

Nordic Aviation Capital A/S (NAC) is the industry's leading turboprop lessor serving over 42 customers across 30 different countries. With an active fleet of over 250 aircraft, NAC is the largest owner and lessor of both ATR and Bombardier turboprop aircraft in the world. Its current fleet includes ATR 42, ATR 72, Bombardier Dash 8, CRJ900 and CRJ1000 aircraft. In addition to its existing fleet, NAC has 100 of the latest, most desirable regional aircraft on its order books.

The company provides aircraft and aircraft financing solutions to well-established carriers such as LOT, Air Berlin, Azul, Garuda, Flybe, HOP!, airBaltic and Olympic Air as well as major regional carriers including Air Nostrum, Widerøe, SATENA, Jet Time, Etihad Regional and Air KBZ. With its headquarters in Billund, Denmark and regional offices based in Ireland, Singapore and Toronto, NAC is well located to serve every major commercial aviation market across the globe.

For over 25 years Nordic Aviation Capital has been providing flexible, customised and competitive aviation solutions to airlines worldwide. The company boasts an energetic, committed and dedicated team of highly motivated individuals providing an unmatched level of knowledge and consultative expertise to its client base. With a combined total of over 500 years of aviation experience, NAC strives to consistently deliver enduring results to its clients.

**About Amakusa Airlines:**

The airline was established in late 1998 and started operations in March 2000, with services from Amakusa to Fukuoka and Kumamoto. Amakusa Airlines is the smallest airline in Japan, with one single aircraft, and is mainly owned by the Kumamoto prefectural government and the municipal government of Amakusa. Since the beginning of its operations, Amakusa Airlines has carried over 1 million passengers.

**About ATR:**

Founded in 1981, ATR has become the market's world leader for regional aircraft with 90 seats or less. Since its creation, ATR has sold over 1,500 aircraft. With over 25 million flight hours, ATR models equip the fleets of 190 airlines in more than 90 countries. ATR is an equal partnership between two major European aeronautics players, Alenia Aermacchi (a Finmeccanica Group company) and Airbus Group. Its head office is in Toulouse, France. ATR is ISO 14001 certified. For additional information, log on to [www.atr-aircraft.com](http://www.atr-aircraft.com).

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