

## PRESS RELEASE

### **PNG Air Purchases Three ATR 42-600S Aircraft**

**Papua New Guinean airline will use short take-off and landing (STOL) version to ensure essential connectivity throughout the region**

**Singapore, 11 February, 2020** – World number one regional aviation manufacturer ATR today announces an order of three ATR 42-600S aircraft from PNG Air. The deal also means that PNG Air will be a launch customer for the STOL version. The ATR 42-600S will be capable of taking-off from and landing on runways that are as short as 800m in length, with 40 passengers on board in standard flight conditions. Currently operating seven ATR 72-600, the airline has captured over 40% of domestic market share since introducing its ATR -600 fleet in 2015. These three new STOL aircraft will replace PNG Air's current fleet of ageing STOL turboprops. With many current generation 30-seat STOL aircraft coming to the end of their lifecycles, airlines worldwide must replace these aircraft or the communities that they serve risk losing vital connectivity.

Commenting on the deal Paul Abbot, Chief Executive Officer of PNG Air, said: "Since incorporating the ATR 72-600 into our fleet PNG Air has gone from strength to strength, benefitting from its unrivalled efficiency, as it burns 40% less fuel and emits 40% less CO2 than a similar sized regional jet. When looking at options to replace our existing STOL fleet, the ATR -600 family's maintenance costs and commonality were hugely attractive. This commonality will lead to greater efficiency in terms of both spare parts and pilot training. We are also looking forward to introducing passengers travelling to and from our destinations with short runways to the comfort of the modern ATR -600 series cabin."

ATR Chief Executive Officer, Stefano Bortoli, said: "The decision to replace their existing STOL fleet with our ATR 42-600S represents an intelligent acquisition and is a perfect example of why this aircraft is such an important solution for the regional aviation market. People and businesses around the world depend on the connectivity that ATR aircraft provide. Without a viable STOL replacement PNG Air's passengers would face significant challenges to their way of life. As a successful airline PNG Air have shown that they understand the importance of these links to their passengers and the communities that they serve."

With this new version, ATR forecasts to expand the addressable market by 25%, targeting new routes and the 30-seater STOL segment. There is a strong interest from airlines for a new 50-seater product capable of operating in more constrained conditions. Close to 500 airports have a runway comprised between 800-1,000m and could welcome the ATR 42-600S. Nearly a third of these runways are in Asia Pacific.



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## About PNG Air:

PNG Air has provided aviation services in PNG for over 25 years and has been listed on the Port Moresby Stock Exchange since 2008.

The airline is proudly owned by major Papua New Guinea institutions namely the country's largest Superannuation provider; Nasfund and Mineral Resource Development Corporation a significant Landowner representative.

PNG Air operates an extensive scheduled RPT and freight network. Additionally, the Airline provides fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) and ad-hoc charter services to some of the world's leading resource companies. Operating in excess of 22,000 flight hours annually, with 15 aircraft, to 24 destinations, PNG Air is well placed to meet and exceed the requirements and expectations of customers.

An ATR 72-600 operator since 2015, PNG Air operates the aircraft into challenging and remote strips across Papua New Guinea to connect people and businesses to help drive the country forward.

## About ATR:

ATR is the world number one regional aircraft manufacturer with its ATR 42 and 72 aircraft the best-selling aircraft in the less than 90-seat market segment. In 2018 the company had a turnover of US\$1.8 billion. The unifying vision of the company's 1,400 employees is to help everyone, no matter where they are in the world, to connect and develop in a responsible manner. Thanks to the efficiency of turboprop technology and the benefits of the company's focus on continuous innovation, ATRs open more than 100 new routes every year, burn up to 40% less fuel and emit up to 40% less CO2 than regional jets. For all of these reasons, ATR aircraft have been chosen by some 200 companies in 100 countries around the world. ATR is a joint-venture between Airbus and Leonardo.

For more information, please visit <http://www.atr-aircraft.com> and [www.atr-intolife.com](http://www.atr-intolife.com).

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