



## AirBorneo Chooses ATR to Modernise Rural Air Service Fleet in East Malaysia

**Singapore, 3 February 2026** – AirBorneo and ATR today announced a strategic partnership to modernise Malaysia's Rural Air Services (RAS) fleet, with AirBorneo confirming a firm order for eight ATR aircraft. The agreement comprises five ATR 72-600s and three ATR 42-600s, with purchase rights for four additional aircraft. Deliveries are scheduled between 2027 and 2029.

This marks a significant milestone in AirBorneo's transformation into Sarawak's state-owned airline and its assumption of responsibility for the RAS network, a vital public service that connects remote and underserved communities across Sarawak, Sabah and Labuan.

Finalised in late 2025, the order supports AirBorneo's long-term fleet renewal strategy following the acquisition of MASwings by the Sarawak government in 2025 and its subsequent rebranding as AirBorneo. The airline currently operates eight ATR 72-500 aircraft inherited from MASwings. The new-generation ATR –600 series will form the backbone of a more efficient and more resilient RAS operation for East Malaysia.

The introduction of the ATR 42-600 and ATR 72-600 aircraft will enable AirBorneo to enhance passenger experience, operational reliability and service capability. The aircraft feature advanced avionics, modern navigation technologies and improved cabin comfort. They are also equipped to support medical stretcher operations and are optimised for reliable operations across diverse regional and rural route environments in Borneo.

The mixed fleet gives AirBorneo greater flexibility to right-size capacity across diverse route profiles, while benefiting from the strong commonality of the ATR family. The agreement also includes four purchase rights, providing future growth options beyond the RAS network, including potential regional expansion within the Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area.

*"This partnership with ATR marks a major milestone in AirBorneo's commitment to delivering reliable, safe and modern air services for the communities we serve," said **Megat Ardian, Chief Executive Officer of AirBorneo**. "Our new ATR –600 fleet will significantly strengthen the Rural Air Services network by offering improved comfort, greater efficiency and the operational capability required for regional connectivity in East Malaysia. The ATR platform has consistently proven to be the most suitable aircraft for our operating environment, and upgrading to the latest –600 series ensures we can continue providing essential connectivity while preparing AirBorneo for long-term growth."*

*"AirBorneo's decision to invest in both the ATR 72-600 and ATR 42-600 reflects the strength and versatility of the ATR family and its suitability for demanding regional operations," said **Nathalie Tarnaud Laude, Chief Executive Officer of ATR**. "The ATR 42-600, with its exceptional efficiency and low operating costs, is ideally suited for serving lower-density regional routes, while the ATR 72-600 provides additional capacity where it is needed. We are proud to partner with AirBorneo in strengthening reliable air connectivity across Borneo and the wider region."*



### ABOUT AIRBORNEO

AirBorneo is Malaysia's first state-owned airline, wholly owned by the Sarawak Government. The airline was established following the successful acquisition of MASWings Sdn Bhd, which was completed on 31 December 2025. AirBorneo currently serves 21 destinations, with primary operational bases in Kota Kinabalu and Miri. Its fleet comprises eight ATR 72-500 aircraft and six DHC-6-400 Twin Otter aircraft. For more information, visit [www.airborneo.com](http://www.airborneo.com)

### ABOUT ATR

ATR is the world number one regional aircraft manufacturer with its ATR 42 and 72, the best-selling aircraft in the below 90-seat market segment. The unifying vision of the company is to accelerate sustainable connections for people, communities and businesses, no matter how remote. Flown by some 200 airlines in over 100 countries, ATR aircraft open 120 new routes every year on average, facilitating the development of territories and enabling access to crucial services like healthcare and education. Thanks to ATR's focus on continuous innovation and the intrinsic efficiency of the turboprop technology, ATR aircraft are the most advanced, versatile, cost-effective and lowest-emission regional aircraft on the market, emitting 45% less CO2 than similar-size regional jets. In January 2022, we flew the first ever commercial aircraft using 100% SAF in both engines. ATR is a joint-venture between Airbus and Leonardo. Visit us on [www.atr-aircraft.com](http://www.atr-aircraft.com) for more information.

### MEDIA RELATIONS

**Charlotte GIURIA**  
+33 (0)6 80 48 20 96  
[charlotte.giuria@atr-aircraft.com](mailto:charlotte.giuria@atr-aircraft.com)

**Jeanne CAUMONT**  
+33 (0)6 22 18 58 95  
[jeanne.caumont@atr-aircraft.com](mailto:jeanne.caumont@atr-aircraft.com)