

## **SmartLynx Airlines land into long-haul market and adds 5 Airbus A330 aircraft for cargo operations**

SmartLynx Airlines Malta, EU-based specialists in full-service ACMI aircraft leasing solutions, is excited to announce an important addition to its Airbus fleet. Currently operated Airbus A320 and A321 aircraft will be joined by Airbus A330 aircraft type with a goal to become leaders of long-haul market.

5 Airbus A330 aircraft will be modified to Zero LOPA by removing passenger seats and preparing aircraft for cargo flights. The planes are planned to be added to SmartLynx Airlines' fleet during May and June.

According to IATA, in April 2021, air cargo demand reached an all-time high and was up 9% compared to pre-COVID levels (Feb 2019). The increased market demand for long-haul cargo operations prompted SmartLynx Airlines to grow their fleet and introduce the modified aircraft, able to transport cargo shipments, including vaccines and medical supplies, on long-haul flights.

"As one of the leading EU-based ACMI and charter operators on Airbus aircraft, we are excited to substantially grow our fleet and offer our clients different products while diving to long-haul operations. We are constantly expanding our service portfolio and areas of expertise to accommodate the rapidly changing market demand. It's our strong belief that the pandemic and the current global crisis will create many opportunities for growth and development for our company and the whole industry. The addition of the modified Airbus A330 aircraft is a big step forward for SmartLynx Airlines and we are more than excited to see what challenges and victories it will bring", commented Zygimantas Surintas, CEO of SmartLynx Airlines.

"We understand that eventually the long-haul cargo market will return to the pre-Covid levels, so SmartLynx Airlines plan to return the Airbus A330 aircraft to operate on long-haul passenger flights once that time comes. We believe that our low-cost structure and great efficiency will allow us to create competition to market veterans," he added.

The global aircraft leasing platform CDB Aviation will be leasing out several Airbus A330 aircraft to SmartLynx Airlines.

"We are pleased to partner with SmartLynx Airlines to support their expansion in the cargo market. We commend the SmartLynx Airlines team for recognising opportunities to expand their global footprint by incorporating the A330 aircraft into their fleet," noted CDB Aviation Chief Marketing Officer Peter Goodman.

The updated A330 aircraft will carry cargo for existing and future clients to and from Asia, USA and Europe, with a volume capacity of 260 m<sup>3</sup> and a maximum cargo weight of 50,000 kg.

Earlier this year, SmartLynx Airlines has already showed its flexibility and forward-thinking attitude, making the necessary Zero LOPA modifications on two of the fleet's A321 units to meet the growing demand for cargo transportation and became one of the first carriers to introduce A321F to operations.

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**About SmartLynx Airlines**

Founded in 1992 SmartLynx is the second largest Latvia-based airline. SmartLynx specializes in full-service ACMI (Aircraft-Crew-Maintenance-Insurance) aircraft lease services on Airbus A320 and A321 aircraft. The airline also ensures full charter operation for its home markets in Latvia and Estonia, predominantly in the leisure market. In 2020 the airline have expanded its service portfolio with plans to further establish position in the world of air cargo transportation.

SmartLynx Training Centre is a well-recognised airline pilot training company in the Baltic States providing type rating courses for Airbus A320 series.

SmartLynx Airlines is a family member of Avia Solutions Group, the largest aerospace business group from Central & Eastern Europe with 90 offices and production stations providing aviation services and solutions worldwide. Avia Solutions Group unites a team of more than 7000 professionals, providing state-of-the-art solutions to aviation industry and beyond. For more information please visit: [www.smartlynx.aero](http://www.smartlynx.aero) and [www.aviasg.com](http://www.aviasg.com).