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Media release

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SWISS investing in further fleet renewal from 2014 on New-generation Bombardier CSeries to replace Avro RJ100s

SWISS is investing in its European aircraft fleet: from 2014 on, the carrier's Avro RJ100s will be gradually replaced by a new generation of "CSeries" aircraft from manufacturer Bombardier. The fleet renewal programme should be completed within just over two years. With its state-of-the-art powerplants and high-tech construction materials, the CSeries sets new operating benchmarks in cost-efficiency and environmental terms. Its high passenger comfort, lower operating costs, substantially quieter engines and fewer CO₂ emissions were the prime criteria in SWISS's selection of the new aircraft type.

SWISS is to replace its present Avro RJ100 fleet with the first of a new generation of aircraft. The new CSeries from manufacturer Bombardier will feature state-of-the-art propulsion in its Pratt and Whitney geared turbofans, together with ultra-light construction materials such as carbon fibre and new aluminium alloys that will substantially reduce aircraft weight. As a result, the CSeries will consume well over a quarter less fuel than the present Avro RJ100 fleet. This will cut CO₂ emissions by some 90,000 tonnes a year – the equivalent of 7,000 flights between London City Airport and Zurich.

With its lower operating costs and its fewer pollutant emissions, the new CSeries combines economic efficiency with sound eco-credentials. The benefits extend inside the cabin, too, where the spacious interior promises top passenger comfort. With orders for 30 of the new transports, SWISS and the Lufthansa Group are acting as launching customer for Bombardier's CSeries, and will provide the prime impetus for the production and service introduction of the new aircraft family.



Strengthening European operations in the longer term

SWISS's present Swiss European fleet consists of 20 Avro RJ100s, which will be replaced by 20 new Bombardier CSeries aircraft. Under current plans, 10 more CSeries transports will be delivered from 2016 onwards to permit further growth in SWISS's European operations.

"The short-haul segment is a key element in our network," stresses Harry Hohmeister, SWISS's chief network and distribution officer. "With our choice of Bombardier's new CSeries, we are underlining the key role that Swiss European plays in our operations. In today's fiercely-contested air transport market, planning long-term product investments, raising efficiency companywide and continually reducing our costs can give us a vital competitive edge."

The new CSeries will enable SWISS to further cut its costs. With their lower maintenance costs and more fuel-efficient engines, the new transports will offer per-seat costs that are over 10 per cent lower than those of the Avro RJ100.

Halving of noise levels to benefit airport-area residents

The new CSeries aircraft will also be 10 to 15 decibels quieter than the present Avro RJ100s – more than half as quiet to the human ear. "By investing over a billion Swiss francs* in our new aircraft fleet, we are sending a clear signal in noise and environmental terms," says SWISS CEO Christoph Franz. "In doing so, we are also living up to our responsibilities towards the communities around the airports we serve."

For further information and bookings please visit SWISS.COM/UK call SWISS on 0845 601 0956 or contact your travel agent.

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Notes to editors:

* Over £625.6m at current exchange rate

From the UK and Ireland alone Swiss International Air Lines, the national airline of Switzerland, offers 28s daily flights, serving **Basel, Geneva** and **Zurich** from **London City** and **Manchester**, and **Zurich** from **London Heathrow, Birmingham** and **Dublin**. For flights from the UK and Ireland SWISS offers two classes, Economy and Swiss Business, and the flexibility to book a different class in each direction.

From its Zurich hub and from Basel and Geneva international airports, SWISS's 73-aircraft fleet serves 90 destinations in 42 countries around the world. As part of the Lufthansa Group and as a member of the global Star Alliance, SWISS remains true to its mission of providing quality air services that link Switzerland with Europe and the world.

All SWISS flights offer value for money, SWISS's quality in-flight service, including free food and drink, and Miles and More frequent flyer mileage-earning opportunities.

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