

Airbus bags big orders at Dubai airshow

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 19 November, 2025



Dhaka: Airbus secured a series of major orders at the Dubai Airshow, with multiple airlines placing significant aircraft deals.

Etihad Airways announced a major expansion of its Airbus widebody fleet at the Dubai Airshow, placing a firm order for six A330-900s and disclosing additional orders for seven A350-1000s — bringing its total for the type to 27 — and three A350F freighters, raising its A350F commitment to 10 aircraft.

The airline also committed to nine A330-900s on lease from Avolon.

CEO Antonio Neves said the aircraft will boost Etihad's medium-, long-haul and cargo operations, adding that the A330neo offers "efficiency and flexibility" for regional growth, while the A350-1000 and A350F enhance long-haul performance and cargo capacity.

Airbus EVP Benoît de Saint-Exupéry said Etihad's continued investment

in new-generation widebodies reflects a strong partnership and will give the airline improved efficiency and flexibility.

Flydubai became a new Airbus customer after signing an MoU for 150 A321neo jets. Chairman Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said the deal aligns with Dubai's economic ambitions and will support expansion at Dubai World Central, which the emirate aims to make the world's largest airport.

Spanish carrier Air Europa signed an MoU for up to 40 A350-900s to replace its long-haul fleet. President Juan José Hidalgo said the A350 will support profitable growth in Latin America and improve passenger comfort.

Ethiopian Airlines ordered six additional A350-900s, strengthening its position as Africa's largest A350 operator. CEO Mesfin Tasew said the deal supports sustainable growth and enhances passenger experience.

Airbus Helicopters signed a long-term support contract with France's DMAé covering 46 H145 helicopters for the Sécurité Civile and Gendarmerie Nationale, complementing an earlier EC145 support agreement and giving Airbus full support responsibility for both agencies' H145-family fleets.

The 10-year contract, executed with Babcock, will provide training, technical support, spare parts and MRO services to ensure availability for critical public-safety missions.

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