Bali, December 2nd, 2013

Garuda Indonesia’s first ATR 72-600 takes off

Indonesia’s national airline Garuda Indonesia today officially celebrated the first take-off of its very first ATR 72-600. The aircraft took to the sky from Denpasar (Bali) at 08.00 am (local time) in the presence of the management teams of the airline and ATR. Throughout this inaugural day the aircraft landed at the airports of Labuan Bajo (East Nusa Tenggara province) and Bima (West Nusa Tenggara province), where it has been welcomed and visited by local authorities and media. Today’s celebration follows the announcement earlier this year of the introduction of 25 firm ATR 72-600s, plus 10 options, into the fleet of the airline, in a joint agreement between the airline, ATR and the Danish leasing firm Nordic Aviation Capital. The airline’s regular scheduled operations with these new ATRs will start on December 3rd, with flights scheduled from Bali to Labuan Bajo and Ende, and from Bali to Bima and Mataram.

This ATR 72-600 is equipped with the new ‘Armonia’ cabin, specially designed for ATR by the Italian designer Giugiaro, featuring the most advanced standards of comfort and technologies. The ATR 72-600, which burns up to 50% less fuel than other equivalent-sized regional aircraft and which has operating costs well below those of its competitors, has clearly become the reference for regional transportation in South East Asia. ATR has received orders for more than 170 ATR 72s, mostly ’-600s’ from ASEAN carriers since 2005. This represents almost all the sales for regional aircraft below 90-seats in the region during this period.

In order to optimize the operation of this new fleet of 25 ATR 72-600s, Garuda Indonesia and ATR have recently signed a Global Maintenance Agreement (GMA) extending over ten years and covering the 25 aircraft fleet. Based on this agreement, ATR will handle –from its Customer Support Center in Singapore–, the management of the maintenance activities of Garuda Indonesia’s ATR fleet, while ensuring the availability of key spare parts, such as propellers and fuel nozzles.

Commenting on the first take-off of their ATR aircraft, Emirsyah Satar, President and Chief Executive Officer of Garuda Indonesia, declared: “Today’s flight is a major milestone in our policy of expanding regional connectivity across our country. The introduction of our new modern regional ATR turboprop aircraft represents a big step beyond of our ‘Quantum Leap 2011-2015’ transformation and expansion program, which aims to specially strengthen our domestic service”. He added: “This ATR 72-600 with “Explore” brand will increase the connectivity between new tourism and new economic growth destinations in remote areas as well as to explore the richness and diversity of Indonesia”.

Filippo Bagnato, Chief Executive Officer of ATR, declared: “ATR warmly congratulates Garuda Indonesia as they welcome the latest edition to their fleet, the ATR 72-600. We believe this modern turboprop will be an integral part of their ongoing business transformation and expansion program, while also showcasing their commitment to the advancement of the national connectivity “.
About the ATR 72-600:
Passenger capacity: 68 to 74 seats
Engines: Pratt & Whitney 127M
Maximum take-off power: 2,750 horsepower per engine
Maximum take-off weight: 23,000 kg
Maximum load: 7,500 kg
Maximum flight range when fully loaded: 900 nautical miles (1,665 km)

About Garuda Indonesia:
Garuda Indonesia is the "flag carrier" of Indonesia operating 126 aircraft (per H1-2013) to serve 39 domestic destinations and 20 international destinations across Southeast Asia (Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Singapore, and Bangkok), the Middle East (Jeddah and Abu Dhabi), Asia (Tokyo, Osaka, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Taipei, and Seoul), Australia (Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, and Brisbane), and Europe (Amsterdam), out of its four hubs in Indonesia, namely Jakarta, Denpasar, Makassar, and Medan. In line with improvements in various aspects of its performance and service, Garuda Indonesia has won a number of accolades and recognition from both national and international institutions, including “The World’s Best Economy Class” award from Skytrax in June 2013 and the “Best in Region: Asia and Australasia”, by the “Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX)”, in September 2013.

About ATR:
Founded in 1981, ATR has become the world leader on the market for regional aircraft with 90 seats or less. Since its creation, ATR has sold over 1,300 aircraft. With more than 21 million flying hours on the clock, ATR’s models are operated by 180 airlines in 90 countries. ATR is an equal partnership between two major European aeronautics players, Alenia Aermacchi (a Finmeccanica Group company) and EADS. Its head office is in Toulouse. ATR is ISO 14001 certified. This is the international reference standard in the field of environmental friendliness. For additional information, log on to www.atraircraft.com.

You can also follow ATR on its official YouTube channel: ATRbroadcast and on Twitter: @ATRaircraft.

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