

FEATURE

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Le Monde on Chinese airlines buy 292 Airbus planes for \$37 billion

Chinese airlines have struck a deal to buy 292 Airbus aircraft for \$37 billion, a boost for the aviation sector giant as Chinese travel restrictions ease

Le Monde with AFP

https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2022/07/01/chinese-airlines-buy-292-airbus-planes-for-37-billion_5988696_19.html#:~:text=1%20min.&text=Four%20Chinese%20airlines%20said%20Friday,rebuilds%20after%20the%20coronavirus%20pandemic.

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Time to 1 min.

Four Chinese airlines said Friday, July 1, they will buy a total of 292 planes from Airbus in a \$37 billion windfall for the aviation giant, as the industry rebuilds after the coronavirus pandemic. The orders come after a bumper year for Airbus, which posted record profits in 2021 after a two-year pandemic slump, giving the company a further boost over US rival Boeing.

China Eastern said Friday it had agreed to purchase 100 A320neo jets and China Southern said on the same day that it would buy 96 of the same model.

Air China and its subsidiary Shenzhen Airlines also confirmed the purchase of a combined 96 A320neo planes, according to separate filings.

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Airbus said in a statement Friday that the deals showed "the positive recovery momentum and prosperous outlook for the Chinese aviation market." It said the deals "brought to conclusion these long and extensive discussions that have taken place throughout the difficult Covid pandemic."

Boeing's business in China – one of the world's largest aviation markets – was hit in recent years by uncertainty over its 737 MAX planes, which were suspended from use in the country after deadly crashes in 2019. Chinese authorities finally gave the go-ahead for the 737 MAX to resume service last year after making a series of safety adjustments.

In March this year, a Boeing 737-800 crashed in the southern province of Guangxi, killing 132 people in China's worst air disaster in decades.

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Travel hit

China's travel industry has been hammered by the country's stringent zero-Covid policy, which has imposed sweeping lockdowns often over just a handful of cases and weighed on the economy and consumer confidence.

The country's international borders were shut in March 2020 and the number of international flights is still tightly restricted in an effort to tamp down "imported" virus cases. But there were hopes of some relaxation in the policy this week after Beijing said it would cut the length

of mandatory quarantine for inbound travelers – the biggest easing of entry restrictions yet after sticking to a rigid zero-Covid policy throughout the pandemic.

Air China on Friday said its latest purchase would "optimize fleet structure and supplement capacity in the long term." China also has high hopes for developing its own aircraft manufacturing industry, with attention focused on Comac's C919 narrow-body plane, a potential rival to Airbus and Boeing aircraft.

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Airbus

Excerpted from <https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airbus>

Airbus is a company which makes [aircraft](#). It is owned by [EADS](#), a European [aerospace](#) company. Airbus has its [headquarters](#) in [Blagnac](#), France.

Airbus began as a [consortium](#) (a group) of aircraft makers called Airbus Industrie.

Around 55,000 people work for Airbus] in sixteen places in four European countries: France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain.

Airbus A320, a truly global programme

Work sharing for the A320neo



The final part of Airbus aircraft making is done in Toulouse, France; Hamburg, Germany; Seville, Spain; and, since 2009, Tianjin, China.