

HAV's LAUNCH AIRLINE CUSTOMER...

Words and imagery reproduced from web-site and press releases with kind permission of HAV



On 15th June, 2022, Bedford-based Hybrid Air Vehicles, a UK leader in sustainable aircraft technologies, announced an aircraft reservation agreement with one of the largest regional airlines in Europe, Air Nostrum Group. This landmark partnership sees Air Nostrum reserve ten 100-seat Airlander 10 aircraft for delivery from 2026 onwards, with a view to begin operations as the launch airline.

While the Air Nostrum Airlander 10 fleet is set for initial operations across Spain, HAV plans launch production of the aircraft in South Yorkshire UK, this year, creating around 1,800 skilled jobs in green aerospace technologies and supporting levelling up across the region. This will be part of a new aerospace manufacturing cluster in South Yorkshire.

The reservation agreement follows six months of rigorous studies and modelling carried out by Air Nostrum Group and HAV into the operation of Airlander 10 on Spanish domestic aviation routes and the associated economics.

Airlander 10 aircraft are expected to diversify and complement Air Nostrum Group's existing aircraft fleet currently operating on these routes, carrying 100 passengers while producing only around one tenth of the harmful emissions.

George Land, HAV's Commercial Business Development Director explained a bit more about the deal.

"Air Nostrum will be our launch customer for Airlander 10 in the mobility role, using a cabin configuration that allows Air Nostrum to carry up to 100 passengers on short haul, regional routes. Air Nostrum will take delivery of its first aircraft from 2026. This will follow our first three Airlander 10's, which are already reserved for use in the luxury and expeditionary travel market.

Back in early 2021, we decided to launch a new sales campaign for Airlander 10 in the passenger transport sector, in response to obvious pressure that was building in the sector to decarbonise.

We are delighted to have Airlander's suitability in this market validated by Air Nostrum.

In Air Nostrum we have a fantastic launch airline customer. In particular, the airline is very keen to reduce emissions within its operations in the near term, while also looking to offer an enhanced passenger experience to its customers. The unique features of Airlander make it an excellent solution to deliver on both of these fronts.

Air Nostrum has a mainly domestic Spanish network. In Spain and elsewhere, domestic aviation presents the best opportunity to decarbonise early. Airlander 10 will be available to complement the airline's existing fleet of regional jets and turboprops. As always, we have a lot of hard work to do to move this deal forward and we are treading on new ground every day as we work on the contract. I look forward to the future, securing further mobility customers for Airlander 10."

When asked why Air Nostrum selected the Airlander 10 to diversify its fleet, Managing Director, Miguel Ángel Falcón Martín, said...

"The shareholders of Air Nostrum view our Group as a mobility platform to transport passengers between city pairs, and we use the most effective vehicle for each route. We are involved in high speed trains to connect highly populated cities. In the regional airline sector, we also use different aircraft types in accordance with the type of routes operated: 100 seat jets for longer and higher passenger density routes, but we also use 50 seat jets on longer thinner routes, and finally, we use 70 seat turboprops on the short-range routes and special performance airfields. The Airlander brings an additional dimension to our aerial operations, by being able to provide 100 seat capacity, predominantly in short range regional flights, with the capacity to operate in cities with no airports, operating both on land or water. This complements and enhances our operational regional route network, with the added advantage of burning very low fuel and therefore generating extremely low CO2 emissions. This makes the Airlander 10 very economically attractive, as well as very ecologically friendly."

For more information on this story please visit <http://hybridairvehicles.com/news-and-media>

