LUFTHANSA AVIATION TRAINING BECOMES LAUNCH CUSTOMER FOR THE ALL-ELECTRIC EDA40

News / Maintenance / Trainings, Manufacturer

An LOI was signed between Diamond Aircraft Austria and Lufthansa Aviation Training to jointly explore and develop opportunities for a more sustainable flight training. The cooperation includes testing of the all-electric eDA40 in a real training environment, an eDA40 purchase intention to supplement the current DA40 NG fleet as well as analyses for the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels . Diamond Aircraft and LAT are both committed to the targets of the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Aviation Programme by EASA. With this collaboration both companies agreed on shaping a sustainable future for aviation together.

Diamond Aircraft has always been at the forefront when it comes to environmentally friendly flying with its fleet of piston aircraft powered by efficient jet-fuel engines burning less and lead-free fuel. With the announcement of the all-electric eDA40 the company is taking its sustainable approach one step further. With the #MakeChangeFly program, the Lufthansa Group wants to lead into a

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sustainable future with the goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2050 and cutting its net carbon emissions in half by 2030 compared to 2019 by continuously implementing a wide range of innovative measures.

Matthias Spohr, CEO Lufthansa Aviation Training, commented: "We have enjoyed a long and trusting partnership with Diamond Aircraft. Diamond Aircraft's fuel-efficient DA40 and DA42 models are already operating very successfully at our flight schools in Rostock (Germany) and Grenchen (Switzerland). I am very pleased that with the signing of the LOI for the all-electric eDA40, we are now jointly opening a groundbreaking chapter in the topic of sustainability. This topic is of particular significance for our European Flight Academy, which is known for its high and globally recognized quality standards in selection and training. The testing of the all-electric eDA40 is an important step towards future pilot training in an even more environmentally friendly manner."

Liqun (Frank) Zhang, CEO Diamond Aircraft Austria, said: “We are excited and honored to announce renowned Lufthansa Aviation Training as our launch customer for our all-electric eDA40 and as a strong partner for an important and trendsetting collaboration for a better tomorrow. Creating an eco-conscious and cost-effective option for the training market has always been at the core of Diamond Aircraft. The eDA40 with its proven airframe, the quick recharge capability and the low operating cost will be an excellent aircraft for LAT’s carbon neutral approach. With our agreement we expect a huge step towards a greener aviation future and to develop the most advanced electric training aircraft in the world.”

Within the scope of the collaboration, the eDA40 will be tested in a real training environment at LAT’s Switzerland base in Grenchen. Results will help to further develop the e-aircraft for flight training and to explore options for a suitable operation of a mixed training fleet consisting of the eDA40 and the conventional AUSTRO jet-fuel powered DA40 NG. LAT has declared its intention to be the eDA40 launch customer for the EASA region and purchase a number of eDA40 for their

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flight training program to comply with the Lufthansa Group sustainability targets. More information on that will be released at a later stage. In addition, both companies will analyze and develop the use of SAF fuels for the entire Diamond piston aircraft range and jointly work on further projects such as sustainable propulsions, further operational options for trainer aircraft and synthetic flight training devices.

eDA40 first trial phase at LAT’s Grenchen, Switzerland base is expected to take place end of 2023/beginning of 2024, after technical clearance is provided.

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