

Sojitz Cororation

Sojitz Receives Order for Flight Checker from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

(Japan, December 20, 2004)--Sojitz Corporation has been awarded an order worth 3,234 million yen for 1 unit of 'low and medium-altitude aircraft (Flight Checker) for flight inspections' by the Civil Aviation Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

Sojitz, the exclusive sales agent in Japan for the Canada-based regional aircraft manufacturer Bombardier Aerospace, proposed a new type of flight checker based on a Bombardier Dash8-Q300 turboprop aircraft (propeller aircraft), into which had been incorporated inspection equipment made by Norwegian Special Mission (in Oslo, Norway), and the company's tender offer has been accepted. The flight checker is scheduled for delivery at Haneda Airport in December 2006.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, which owned 6 units of 'YS-11' turboprop flight inspection aircraft, began replacing aging aircraft in 1998. A Dash8-Q300 will be delivered as one of successor models, together with a 'SAAB2000' manufactured by SAAB Aerospace in Sweden, and a Bombardier 'BD-700'.

Flight inspections are carried out on actual flights on flight checker aircraft, in order to see whether the appropriate functions are properly maintained for aviation security facilities, air-traffic control facilities and air-traffic control communication facilities, which are used for the safe navigation of aircraft. Various investigations are also carried out in addition to, and in conjunction with flight inspections. Flight inspections are thus essential operations for aviation security. As a result of comprehensive evaluation of performance, etc., the 'Dash8-Q300 aircraft' was found to be the most suitable model. The broad specifications of the Dash8-Q300 are an overall wingspan of 27.43 meters, an overall length of 25.68 meters and an overall height of 7.49 meters. The aircraft has a maximum cruising speed of 500 km/h and a maximum operating altitude of 7,620 meters, is powered by two PW123E2 engines, and has a maximum take-off weight of 19,000 kg.

Since 1978, Sojitz has served as the exclusive sales agent in Japan for Bombardier Aerospace regional aircraft. Further, in December 2004, the company also obtained the rights to market Bombardier business aircraft (private jets).



Dash8-Q300 model aircraft to be used as the base.

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