



Finnair Becomes First Carrier to Operate Sharklet-Equipped Airbus A321

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Finnair has become the first airline in the world to operate Airbus A321 aircraft equipped with fuel-saving Sharklet wing tip devices.

Finland's national carrier, which is the launch customer for the [Airbus A321](#) equipped with Sharklets, has taken delivery of the first of five Sharklet-equipped A321s it has on order.

[Finnair](#) expects another two to enter its fleet later this year and the two remaining A321s to be delivered in the first half of 2014.



Finnair took delivery on September 6, 2013 of the first Airbus A321 fitted with Sharklets. The Finnish carrier was the launch customer for the Sharklet-equipped A321, with an order for five. This photograph shows the aircraft taking off from Finkenwerder airfield in Hamburg, where Airbus has an A319 and A321 final assembly line

The aircraft will eventually replace four [Boeing 757-200](#) jets now in Finnair's fleet, making it an all-Airbus operator. Airbus estimates each Sharklet-equipped A321 will be about 7 per cent more fuel efficient per seat than the 757s they replace.

Finnair's first new Airbus A321 was officially handed over to Ville Iho, the airline's chief operating officer, during a delivery ceremony at the Airbus facilities in Hamburg, Germany.

According to Finnair, the five A321s will offer more flexibility and interoperability between European scheduled and leisure flights than the 757s they replace, driving up aircraft utilization and thus improving returns on its fleet investment.



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The new aircraft also complete Finnair's shift to an all-Airbus fleet, bringing further cost efficiencies in maintenance and pilot training to flight operations.

Finnair's first Sharklet-equipped A321, registered OH-LZG, left the [Airbus](#) facility in Hamburg on September 6 to enter service immediately in Finnair's fleet.



Finnair selected IAE V2533-A5 engines for its order of five A321s with Sharklets

"Since Finnair began flying 90 years ago, the company has prided itself on flying with the most modern aircraft available. Today is a good day for Finnair as we mark a continuation of that tradition, as the launch customer for the A321 with Sharklets," said Iho.

"Fleet investments are key to sustainable and economical flight operations, saving on both fuel costs and carbon emissions – now even more important in the emissions trading era," added Iho. "As we develop our European network to complement our long-haul Asian routes, realising the cost savings and efficiencies of a modern fleet helps ensure profitable growth in the future for Finnair."

Finnair already operates 25 [Airbus A320-family](#) aircraft, eight Airbus A330-300s and seven A340-300s. Finnair was the first airline to commit to the Airbus A350 XWB, with a total of 11 aircraft on order.

To date, more than 9,800 A320-family have been ordered and over 5,700 delivered to more than 390 customers and operators worldwide.

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