

INTERNATIONAL AVIATION BUSINESS: NEW AIRLINE SKYUP IN UKRAINE

New Ukrainian start-up airline launches operations. Ukrainian low-cost carrier SkyUp Airlines started business at the weekend with a single aircraft operation (UR-SQA) and a second Boeing 737-800 (UR-SQB) joined the flight charter programme on May 25.

SkyUP is a young Ukrainian airline which operates charter and international flights. It was registered in June 2017 in Kiev. Its leader was a well-known aviation expert, who previously worked in a number of airlines, Yevgeny Haynatsky. Most of the flights will be charter.

Ukraine's new low-cost airline, made their first flight from Ukraine on May 21 as a chartered flight from Kyiv Zhuliany airport touched down at the popular resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Airline will be operated from Kiev, Kharkiv, Lviv, Odessa and other cities of Ukraine in 16 directions. Domestic flights will start in June and will initially be performed from Odessa to Kiev, Kharkiv and Lviv. The carrier's international flights will initially focus on leisure destinations in Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and Cyprus. The carrier also plans to develop a European network of low-cost flights. SkyUp Airlines is the first airline in Ukraine to sign a new aircraft contract generation Boeing 737 MAX and made the first tranche. It is connected with the ANEX Tour operator and performs charter flights. A very important point is that SkyUp will cooperate with existing players in the market.

In fact, SkyUp is a privately owned company founded by Yuri Alba, the man behind a tour operator Join UP. SkyUp is a national company in the sense that it is being established with 100 percent Ukrainian capital without state participation.

As SkyUp expand the number of aircraft in their fleet, they're expected to carry more than 650,000 passengers within a year.

Currently, national carrier Ukraine International Airlines, or UIA, has something of a monopoly in Ukraine. As more Ukrainians than ever before take to the skies, the number of international flights to and from Ukraine continues to grow. Since Ukraine was granted visa-free regime with the European Union and approved ID-card only travel with Turkey earlier this year, the country's aviation market has seen a surge of interest from foreign airlines.

References:

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