

8th October 2021

Press Release

Greater Bay Airlines receives Air Operator's Certificate, becoming 8th airline in Hong Kong

Greater Bay Airlines (GBA), Hong Kong's value carrier, today announced that it has received an Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) from the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department (HKCAD). This is the first essential step in qualifying GBA to fly for the purpose of public transport when complying with the Air Transport (Licensing of Air Services) Regulations.

Securing the AOC highlights that Greater Bay Airlines has all the professional capabilities, complies to all safety regulations needed for aircraft operations and has proven full completion of stringent inspections by Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department (HKCAD). GBA will continue to work closely with the Air Transport Licensing Authority (ATLA) on licence approval and will prepare for formal launch of public transport.

Greater Bay Airlines was established in response to the 14th Five-Year Plan for national strategy to develop the Greater Bay Area in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau with the integration of Hong Kong into the overall development of the country. In accordance with the CE's 2021 Policy Address, the full completion of the Third Runway System at the Hong Kong International Airport is scheduled for 2024 which enables a "city airport" to transform into an "Airport City". This will further strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international aviation hub.

Other cross-boundary infrastructure measures included by the task force for Hong Kong-Shenzhen cooperation on Cross-Boundary Railway Infrastructure, as highlighted in the Policy Address include the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, high-speed ferries to the SkyPier, high-speed rail from Hong Kong to Shenzhen and Guangzhou, an extensive motorway network, and more border crossings such as Liantang all of which combine to help Hong Kong integrate into the "one-hour living circle" in the Greater Bay Area, and enhance connectivity of infrastructure in the Greater Bay Area.

Algernon Yau, CEO, said: "Today's announcement is a message of positivity that reflects the vision of GBA. Although it is very challenging in setting up and launching a new airline during the pandemic, obtaining the AOC during this time reflects our

commitment to the aviation development of Hong Kong and the support of CE's 2021 Policy Address, as well as the readiness to launch our operations. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my team, partners, and authorities in the application and processing of the AOC. We look forward to the start of operations soon.”

About Greater Bay Airlines

GBA is an international carrier that offers scheduled passenger and cargo services. The company operates predominately airline business and conducts airline operations principally to and from Hong Kong.

Contact Person

Ms. Anna CHEUNG

Head of Marketing and Customer Experience

(852) 3956 6120

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When are you expecting to be granted the Air Transport Licence?

A: **Our Air Transport Licence by ATLA is in progress and we're working closely with great support from authorities.**

Q: Is it correct to say that if you get the AOC, you can fly charter flights until you receive the air transport licence, then after that you can fly scheduled flights?

A: **An airline can plan to fly scheduled flights once an air transport licence has been granted, whether to operate chartered or scheduled flights is subject to regulatory approval.**

Q: When are you aiming to launch your first flight?

A: **We are still in the early days of all regulatory processes, so we shall plan for our first flight when the situation is clearer.**

Q: Greater Bay Airlines has plans to operate flights from Hong Kong to Southeast Asian countries. Where is the destination of the first flight?

A: **Subject to regulatory approval, GBA has applied for air transport licence for a total of 104 destinations across the region, including Chinese Mainland, North Asia, and Southeast Asia. Subject to market environment and business recovery under the pandemic situation, we hope to gradually fly to these areas.**

We aim to operate to Singapore, Bangkok and Phuket subject to regulatory approval and the pandemic situation.

Q: Besides three Boeing 737-800 aircraft, what's your purchasing plan of aircraft?

A: **As of today, we have leased three Boeing 737-800 aircrafts and we plan to gradually bring them into operation. Subject to our business expansion plan, we aim to have 7 aircrafts by the end of 2022. Our current fleet expansion plan is to have more than 30 aircrafts by 2026, subject to market environment and business recovery under the pandemic situation.**

Q: What's your view of airlines' future business growth opportunities after the COVID-19 pandemic caused a negative impact on the aviation industry?

A: **The full completion of the Third Runway System at the Hong Kong International Airport is scheduled for 2024 will further strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international aviation hub and as a connecting point into the Greater Bay Area. Cross-border infrastructure such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, high-speed ferries to the SkyPier at HKIA, high-speed rail from Hong Kong to Shenzhen and Guangzhou, an extensive motorway network, and more border crossings such as the one opened at Liantang in 2020 will facilitate travel within the region and provide us with huge business growth opportunities.**

Q: What's your competitive advantage and uniqueness over other established carriers in the region?

A: **Greater Bay Airlines is a value carrier. We provide passenger with choice of their own and seamless journey through digitalization.**