

Airbus says airlines in SA must spend US\$29-billion

Airlines operating in South Africa will need to buy about 180 new planes by 2030, at an estimated cost of US\$29-billion, to meet the growing demand for air travel from passengers according to Airbus.



The aircraft manufacturer says that overall, airlines in India and Africa will need to increase their fleets by more than 1 000 planes in the next 20 years. Its statistics for South Africa show that this country will need 93 single aisle aircraft and 80 twin aisle planes. It will also need at least 13 of the super-sized A380 planes for inter-continental flights.

The predictions, from Andrew Gordon, Airbus director for strategic marketing and analysis are based on the fact that South Africa has experienced a 45% increase in air traffic since 2000 as a result of more tourists and business travellers coming to the country.

He says that the average annual increase in the number of passengers flying to and from South Africa is forecast to grow at 6%, slightly higher than the world average of 4,8%.

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