



RISE AIR PIONEERS ATR -600 SERIES ENTRY INTO CANADA

News / Airlines, Manufacturer



ATR announced that Rise Air, a 100 per cent Indigenous-owned airline providing essential services across Saskatchewan, is upgrading its fleet with three new 68-seat [ATR 72-600](#), becoming the Canadian launch customer for the latest generation ATR -600 series. The first aircraft is a firm order with ATR, set to be delivered by the end of 2025. The company plans to lease two others for delivery in 2026.

Derek Nice, President and CEO at Rise Air, commented: “We are thrilled to be introducing the ATR 72-600 to Canada, bringing our customers more comfortable, more reliable air service at remote work sites and communities across the north. The ATR 72-600’s outstanding performance and low environmental footprint make it the perfect choice for operating in the diverse and challenging conditions where we operate. We look forward to continuing to enhance regional connectivity and support economic growth in the areas we serve.”

Nathalie Tarnaud Laude, Chief Executive Officer of ATR, said: “We are delighted to support Rise Air as they introduce the first ATR 72-600 in Canada, marking a double milestone as it also represents the debut of the -600 series in the country. This agreement not only reinforces the strength of our aircraft in the regional market but also demonstrates the growing interest in the ATR -600 series for markets like Canada, where replacing older aircraft with efficient, high-performance alternatives and enhancing year-round connectivity in extreme weather conditions are crucial. We look forward to working with Rise Air to deliver exceptional service to Canadian

communities.”

ATR turboprops are flying in 100 countries, often in challenging conditions, providing vital connectivity to the local communities. They are known for their low operating costs and ability to operate on unpaved and short runways in extreme weather conditions, including temperatures as low as -45°C. While earlier generations of the ATR 42 and ATR 72 are operated by Rise Air and eight other Canadian passenger and cargo airlines, totalling over 50 aircraft, this landmark agreement represents a significant milestone for both Rise Air and ATR, bringing the newest version to Canada.

The latest ATR 72-600 is fitted with new [PW127XT](#) engines produced by Pratt & Whitney Canada in Montreal, which offer high reliability, lower maintenance costs, and a remarkable 45% reduction in CO2 emissions compared to similar-sized regional jets. The ATR 72-600 also brings an enhanced passenger experience thanks to its modern cabin with large overhead bins, comfortable 18-inch-wide seats, and upgraded air conditioning and heating system. The aircraft’s fuel efficiency, lower operating costs, increased availability, and improved reliability make it an ideal choice for operators looking to replace ageing fleets.

Rise Air’s commitment to the ATR -600 series is the largest investment the airline has made in its 69-year history and is the biggest step to date in its fleet renewal programme. The agreement with ATR represents generational change, positioning Rise Air to operate the most modern regional aircraft fleet in Canada.

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