

Aircraft christening: Condor Airbus A320 gets a nostalgic makeover

Airbus A320 D-AICA is named after Hans Geisler, the flight charter pioneer

Kelsterbach, December 5, 2011 – At Berlin-Schönefeld airport today, Condor Flugdienst GmbH is unveiling the nostalgic makeover given to an Airbus A320, that harks back to the early sixties. This aircraft has the registration D-AICA, and has been ceremonially christened “Hans”, after the travel entrepreneur Hans Geisler. His daughters Sybille Geisler and Susanne Dannhof are godmothers to the plane in its smart, retro-look paint job. Hans Geisler was the founder of Geisler Tours, and in 1956, he chartered the first flight of an airline that at the time was called “Deutsche Flugdienst GmbH”, but which later became Condor.

“Condor is an airline with tradition, the longest tradition of all the leisure airlines flying in Europe. For more than 55 years, we have been taking people on vacation to the most beautiful destinations in the world. Hans Geisler was the first to put his trust in us when he and around 100 tourists went traveling to Jerusalem and Egypt on three Vickers Viking aircraft. Now more than six million passengers fly with us every year”, says Achim Lameyer, Sales Vice President at Condor. “We think our nostalgic aircraft is fantastic, as it reminds us of our tradition and a time when leisure flights in Germany were only just starting. Condor is still the pioneer when it comes to holiday flights. We are the first leisure airline to offer Comfort Class as well as Premium Economy, and will be the first airline in the world to offer our in-flight program via W-LAN in the aircraft.”

The Managing Director of Condor Berlin GmbH Frank Dräger was delighted: “We think it is really special to have this nostalgic aircraft flying as part of Condor’s Airbus fleet. And it is not just the paint job, as our passengers also have a new cabin to look forward to. The entire Condor Airbus fleet is the first customer worldwide to have been retrofitted with the cabin interiors of a brand-new Airbus A320. Passengers will find that the cabin is brighter, there is more room in the overhead lockers and the soundproofing is more efficient. This has also reduced the weight of the cabin, meaning that we will be able to save fuel.”

After the Second World War, Hans Geisler worked as a tour guide in Munich, before becoming the Managing Director of a travel agency in Frankfurt at the start of the fifties. In 1956, he set up his own business with Geisler Tours. Since his retirement in 1996, his two daughters have run the company as a specialist organizer, putting together custom-made trips for companies and private individuals. Hans Geisler died on December 4, 2009, at the age of 80.

In addition to the newly christened nostalgic Airbus A320 with registration D-AICA, three other Condor aircraft are currently graced with special paint jobs, but this time with Peanuts cartoon characters. The Boeing 767-300 with registration D-ABUH is “Charlie Brown”, the Boeing 757-300 with registration D-

ABOJ is "Woodstock", and the Airbus A320 is "Snoopy". The Boeing 757-300 with registration D-ABON that has a special paint job with hearts to mark Condor's fiftieth birthday, is christened "Willi".

We are happy to supply editorial offices with photos, on request.

Condor Flugdienst GmbH was founded in 1956 and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Thomas Cook, one of the world's leading travel companies. Every year some six million passengers fly with Condor to over 70 destinations in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. The fleet of this leisure carrier consists of 35 modern and environmentally friendly aircraft: twelve Airbus A320s, 13 Boeing 757-300s and ten Boeing 767-300s. All Boeing planes are maintained by Condor Technik GmbH, and maintenance of the Airbus fleet is handled by Condor Berlin GmbH. Both are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Condor Flugdienst GmbH.

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