CESSNA GRAND CARAVAN EX AMPHIBIAN EXTENDS REACH IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH DELIVERY IN MALAYSIA

News / Business aviation, Manufacturer

Malaysian property developer, Ikhasas, via its subsidiary company Oriental Sky took delivery of a new Cessna Grand Caravan EX Amphibian turboprop. The aircraft, to be managed and operated by local charter operator Systematic Aviation Services, will be used for passenger transport between the capital city of Kuala Lumpur and a new waterfront resort on Perhentian islands, off the northern east coast of Malaysia. This will be the country' first amphibious airplane operation in recent history after it gained necessary approvals from the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia to launch domestic operations in 2024.

Ikhasas group managing director, Ir. Tan Chee Kian,commented: "Seaplanes will be the most convenient way to reach the Perhentian Islands. Currently, it takes a time-consuming 6-hour road journey followed by a one-hour ferry ride from the port in Kuala Besut. With our 11-seater aircraft, travelers will benefit from time savings as it will transport passengers from Kuala Lumpur to land directly in the waters near the beachside resort. At the same time, we preserve the islands' pristine

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environment and natural forests which would otherwise be felled for airport construction.”

Tony Jones, vice president, International Sales (Asia-Pacific), said: “We are honored for Grand Caravan EX Amphibian to be selected. The versatility and excellent operating economics make it the perfect partner for Ikhasas to develop sustainable tourism. The comfortable cabin, large windows for sightseeing, and floats allowing it to take off and land anywhere are ideal for their missions.Malaysia is also an important market to Textron Aviation. Our products lead the installed base and make up over 40% of the country’s general aviation aircraft. Our customers in Malaysia use our products for a variety of operations including VIP transport, tourism, as well as other special missions such as air ambulances, and skydiving.”

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