

Air Mauritius pretax profit down for first half of financial year

PORT LOUIS (Reuters) - Air Mauritius's pretax profit fell to 6.60 million euros in the half year ended Sept. 30, the company said on Thursday, down from 15.95 million euros in the same period last year due to a loss in the first quarter.

The Indian Ocean island's national carrier said its passenger numbers grew 6.6 percent to 810,239 from 759,957.

"The good performance in the second quarter has allowed the company to absorb the first quarter loss and show profit in the first six months," the airline said in a statement.

In October, the airline added a brand new A350 to its fleet. A second one is earmarked for delivery by the end of this month.

Revenue rose to 253 million euros from 244 million euros, it said.

Air Mauritius said the second half of its financial year will be very challenging with the arrival of new players and fiercer competition on various routes.

It also expects prevailing fuel prices and any movement on the EUR/USD exchange rate to influence its full-year results.

(Reporting by Jean Paul Arouff; Editing by Katharine Houreld and Hugh Lawson)

2017-11-09 13:20:51



AIRCRAFTS ON THE MOVE IN CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT IN HONG KONG.



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