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Metavia now a subsidiary of SA Airlink

Stephane Bothma

PRETORIA - SA Airways (SAA) partner airline SA Airlink has bought the Nelspruit-based independent carrier Metavia Airlines for an undisclosed sum.

The move will see the SA Airlink feeder network expanding into Swaziland and Mozambique.

According to a joint announcement by the two carriers, Metavia would with immediate effect become a wholly owned subsidiary of SA Airlink and would continue operating, but under the name of its new owner.

The acquisition would bring about inevitable rationalisation of air services in the regions served by Metavia.

"With the opportunity for growth and expansion presented by the deal, SA Airlink will be increasing its staff complement moderately and wherever possible will be seeking to employ existing Metavia staff," a spokesman said.

The Metavia routes will be consolidated into the SA Airlink network and will be serviced by the capacity within SA Airlink's existing fleet of 12 British Aerospace Jetstream 41 turboprop aircraft.

Benefits to travellers will include the participation in the SAA Voyager frequent flyer programme, and the option of multiple city pair options through the co-ordinated flight schedules of SAA, SA Express and SA Airlink alliance partners.

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