

RwandAir has added an Airbus A330-200 to its fleet as the national carrier builds capacity to expand its long-haul network.

The aircraft was received on Monday, Aug. 24, and is the first of five aircraft the airline plans to acquire as part of its expansion programme.

The additional wide-body aircraft gives RwandAir more capacity as it seeks to increase flights on existing international routes and open new destinations.

RwandAir said the acquisition was another step in its efforts to improve passenger services and strengthen Rwanda's connections with international markets.

The airline currently operates Airbus A330 aircraft on its long-haul network, serving destinations including London, Paris and Brussels, with the wide-body aircraft also used on services to Lagos.

The latest A330-200 is expected to give the carrier more flexibility as it works to grow its network. RwandAir has identified additional European and Asian destinations as part of its longer-term expansion plans, including Frankfurt, Guangzhou and Mumbai.

RwandAir has previously operated the A330-200 in a 244-seat configuration, with business, premium economy and economy-class cabins.

The fleet expansion comes as Rwanda seeks to increase air connectivity and support the growth of tourism, trade and business. The government's transport strategy calls for an increase in the number of destinations served by RwandAir and a significant rise in passenger numbers over the coming years.

The new aircraft will add capacity to RwandAir's existing operations as the airline works to serve more destinations and accommodate rising demand for international travel.