Airbus jetliners have become the aircraft of choice for operators worldwide – from low-cost carriers to full-service airlines flying many of the longest routes around the globe. On the forefront of competitive advantages enjoyed by the Airbus aircraft family is the concept of Flight Operational Commonality or FOC.

The entire range of Airbus new-generation airliners features virtually identical flight decks, common systems and fly-by-wire controls. Consequently, handling characteristics, flight procedures and crew task sharing are so similar that pilots trained on one of these aircraft feel equally at home in any of the others. This enables them and the airlines they work for to benefit from CCQ and MFF.

Flight crew training is essential to a pilot’s proficiency and career path but it is expensive and imposes a heavy burden upon an airline’s organization. The conventional method of training pilots to move from one aircraft type to another typically keeps them off the duty roster for five weeks. This, together with type-specific annual training requirements, would normally make multi-type qualification uneconomic.

**FOC benefits for airlines**

- Greater operational flexibility
- Lower training costs and less time spent in training
- More efficient flying roster
- Reduced reserve pilot requirements

**FOC benefits for pilots**

- More balanced workload
- Enhanced proficiency
- Better job prospects
- Greater motivation

Fly-by-wire flight controls and a consistent flight deck and systems design philosophy enable Airbus to offer
Cross Crew Qualification (CCQ) programmes and Mixed Fleet Flying (MFF) opportunities to operators having more than one Airbus aircraft type.

The Airbus FOC features:

- STR (Same Type Rating)
  Flying several aircraft models with a single licence endorsement

- CCQ (Cross Crew Qualification)
  Taking credit for learning already done

- MFF (Mixed Fleet Flying)
  Multi-type flying by one pool of pilots