

Ampaire Receives Order for Up to Six Eco Caravan Upgrades from Azul Conecta



Azul Conecta Will Provide Eco Caravan Conversions Throughout South America

Los Angeles (January 31, 2023) Ampaire, a leader in electric aviation, announced today a letter of intent to upgrade Conecta’s Grand Caravans to Ampaire Eco Caravans. The core of the Eco Caravan is the AMP-H570 hybrid-electric powertrain and battery pack. The regional airline is a subsidiary of Azul, Brazil’s largest airline by passenger volume, departures, and cities served.

The Azul Conecta order follows the first flight of the Eco Caravan in November 2022 and the announcement days later of a \$9 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy to help Ampaire advance systems so that they are ready for FAA certification and series production.

Conecta’s regional network benefits from Eco Caravan

Azul Conecta serves 84 destinations within Brazil with a fleet of 27 Caravans. The Eco Caravan will meet the regional carrier’s objectives of reducing operating costs by 25 percent or more while advancing the carrier’s sustainability objectives and seamlessly integrating into its current operations.

“We are thrilled to work with the visionary team at Azul Conecta,” said Ampaire CEO Kevin Noertker. “They are among a group of established air carriers ready to embrace a hybrid-electric solution, providing leadership for an entire industry.”

Azul ordered upgrade kits for its Caravan fleet because it sees the hybrid-electric solution as the fastest way to deploy sustainable technologies, benefiting passengers and the environment.



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“After evaluating a range of technologies, including fully-electric and hydrogen fuel cells, we concluded that Ampaire moves us toward our ESG goals much sooner,” said Flavio Costa, Azul Conecta’s CEO. “Azul Conecta has innovation as a mission and sees the upgrade to the Eco Caravan as a major innovation that accelerates our path to sustainability, maintaining a safety standard in our operations, which is our first and non-negotiable value.”

Azul Conecta will work in consultation with Ampaire to develop charging infrastructure across Conecta’s bases and at other airports, said Costa. The airline will also provide services to other Eco Caravan operators throughout South America.

Net zero emissions with SAF

The AMP-H570 integrates a combustion engine with an electric drivetrain. The Eco Caravan reduces fuel consumption and emissions by up to 70 percent. Emissions are near zero when using sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The cost of operation is reduced 25 percent or more depending on route structure. Cost per available seat mile is near that of driving, helping airlines manage costs and benefiting passengers.

The hybrid-electric aircraft preserves the range/payload capability of the Cessna Grand Caravan, carrying upwards of nine passengers or more than 2,500 pounds of cargo. Maximum range is over 1,100 miles, exceeding that of the Grand Caravan. The Eco Caravan’s excellent range and load hauling capability is in marked contrast to proposed all-electric, hydrogen-electric and even other hybrid-electric aircraft. While Azul Conecta will develop charging stations, the Eco Caravan can operate independently of charging infrastructure where necessary, providing all of the flexibility of today’s aircraft.

The first in a new generation of sustainable electric aircraft

The Eco Caravan’s propulsion technology is scalable to larger regional aircraft and ultimately to single-aisle airliners. Ampaire plans to rapidly roll out more powerful propulsion systems for larger aircraft. “The Eco Caravan is the first step to larger hybrid-electric propulsion systems and ultimately zero-emission systems as energy storage technology advances,” said Noertker.

First to market

Ampaire is working with the FAA to certify the Eco Caravan in 2024 under a supplemental type certificate (STC). The Ampaire approach differs from others in that it does not require a full aircraft certification, which can be time consuming and very expensive. Ampaire will work with Azul Conecta’s assistance to achieve additional certification from Brazil’s ANAC.



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About Ampaire

Los Angeles-based Ampaire was formed in 2016 with a mission to become the world's most-trusted developer of practical, compelling electric aircraft. The company has developed a platform of technologies to upgrade passenger and cargo aircraft to hybrid-electric power—the quickest, most capital efficient approach to making commercial electric air travel a reality with available technology.

Ampaire has scored a series of industry firsts since the 2019 maiden flight of its Electric EEL technology testbed aircraft, including the longest flight for a hybrid-electric aircraft--1,135 statute miles en-route from Los Angeles to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and flying the world's largest hybrid-electric passenger plane, the Eco Caravan. For more information about Ampaire, <https://www.ampaire.com>.

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About Azul Conecta

Azul Conecta is a Brazilian Airline operating domestic flights. It was founded in 2013 and in 2020 it was acquired by Azul Linhas Aéreas Brasileiras S.A. becoming a part of the group.

Azul Conecta has more than 80 daily departures to over 84 destinations, creating an unparalleled network carried more than 7000 passengers in 2022.

In addition to having a substantial network, optimized fleet and a high quality product with 24 Cessna Grand Caravan/Caravan EX and 3 exclusive cargo aircraft, Azul Conecta has 8 operational bases all over Brazilian territory.

As a part of Azul's group that was recognized for adopting the best practices in environmental management among national airline by SustentAir project, launched by the National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC) in 2022, Azul Conecta is reinforcing with this project its commitments to socio-environmental responsibility and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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