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Leasing Company Buys 8 Sukhoi Superjets for European Market

By The Moscow Times

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Leasing company Ilyushin Finance has signed a deal with Sukhoi Civil Aircraft to buy eight Superjet 100 planes, which will be flown by European carriers.

The contract, worth $290 million, was signed at the Farnborough International Air show in Britain, RIA Novosti reported Wednesday.

The chief of Ilyushin Finance, Alexander Rubtsov, said the order has been made on behalf of European companies, who will pay an effective interest rate of 3 to 4 percent.

Sukhoi's Superjet 100, which seats about 100 passengers and was first unveiled in 2007, was intended to revitalize Russia's once-mighty civil aviation industry, but has struggled to find buyers.

Earlier this week, Kazakh national airline Bek Air bought seven of the planes. Sukhoi says

on its website that it has racked up a total of 179 orders for the planes.

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