

## Stelios offers £5m bounty for easyJet whistleblower

### Airline founder escalates battle with easyJet management over £4.5bn Airbus order he claims it cannot afford

By Alan Tovey, INDUSTRY EDITOR

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EasyJet founder Sir Stelios Haji-loannou is offering a £5m "bounty" to whistleblowers for tips leading to the airline scrapping its order for more than 100 new Airbus planes.

The reward is the latest move in the entrepreneur's battle with easyJet management. He wants the carrier to cancel a £4.5bn order with Airbus for aircraft he claimed it cannot afford and did not need with so many flights grounded.

The Greek-Cypriot billionaire wants the order abandoned to preserve cash for the airline in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

In an open letter, Sir Stelios said he is "willing to offer a reward of up to £5m in cash out of his own money to

any whistle-blower who provides useful information that leads to the cancellation of the order".

He appealed for information from "current or past hard-working easyJet employees or anyone else who has seen anything suspicious by anyone inside easyJet in their dealings with Airbus".

Whistleblowers will be offered anonymity and have any legal costs covered, Sir Stelios said.

He added he is willing to hand over "around £10,000" for "quick wins/tips".

The offer is also open to those outside the company, with the entrepreneur appealing to easyJet suppliers, Airbus employees and aircraft financiers and lawyers to come forward.

# The Telegraph

Sir Stelios added: "We are looking for small tips, anything from lavish entertainment at the Paris Air Show up to the equivalent of the QPR [Queens Park Rangers] sponsorship fee. Any unexplained wealth and/ or any ostentatious spending by easyJet employees could also give us a hint."

The reward is the latest escalation in the campaign by Sir Stelios, whose family is the airline's largest shareholder with a 34pc stake.

He has labelled some of easyJet's directors "scoundrels" and is threatening to sack them over the order. A extraordinary meeting is scheduled for next Friday with a vote to try to remove four of them.

Last month Sir Stelios complained to the Financial Conduct Authority about easyJet's actions, saying it breached company rules by not getting investor consent to a decision to defer orders for 24 planes.

EasyJet declined to comment.