

## PLANES DEAL ROW

# EasyJet

# £5M to

# blow the

# whistle

■ by AUGUST GRAHAM  
THE founder of easyJet has promised £5million to any whistleblower who can help him stop the firm's multi-billion-pound deal to buy more than 100 new planes.

Sir Stelios Haji-ioannou, whose family owns 34% of the shares in the budget airline, wants chief executive Johan Lundgren to cancel a £4.5bn deal to purchase 107 aircraft from European firm Airbus.

He claims it will drive easyJet into insolvency by December.

Sir Stelios, inset, claims some directors have "over-ordered" planes from Airbus. He added: "If the Airbus contract is cancelled, at least there is a chance a portion of easyJet's jobs will survive. If they keep paying Airbus and then bankrupt the company, all 15,000 easyJet and many more other jobs will be lost."

He said he is willing to pay any whistleblower "who provides information that leads to the cancellation of the order". An easyJet spokesman said: "The board rejects any insinuation that easyJet was involved in any impropriety."

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