

Edited by TRACEY BOLES

STELIOS: £5M TO BLOW WHISTLE

THE founder of **EASYJET** has promised to pay £5million to any “whistle-blower” who can provide information to help him overturn the airline’s deal for new planes.

Sir Stelios Haji-ioannou, still a major shareholder, said he is willing to pay the unusual “bounty” himself.

He wants easyJet to cancel a £4.5billion deal to buy 107

planes from Euro aircraft maker **AIRBUS**, believing the deal will make the airline insolvent by December.

Sir Stelios, *right*, called the airline’s bosses “scoundrels” over the deal. He added: “If the contract is cancelled, at least there is a good chance a portion of easyJet’s jobs will survive.”

An easyJet spokesperson

said yesterday: “The board firmly rejects any insinuation that easyJet was involved in any impropriety.”

The latest twist comes after Sir Stelios called for the chief executive, chairman John Barton, and two non-executives to be removed.

Shareholders will vote on Sir Stelios’s

demands next week. Yesterday, easyJet said three shareholder advisory groups had recommended shareholders vote against his resolution.

It added: “Every voice and vote counts. We urge all shareholders to heed the independent advice of these bodies.”

